



# DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT / 2022

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Department of Disability and Human Development  
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# CONTENT

<b>Welcome Statement</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>DHD in Numbers</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>DHD Research</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Community Focused Projects</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>DHD Alumni</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>DHD in the Community</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Capacity Building Training</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>DHD Co-Op Program</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Assistive Technology Unit</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>LEND Highlights</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>ADA Center</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Support DHD</b>	<b>16</b>

# WELCOME STATEMENT

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Dr. Tamar Heller

During the 2021-2022 year the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Department of Disability and Human Development (DHD) and its Institute on Disability and Human Development (Illinois' University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities), has been transitioning back to campus, while also continuing hybrid approaches in its academic, training, clinical, and research activities. A major focus this year was the development of plans to address diversity, racial equity, and inclusion.

Our diversity goals are to recruit and retain diverse students and faculty, ensure comprehensive support for diverse students and faculty, and center diverse voices in our curriculum and research. As part of that plan, we applied and received a UIC Bridge to the Faculty Program award that will provide funds for a post-doctoral fellow from a group that is under-represented in our field, with the intention of supporting the fellow to grow into a faculty leadership role within DHD.

As part of our extensive community engagement, we continue to support and host several grass-roots organizations including Grupo Salto, Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition (DPOCC), the Sibling Leadership Network (SLN), and the Coalition of Autistic and Neurodiverse Students (CANS). We received several training and evaluation community grants including ones from the Illinois Department of Human Services-Developmental Disabilities Division (IDHS-DDD) that examine and seek to improve Person Centered Planning practices, training of Direct Support Professionals, and transitions from State Operated Developmental Centers. We developed a memorandum of understanding agreement with Easterseals that already resulted in some joint funding. Our academic programs are unique in that they provide a comprehensive range of undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs that center disability studies at its core. The undergraduate program continues to grow as well as the RESNA accredited assistive technology certificate program. This year we received approval for the Co-Op Career Experience Certificate for Students with Intellectual Disabilities and enrolled our first 11 students. At the international level we have planned international exchanges with faculty in the Netherlands, Belgium, and the Czech Republic through the European Union Center at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

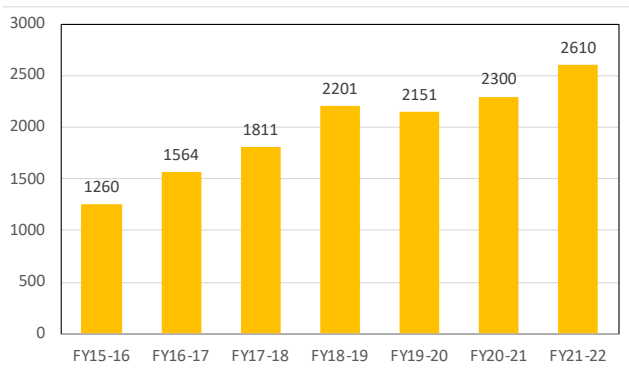
Through generous donations and foundation support we have been able to expand our assistive technology services, offer more student scholarships, expand arts and culture activities, and support DPOCC community outreach. Thank you to all our staff, students, supporters, and collaborators who have jointly worked to advance policies and practices that improve the lives of people with disabilities, their families, and their communities.

*Tamar Heller*

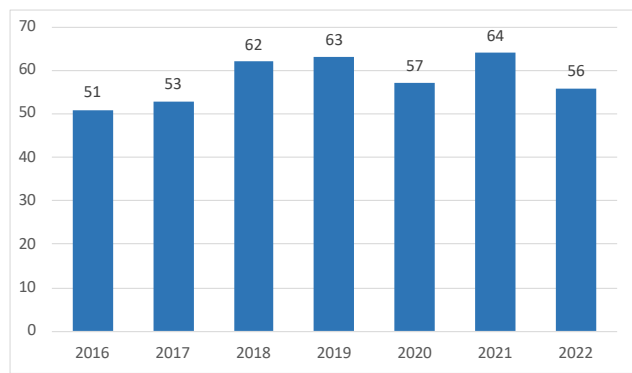
Tamar Heller, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Professor, Department Head

# DHD IN NUMBERS

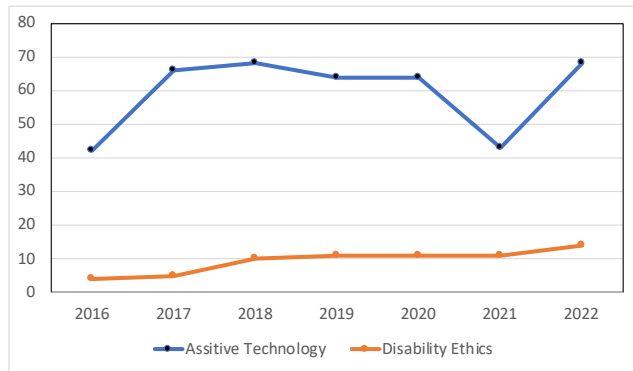
**Enrollment of DHD Courses from FY16-FY22**



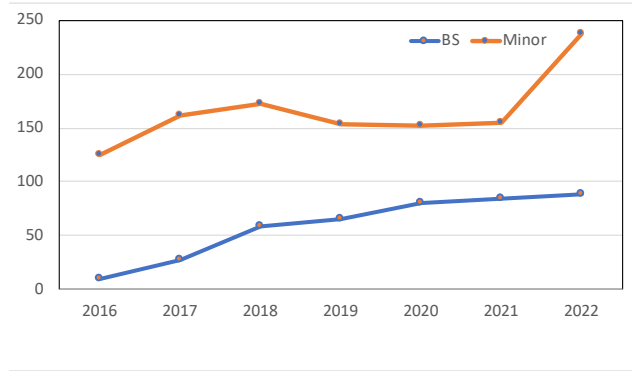
**Enrollment of DHD Graduate Students from FY16-FY22**



**Enrollment of Assistive Technology and Disability Ethics Certificates from FY16-FY22**



**Enrollment of Minor and BS Students from FY16-FY22**



**Want to learn more about our academic programs?**



Graduate Studies in DHD  
PhD in Disability Studies  
[go.uic.edu/DHDPHD](http://go.uic.edu/DHDPHD)



Undergraduate Studies  
DHD Major  
[go.uic.edu/DHDBachelor](http://go.uic.edu/DHDBachelor)



Graduate Certificate Programs  
Disability Legal Studies  
[DLStudies@uic.edu](mailto:DLStudies@uic.edu)



Undergraduate Studies  
DHD Minor  
[go.uic.edu/DHDMINOR](http://go.uic.edu/DHDMINOR)

Disability Ethics  
[Go.uic.edu/Dhddecp](http://Go.uic.edu/Dhddecp)

**DHD Office of Student Affairs**

**Email: [dhdosea@uic.edu](mailto:dhdosea@uic.edu)**

**Phone: 312-996-1508**

# DHD RESEARCH

## Changing the Field of ABA

Over the past two years, DHD Clinical Professor Dr. Mark Dixon has been working on a new textbook that hopes to align the practice of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy with the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). To accomplish this feat, Mark teamed up with the man who created Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) - the world-famous Psychologist Dr. Steven C. Hayes. The book has already topped a variety of charts on Amazon, and it's still just in pre-sales status. Dr. Dixon is no stranger to nudging his home discipline of ABA further beyond what its historical practices have been. Now in his third year at UIC, Mark has been delivering such comprehensive ACT/ ABA care to clients at the Family Clinic with great success. He notes "teaching our clients how to better work with their emotions and trauma has been very beneficial in accelerating our ABA treatment outcomes."



### ACCEPTANCE AND COMMITMENT THERAPY FOR BEHAVIOR ANALYSTS A Practice Guide from Theory to Treatment

Mark R. Dixon, Steven C. Hayes and Jordan Belisle



ACT teaches a model of psychological flexibility so that clients can better achieve a values-rich life. It does so by helping them realize that distress and symptom workability, instead of elimination, should be the focus of their rehabilitation efforts. With almost 1000 peer-reviewed publications and 60 textbooks between the two authors, this latest collaboration entitled Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Behavior Analysts will likely have a significant impact on how the field of ABA moves forward.

## New Book on Care Injustices and Social Justice Activism

Just Care: Messy Entanglements of Disability, Dependency, and Desire is UIC's DHD and Gender Women's Studies Assistant Professor Akemi Nishida's thoughtful examination of care injustice and social justice enabled through care. She argues that the current neoliberal political economy has turned care into a business opportunity for the healthcare industrial complex and a mechanism of social oppression and control. Dr. Nishida analyzes the challenges people negotiate whether they are situated as caregivers, receivers, or both. Also illuminated is how people with disabilities come together to assemble community care collectives and bed activism (resistance and visions emerging from the space of bed) to reimagine care as a key element for social change.



The structure of care, Dr. Nishida writes, is deeply embedded in and embodies the cruel social order—based on disability, race, gender, migration status, and wealth—that determines who survives or deteriorates. Simultaneously, many marginalized communities treat care as the foundation of activism. Using interviews, focus groups, and participant observations with care workers and people with disabilities, Just Care delves into lives unfolding in the assemblage of Medicaid long-term care programs, community-based care collectives, and bed activism. Just Care identifies what care does, and asks: How can we activate care justice or just care where people feel cared affirmatively and care being used for the wellbeing of community and for just world making?

# COMMUNITY FOCUSED PROJECTS

## Increasing Sidewalk Accessibility

For people with disabilities, sidewalks can support independence, mobility, and community participation. Despite decades of civil rights legislation, many sidewalks remain inaccessible, and cities lack the necessary data to make improvements. Project Sidewalk, funded by National Sciences Foundation (DHD Assistant Professors Yochai Eisenberg PI and Delphine Labbe Co-PI) works with community partners to: (1) understand stakeholder needs for tools to assess and plan for accessible sidewalks; (2) develop and evaluate a Crowdsourcing and Artificial Intelligence approach for sidewalk data collection and assessment; and (3) develop and evaluate a suite of open-source urban accessibility analysis and visualization tools.



Image description: Visual of sidewalk problems and features. Bar graph showing numbers of the following: curb ramps, missing curb ramps, obstacle, surface problems, missing sidewalks, occlusion, crosswalk, signal, and other.

In year one, we accomplished six primary activities: crowdsourcing sidewalk assessment tool development and deployment; computer vision models and experiments; workshops with stakeholder groups of people with disabilities, caregivers, and urban planners; crowdsourcing assessment validation; preliminary sidewalk equity analysis; and service learning. Based on stakeholder input we are developing new resources for communities using our tool and strategies to train raters with disabilities and to merge this tool with existing city technologies. Our project will improve city planning for accessibility and increase community mobility and participation for people with disabilities.

## Training Workers to Support People with DD in Their Communities

Direct support professionals (DSPs) help people with disabilities, older adults, and people with ongoing health conditions in their daily lives. DSPs are essential in supporting people to live and take part in their communities. A DSP may help someone bathe or move around their house. A DSP may take someone to the grocery store or help them with their money. DSPs need some basic training before beginning their job. The Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (IDHS-DDD) trains DSPs to support people with developmental disabilities.

The IDHS-DDD funded the Institute on Disability and Human Development (IDHD) to work with them on their DSP training. Dr. Caitlin Crabb (PI) leads the project along with Dr. Tamar Heller (Co-PI) and Dr. Kelly Hsieh (Co-I). The current basic training is several years old and needs revision. IDHD will update, house, and manage the basic training for DSPs. To update the basic training, IDHD will review what other states have done; ask for stakeholder input; provide recommendations to the Division for changes to the training; and film and post the training online. Finally, IDHD will submit the training for accreditation from a national leader in the area of direct care. IDHD will also create advanced DSP trainings similar to the training that many other states have. These advanced trainings will help DSPs build special skills and advance in their careers. IDHD will provide ongoing updates to and maintain the training.

# DHD ALUMNI

## DHD Alumnus Helps Establish New Center on Community Living Equity

The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy at Brandeis University received a new five-year award from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) to establish the Community Living Equity Center. DHD Alum, Dr. Joe Caldwell is a Co-PI of the new Center, which will focus on reducing community living disparities for disabled people of color and other marginalized identities. The Center will improve our understanding of disparities in access to Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services and advance promising policies and systems change to reduce disparities and improve community living outcomes.



Dr. Joe Caldwell

Collaborating partners include the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Justice in Aging, the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, the Human Services Research Institute, the National Center for Cultural Competence, and other national aging and disability organizations. Teresa Nguyen will be Director of the new Center. Another DHD alum, Dr. Kimberly The, will lead a participatory research project that includes interviewing disabled people of color who have lived in nursing homes and institutions and transitioned to the community. Dr. Joe Caldwell received his PhD in Disability Studies in 2005. Dr. Kimberly The received her PhD in Disability Studies in 2022.



Dr. Kimberly The

## Our Alumnus Promotes Inclusive Performance in Taiwan

Dr. Chih-Chieh Hsu ('20 PhD DHD) is currently an Assistant Professor at the Department of Popular Music Industry, Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology. He has integrated the concept of inclusion into popular music education since 2020 and started a University Social Responsibility (USR) Project. In the USR project, he led undergraduate students in planning and implementing an inclusive performance event. The goal is to provide disabled and non-disabled artists who have a passion for performance, have equal opportunities to participate in audition, training and performance. A total of 22 trained artists participated in the event (including 12 disabled artists) who received warm public response and feedback.



Dr. Chih-Chieh Hsu

Currently, he is working on analyzing the data from the project to examine whether student participants have positive change in their attitudes toward disability during the process. He believes that as more scholars integrate the concept of equality into education, Taiwanese society will be more inclusive in the future.



# DHD ALUMNI

## Research on Disability Policy and Systems

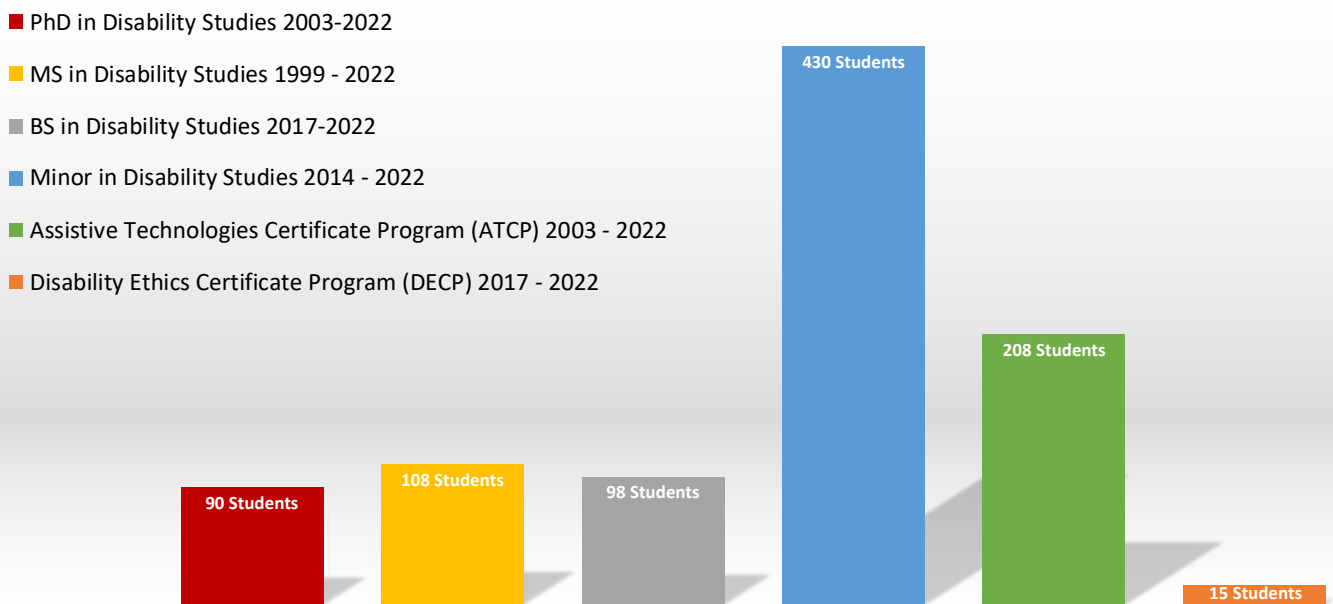


Dr. Carli Friedman

Dr. Carli Friedman received her M.S. in Disability and Human Development (2013) and Ph.D. in Disability Studies (2016) from DHD. She is currently the Director of Research for CQL | The Council on Quality and Leadership, an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to the definition, measurement, and improvement of personal quality of life, through a world of dignity, opportunity, and community for all disabled people. Dr. Friedman's research at CQL works to promote meaningful community integration and empowerment of disabled people by exploring the impact policy, systems, and providers can have on quality enhancement and quality of life.

Specifically, her research focuses on ableism, quality of life, social determinants of health, and Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS). In 2022, Dr. Friedman was recognized by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) for her research contributions to the field. In addition to working for CQL, Dr. Friedman is a Research Assistant Professor at DHD and affiliated with the Disability Studies Program at University of Washington.

## Number of DHD Graduates



# DHD IN THE COMMUNITY

## Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition Celebrates Juneteenth

Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition (Chicagoland DPOCC), founded in 2018 by DHD staff and self-advocates Timotheus 'T.J.' Gordon, Jr. and Jae Jin Pak, hosted the second annual "Accessible Juneteenth" Celebration. The event was held on June 18th at Osterman Beach on the North Side of Chicago. "Accessible Juneteenth" celebrates the Juneteenth holiday and commemorates Black people with disabilities who have helped create a freer world for Black communities worldwide.

Chicagoland DPOCC created "Accessible Juneteenth" to have welcoming and inclusive celebration recognizing the end of slavery and honoring this holiday in a way that is accessible to disabled people of color, including attending via live stream, captioning and a loudspeaker system. In this time of COVID 19, there was opportunity to get the COVID 19 vaccine and/or booster as well as other resources while enjoying the celebration.

Over 35 people attended and joined in the festivities that included open mic and raffle prizes from Raising Cane's and Pearl's Place. People shared stories, poems and/or comments on the meaning of Juneteenth during open mic and were in community together while sharing food and beverages.



Image description:  
African American flag  
in red, black and green.  
Blurred background of  
Juneteenth celebration.

Thank you to the organizers and sponsors of "Accessible Juneteenth 2022": UIC's DHD, DPOCC, UIC's Disability Cultural Center, Pearl's Place, Raising Cane's, Target, Stan's Donuts, Trader Joe's, Starbucks, Disability Lead, Equip for Equality, Access Living, and Chicago Internal Medicine Practice and Research.

To support the UIC Disabled People of Color Coalition (DPOCC), please give online at <https://ahs.uic.edu/alumni/give-to-ahs/where-to-give> or scan the QR code. The donations are for unrestricted support of the collaborative work between DHD and the Chicagoland DPOCC including a DHD student scholarship fund, accessibility accommodations, travel costs, seminar support.



# DHD IN THE COMMUNITY

## Creative Arts Program Promotes Wellness Through Asian American Narratives and Theater

Although the importance of both mental well-being and disability are gaining attention on college campuses in the United States, few narratives have focused on the lived experiences of Asian Americans. Asians as a demographic group tend not to seek mental or psychological supports or services, largely due to cultural and social stigmas. In turn, these barriers have shielded the topics of mental health and disability from public and policy discussions. As a result, there is a widely held misconception that neither mental health nor disability are concerns for this group.

By fueling a creative arts dialogue around personal narratives, Wellness through Asian American Narratives and Theater (WAANT), a UIC supported creative arts initiative led by Rooshey Hasnain, DHD Clinical Assistant Professor, aims to raise awareness and understanding of Asian Americans living with a disability or mental health condition—their unique needs, challenges, and healing processes.



Portraits of two Asian/Asian American faces painted by artist Alfred Tsao

This year-long program integrates story-collecting workshops, historicizing techniques, and community engagement principles to highlight available resources, develop new programs, and influence research agendas. WAANT is designed to offer a remedy to the persistent issues of silence and stigma through a community-based, participatory approach. This DHD based project partners with community artists and activists such as CIRCA-Panting, Digital Tapestries, and artist Sandie Yi as well as UIC students and alumni. Its goals are to 1) reduce cultural stigma surrounding mental illness/disability via storytelling and dialogues; and 2) find culturally appropriate, specific ways to promote mental health activism with Asian American individuals, families, and communities.

To give Asian American storytellers a platform to lift their voices, WAANT participants will collect narratives from them, transcribe the narratives to produce creative pieces/scripts, and develop several modes for sharing these experiences: videos, photo displays, and a multimedia production that includes post-performance audience-involved discussions. The resulting exhibits and performances, to be held in the wider community as well as at UIC, will present previously untold stories of Asian Americans at the nexus of mental health, disability, and culture.

The project's production and exhibits will take place in spring 2023.

For more information, please contact:

Rooshey Hasnain - roosheyh@uic.edu, or Ginger Leopoldo - ginger@circapintig.org

# CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

## Training Students in the Cognition Behavior and Mindfulness Clinic

Dr. Dixon and his team at the Cognition Behavior and Mindfulness (CBM) clinic offered clinical internship and research assistant opportunities on contemporary behavior analytic approaches to autism and other developmental disabilities. In 2022, 18 students completed their clinical internship at CBM and 8 of them were credentialed as Registered Behavior Technicians. CBM also supported a variety of student research opportunities, and 8 undergraduate students presented their research at regional and international conferences.

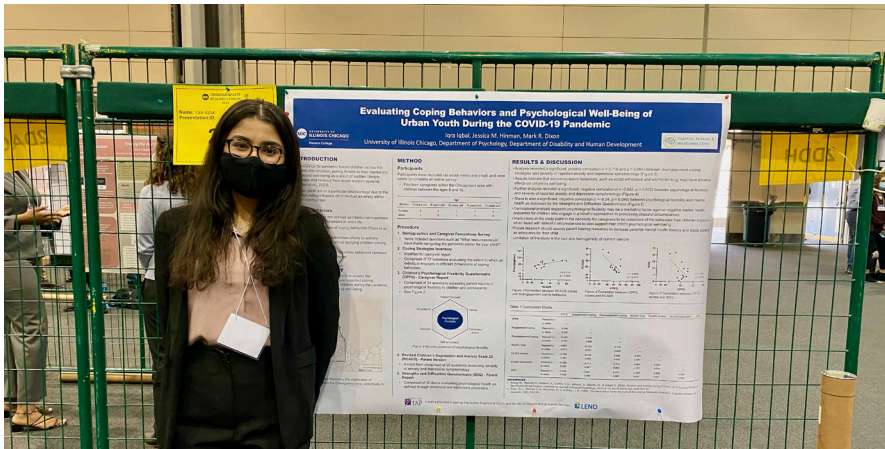


Image description:  
The photo features Iqra Iqbal, Dr. Dixon's student, presenting her work titled Evaluating Coping Behaviors and Psychological Well-being of Urban Youth During COVID-19 Pandemic.

## Developing Leadership Skills in Chicago Coalition of Autistic and Neurodivergent Students

The Chicago Coalition of Autistic and Neurodivergent Students (CANS) is a mentoring, problem-solving, and skill-building group run by and for neurodivergent students across campuses in the Chicago area. Students regularly participate in activities that promote leadership skills, campus advocacy, and successfully navigating the transition to college and career. In 2022, students have set academic and professional goals, gained executive functioning skills, and learned from industry professionals about dynamic job-seeking skills. Students also have opportunities to practice leadership and facilitation skills by leading peers in structured discussions and advocacy projects.

## Post-doctoral Fellow Works on Project Commissioned by the International Disability Alliance

Desire Chiwandire, post-doctoral fellow in the Advanced Rehabilitation Research Program, (funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research) (PI: Dr. Tamar Heller) is completing an international consultancy project commissioned by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) along with his mentors (Dr. Susan Magasi, Dr. Sarah Parker Harris, and Dr. Robert Gould). The project is entitled 'Strengthening evidence and momentum to advance the rights of persons with disabilities through the 2nd World Report on Disability Project'. Desire has been presenting his research findings at various Disability International conferences and is also working on manuscripts for publication from his doctoral thesis. His most recent journal article investigating the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the inclusion of students with psychosocial disabilities in South African higher education was recently published by the journal: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in the South (SOTL). The title of the publication is: "COVID-19 pandemic lockdown impact on parity of participation for students with mental health challenges in higher education." It can be accessed at this link: <https://www.sotl-south-journal.net/index.php/sotls/article/view/243>

# DHD CO-OP PROGRAM

## Co-Op Program Celebrates Certificate Milestones and Student Engagement

The Department of Disability and Human Development (DHD) celebrates a milestone Fall Semester, during which 11 students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) enrolled in the Certificate in Co-Operative Career Experience, also known as the Co-Op Program. The Co-Op program was officially approved by the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) in 2022, becoming the first University of Illinois pre-baccalaureate certificate recognized in the state.

Co-Op students are now earning college credits for the DHD courses they take alongside other UIC students. Dr. Tamar Heller reflects, "We're so excited to have Co-Op students enrolled in DHD classes. We want more self-advocates to be leaders in the field, and we know our Co-Op students are adding value with their ideas and experiences." The Co-Op program uses a co-operative education model, where students' learning in the classroom is paralleled by learning on the job.

Co-Op students are encouraged to choose one of three focus areas to explore over the course of the certificate program: 1) Arts and Culture; 2) Social Justice, Policy, and Leadership; and 3) Health and Care across the Lifespan. Some Co-Op students are already exploring these interests via community internships.



Image description:  
A group of students and family members being shown around the UIC Campus during the Co-Op Program orientation.

Over the summer, Co-Op student Bridget Brown was accepted into the Think College Policy Advocate Fellowship. Alongside Co-Op Career Coach Jordyn Jensen, Bridget travelled to Washington D.C and spoke to Illinois representatives about the importance of inclusive education. Bridget wrote about her UIC college experience in a blog on the US Dept of Education - Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services website: <https://sites.ed.gov/osers/2022/10/my-college-experience>. DHD celebrates the Co-Op program's continued development, as well as the enthusiasm and engagement of all students.

The dedicated Co-Op team who staffed the program during the year include Dr. Tamar Heller, Dr. Catherine Caldwell, Kaitlin Stober, Litany Esguerra, Jordyn Jensen, Sarah Chew, Helen Rottier, and Dimitri Nesbitt.

You can learn more about the Co-Op program at our website:  
<https://ahs.uic.edu/disability-human-development/admissions-and-programs/co-operative-career-experience-certificate/>  
Contact: [DHDCoOp@uic.edu](mailto:DHDCoOp@uic.edu)

# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY UNIT

## ATU MOBILE CAPACITY EXPANDS

Through strong support from the Illinois Department of Human Services – Division of Rehabilitation Services (IL-DHS-DRS), the Assistive Technology Unit’s fleet has expanded to 10 vehicles! This support helps the ATU expand its services to the IL-DHS-DRS consumers in its Home Services Program and Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

The ATU provides 95% of its services in the community – in the consumer’s home, school, or worksite. The ATU feels it is best to investigate the use of assistive technology in the environment in where it will be used. Factors such as noise and lighting can be taken into account. Also, participation in the services by all those considered important by the consumer is made possible. All phases of service – evaluation, implementation, and follow-up can occur in the community.


The support from IL-DHS-DRS for the two new vehicles combines with existing strong support from the Division of Mental Health regarding the ATU’s community-based activities under the Colbert and Williams consent decrees. Altogether, the ATU serves approximately 700 consumers annually.



For more information on ATU services, please contact the ATU:

Email: [atu@uic.edu](mailto:atu@uic.edu)

Follow the Assistive Technology Unit:

 <https://ahs.uic.edu/assistive-technology-unit>

 @UICATU

# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY UNIT

## Donation Supports Assistive Technology Scholarships and 3D Printing

Through the generous support of Ms. Carol Gottlieb, who previously established the UIC DHD Neal H. Gottlieb Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Assistive Technology Unit (ATU) was able to expand its 3D Printing capacity and increase the diversity of Assistive Technology service delivery professionals.

Ms. Gottlieb has been a great supporter of the College of Applied Health Sciences, and recently saw the ATU highlighted during an AHS event. She inquired with the AHS Development Office regarding possible support for the ATU. ATU Director Glenn Hedman provided some ideas on possible program aspects to support. Working with the AHS Development Office, she was able to identify ATU needs that she considered in line with her interests and donation goals.

3D Printing has become a mainstay of Assistive Technology Rehabilitation Engineers and Equipment Specialists. The technology enables new designs and adaptations to be tried out easily, requiring far less fabrication time than standard methods. Designs can be tried out, improvements identified, and a revised device tried out again. The specific 3D Printer obtained, an Epsilon W50 Large Format model, enables the ATU to print much larger parts than previous printers.

Ms. Gottlieb's donation was also able to initiate an Assistive Technology Certificate Program (ATCP) Diversity Scholarship Fund, covering the tuition costs of completing the 13-credit hour program. The goal of the Fund is to increase the number of service providers of minority backgrounds. Applicants were asked to write an essay regarding how the scholarship would help them complete the program, and what their plans are regarding providing Assistive Technology services after completing the program. For the cohort of students beginning the program in Spring 2022, three students had their scholarship support begin. Through her generous support, Ms. Gottlieb has been able to positively impact Assistive Technology services both now and in the future!

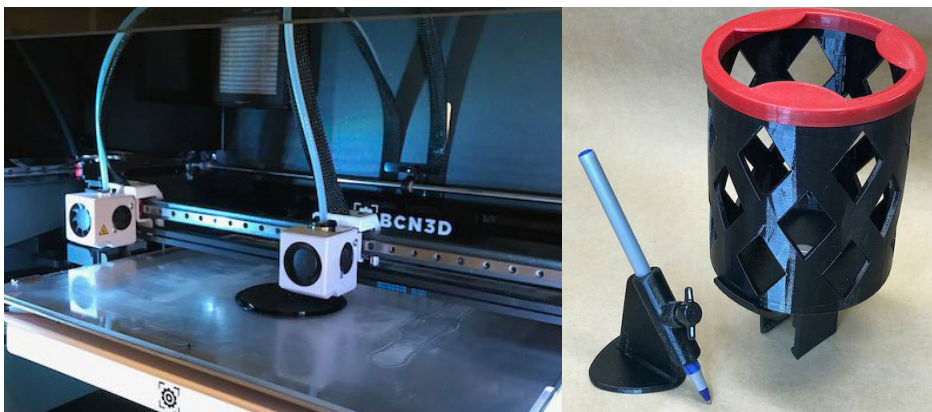


Image description:  
A section of Epsilon W50  
3D printer and a 3D printer  
bottle holder and adaptive  
pen holder.

For more information, please contact ATU Director and DHD Clinical Professor Dr. Glenn Hedman.



Visit the following website or scan the QR code for more information about the Assistive Technologies Certificate:

[Go.uic.edu/Dhdatcp](https://go.uic.edu/Dhdatcp)

# LEND HIGHLIGHTS

## Illinois Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program

### Former IL LEND Fellow as New Disability Studies LEND Faculty

Dr. Yovia Xu is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Rockford. She received her doctorate in Disability Studies from UIC's DHD. Dr. Xu's research lies in the intersection of health disparity and disability. She is currently the Principal Investigator of a National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research grant to adapt Parents Taking Action, a culturally responsive and empirically supported parent-implemented intervention using microlearning e-health modules for Latinx, Black and Chinese families of young autistic children.



Dr. Yovia Xu

### Dr. Acharya Nationally Recognized for her Contributions to the Field of Child Development and Behavior

LEND Director, Dr. Kruti Acharya, received the 2022 Dale Richmond/Justin Coleman Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. The award recognizes an individual from any profession who has made outstanding contributions to the field of child development and behavior through advocacy, public service, scientific endeavors, and literature.



Dr. Kruti Acharya

### IL LEND Autism Screening Telehealth Visits

In collaboration with the University of Illinois Autism Clinic, IL LEND provided virtual autism screening opportunities for families concerned about their child's development. On Friday, September 16th, our trainees provided screenings and individually tailored recommendations to 6 different families under the supervision of Dr. Amy Paige Cohen, Director of the Autism Clinic, and her staff. These screenings allow trainees to translate what they learn in the classroom to applied experience.

### Empowering People to Break the Bias Habit: Professional Development Training

IL LEND faculty and trainees attended a virtual training on strategies to reduce implicit bias offered by the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The speaker, Dr. William Cox, is Principal Investigator of the Cox Stereotyping and Bias Research Lab in the UW-Madison's Department of Psychology. Building on Dr. Patricia Devine's model of intergroup biases as habits of mind, Devine along with Cox and others, developed the first and only intervention shown experimentally to produce long-term changes in bias and improvements in inclusion and equity.

Contact the LEND Program online: <https://www.illinoislend.org/contactus>

phone #: 312-996-8905

Follow the LEND program:





## ADA Center Develops New Programs

The Great Lakes ADA Center celebrated the 32nd Anniversary of the ADA and continues to develop new programs and activities. We hosted the 2nd Annual ADA National Network ADA Jeopardy Game featuring the 10 regional ADA Centers and supported local activities. In the past year the Center had several staffing changes. We welcomed three new staff including Kelley Frake, Technical Assistance Coordinator, from the State of Michigan Office of Civil Rights; Oscar Gonzalez, our Spanish Language Outreach Specialist, from UIC's Division of Specialized Care for Children and Sabino Robles, our IT Specialist, from UI Health.



The Center recently launched two new webinar programs and a new video series. The new bi-monthly "Arts-n-Rec" webinar series provides information and resources that promotes accessibility and inclusion across cultural arts and recreation venues. See <http://www.ada-artsnrec.org>. In response to customer requests we created the "Ask an ADA Pro" webinar series that is held quarterly and features technical assistance staff from across the ADA National Network. Participants can ask questions about the selected topic and dialogue with the speakers. Check out <http://www.askadapro.org>. The Center launched a new video spotlight series featuring interviews with key individuals from the community. See the Center's YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3gjOZKuHfD31cdLrX8zQlw>

The Center launched a new Spanish Language Facebook Page, (<https://www.facebook.com/GreatLakesADA.Spanish>), to provide the Spanish speaking community with information about the law and our activities. Follow us on social media and check the website for future updates! <https://www.adagreatlakes.org/Espanol.asp>



The Center will soon be launching our "ADA Train the Trainers" program and is recruiting individuals from across the Center's six state regions. They will use an intensive ADA training curriculum designed by the ADA National Network. Stay tuned for recruiting announcements.

Contact the Center Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm CT at:  
phone#: 800-949-4232 or by email [adagreatlakes@uic.edu](mailto:adagreatlakes@uic.edu)

Follow the Great Lakes ADA Center:



[www.adagreatlakes.org](http://www.adagreatlakes.org)



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# SUPPORT DHD

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**We appreciate your in-kind donations to our DHD funds.**

## **Anne Hopkins Scholarship Fund**

For DHD graduate students interested in any of the following research topics: disability and sex, relationships and dating, social model of disability, social entrepreneurship.

## **Carlos Drazen Memorial Research Award**

To support educational opportunities for DHD graduate students interested in the intersection of race and disability.

## **Edward Page-El Fund MD Student Award Fund**

To support educational opportunities for DHD graduate students interested in social or medical aspects of neurological disabilities.

## **UIC Albrecht Global Lecture on Disability Endowed Fund**

To feature an internationally renowned disabilities scholar at a lectureship.

## **UIC Assistive Technology Unit (ATU) Fund**

For unrestricted support of the ATU, including but not limited to equipment purchase and modification, community distribution, and educational efforts.

## **UIC Bodies of Work Support Fund**

For the Bodies of Work Project, which is a network of artists and organizations whose art showcases and celebrates the disability experience, housed in DHD.

## **UIC DHD/OT Black and Latinx Student Scholarship Fund**

For support of DHD and Occupational Therapy students. Preference is given to students who contribute to the diversity of each unit, with further preference given to students that aim to serve or do research with Black and Latinx communities or that are involved in or interested in student organizations at UIC that promote Black and Latinx interests in society.

## **UIC Disability and Human Development Annual Fund for Excellence**

For unrestricted use in the Department of Disability and Human Development.

## **UIC Neal H. Gottlieb Memorial Scholarship Fund**

For junior or senior undergraduate students enrolled in the BS in DHD program who have a physical disability.



**To support DHD go to:**

**<https://ahs.uic.edu/alumni/give-to-ahs>**

*Your eyes waiting for my return  
Carrying the weight of what is gone  
and what is about to come*



*Waiting...*

Your eyes waiting for my return,  
the bags under them,  
Carrying the weight of what is gone  
and what is about to come...  
Your body twitching in sleepless nights,  
Oscillating between the dawns  
and the dusks of existence...  
Your lips smiling, showing the cracks of time,  
Dancing with the present skillfully...  
Your courage as luminous as ever,  
Needing now just a gentle touch by me...  
Your breath expecting nothing more  
than the presence of mine,  
My heart palpitating by the uncertainty of it...  
Your eyes waiting for my return,  
the twinkling joy in them,  
Making my waiting more bearable...

**Piyush Mishra**

This is a poem that Piyush Mishra, Disability Studies doctoral student, wrote on caregiving and parents for DHD 526, Family Perspectives in Disability.

## **DHD Department Head and IDHD Director**

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## **Consumer Advisory Committee Self-Advocates and Family Members**

Laurie Jerue	Vincent Smith	Lisa Cesal
Abla Gharib	Sarah Demissie	Jessica Buettner
Marty Fox	Nora Handler	Brittany King
Jada Mercedes Thompson	Michael Grice	Stevie Hopkins
Elbert Lott	Cathy Saunders	Monica Thorns

## **Consumer Advisory Committee Organizational Representatives**

Tara Ahern, Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance  
Francisco Alvarado, Division of Rehabilitation Services  
Rachel Arfa/Lauren Hooberman, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities  
Kathy Carmody (Chair), Institute on Public Policy for Persons with Disabilities  
Ryan Croke, Illinois Department of Human Services  
Amy Deegan, Illinois Board of Education, Special Education Department  
Donald Dew, Habilitative Systems, Inc.  
Thane Dykstra, Trinity Services, Inc.  
Amie Lulinski, The Arc of Illinois  
Thomas Jerkovitz, UIC – Specialized Care for Children  
Kimberly Mercer-Schleider, Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Leanne Mull, Blue Tower Solutions, Inc.  
Sarah Myerscough-Muller, Division of Developmental Disabilities  
Zena Naiditch/Nicol Beaumont, Equip for Equality  
Teresa Parks, Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission  
Clint Paul, The Hope Institute for Children and Families  
Jessica Sipovic, Chicago Public Schools Office of Diverse Learner Supports & Services  
Laura Wilhelm, Disability:IN Chicagoland

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