Center for Disabilities Studies 2006-2007 Annual Report

2008 Calendar

Community-based Education Alliance

The Community-based Education Alliance (CBEA) assists young adults (ages 18 to 21) with moderate to severe disabilities as they transition from school to an adult life and work. CBEA strengthened its presence over the past year, expanding from one to three school districts and doubling the number of student participants. The project worked to increase integration at the University of

Delaware, supporting CBEA students to participate in campus activities and receive job training.

Paul Olivieri, who attends Newark High School, immerses himself in the university culture. For instance, he audited a course last fall: "I went to History of Rock, and I studied famous musicians from the past. I liked it when they showed videos, documentaries [about] famous rock stars." He also enjoyed viewing movies at Morris Library or visiting campus eateries like the Scrounge and Trabant Food Court.



Mr. Olivieri is personally familiar with dining services at the university. One of his job training sites was at Kent Dining Hall, where he helped with facility maintenance. When a permanent position opened up at the dining hall, Mr. Olivieri applied for and received the job. "It's a big responsibility," he shared. "[But] I feel great."

For more information

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www.udel.edu/cds/initiatives-adults-cbea.html

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		New Year's Day	2	3		5
				Muharram (Islamic New Year)		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day			LIFE Conference Dover, Delaware www.lifeconference-de.org		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	"I went to Histo and I studied f musicians from Paul Olivieri	amous

University Education

The Center for Disabilities Studies is affiliated with undergraduate and graduate programs at the University of Delaware, which offer a variety of degrees for students interested in disability issues and related fields of practice. For undergraduate students, the minor in disabilities studies provides a

unique interdisciplinary opportunity for undergraduate students to learn about the policies, services, and systems that support the full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life. In conjunction with the College of Human Services, Education, and Public Policy at the University of Delaware, the undergraduate minor in disabilities studies culminates with a Senior Seminar course that engages students in hands-on work with people with disabilities, exploring issues these people identify as important. Two students, Kristen McColgan and Kayla Shaoul, share their experience with the seminar.



"Our group was introduced to a high school senior who volunteered to discuss his major life transition to adulthood. Upon meeting him and his family, our discussions focused on his strengths. We created a multimedia presentation that incorporated an image of who he is and his accomplishments, along with the struggles he faces. Gathering pictures and video clips from the family, we compiled a five-minute video depicting this individual's journey to adulthood.

In addition to this multimedia component, we made a presentation to our class on transition and self-directed funding, which this individual and his family strongly support. Our group presented these topics, integrating our volunteer's story and making it the primary focus. Overall, this project was a success, one which expanded our horizon in the world of disabilities. We hope it had the same effect on others."

For more information

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www.udel.edu/cds/university_ed.html

February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Groundhog Day
					1	2
			Ash Wednesday	Chinese New Year		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Valentine's Day		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Presidents' Day					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

Adult Services Initiatives

The overall goal of the Adult Services Initiatives is to develop projects, conduct research, and provide trainings that empower adults with disabilities to thrive in their personal lives and in their communities. By offering programs, training and information to individuals with disabilities,

their families, caregivers, support workers and community stakeholders, these programs seek to provide education about quality services for people with disabilities and raise awareness about the importance and value of inclusive communities.

The Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities 2010 survey project (HDWD 2010) conducted for the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services in collaboration with the university's



Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research, is a prime example of this mission. Over a ten-month period in 2006, HDWD 2010 surveyed 339 adults with disabilities about their health. A report of the findings was published in June 2007 that addressed the primary and secondary health concerns and needs of adults with disabilities in Delaware. HDWD 2010 aimed to increase statewide knowledge and improve the lives of adults with disabilities by emphasizing health promotion and wellness.

Other major initiatives during the 2007 fiscal year include the continuation of the TransitionMap website (www.transitionmapde.org) a resource focused on the transition from school to adult services; the Junior Partners in Policymaking[®] leadership program, which awarded certificates to 14 young adults with disabilities; and Community Connectors, a project supporting over 30 individuals' participation in community events, recreation activities and volunteer service.

For more information

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www.udel.edu/cds/initiatives-adults.html

March 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				No.		
				PART A		1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Daylight Savings Begins						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	St. Patrick's Day			al-Mawlid al-Nabawi	Good Friday	
				First Day of Spring	Purim	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Easter 23	24					
30	31	25	26	27	28	29

Delaware Alternate Portfolio Assessment

As required by the No Child Left Behind Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, all public school students must be included in an assessment program. The Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS), in partnership with the Delaware Department of Education and other education and family stakeholders, developed the Delaware Alternate Portfolio Assessment (DAPA) in order to meet these requirements.

DAPA assesses the educational opportunities for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in the same subject areas as their peers in the general education program. The assessment takes the form of a portfolio, which includes adapted general education curricula and documents student progress in grade-appropriate subject areas. During the 2006-2007 school year, the educational progress of almost 1,100 students in schools across Delaware was assessed with DAPA.



Every year, the DAPA staff leads a variety of activities. Parent information sessions were held to educate parents about the assessment process. DAPA also offered sessions to instruct educators how to become portfolio developers. Approximately 375 educators attended those sessions in fiscal year 2007. The DAPA project is responsible for scoring the more than 1,000 portfolios submitted each year by developers. The DAPA scores become part of the Delaware Student Testing Program and are reported publicly each year.

For more information

Alison Chandler • (302) 831-1052 • alisonc@udel.edu

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	1 <i>7</i>	18	19
Passover Begins		Earth Day				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Conference for Direct Support Professionals

On May 3, 2007, the Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS), along with various state and local agencies, convened the Second Annual Conference for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to recognize and celebrate the vital roles that DSPs play in the lives of people with disabilities. The statewide conference offered interactive workshops, an awards ceremony honoring outstanding DSPs, a luncheon, and a keynote speech by Al Condeluci, Executive Director of United Cerebral Palsy in Pittsburgh, to over 250 attendees. The conference also included a tribute by the Delaware House of Representatives and a resolution by Governor Ruth Ann Minner declaring May 3rd "Direct Support Professionals Day in Delaware."

This annual conference is just one example of the activities of the CDS Workforce Recruitment and Retention Project (WR&R), which provides program training, and research initiatives. These activities are designed to enhance the professionalism and recognition of the workforce to provide quality service to create inclusive communities that promote the welfare of individuals with disabilities.



Other highlights of the WR&R from 2007 fiscal year include the production of the video, "Raising Our Voices to Inspire, Believe, Achieve," which supported outreach and development of the Helping Our Profession to Evolve (HOPE) DSP Professional Association. The project also hosted informational seminars for service provider management featuring national presenters, convened the DSP Credentialing and Curriculum Advisory Workgroup, and sponsored DSP participation in the National DSP Rally in Washington, DC to support House Resolution 1279, the DSP Fairness and Security Act. As Myrna Owner of Easter Seals of Delaware stated after participating in the rally, "I realize now that my work is really important, not only to the people I support but their loved ones and other DSPs. This movement is way bigger than just me."

For more information

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www.udel.edu/cds/dspconference.html

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Direct Support Professionals Conference Dover, Delaware www.udel.edu/cds	2	3
				Inclusion Conference Dover, Delaware www.dati.org/events		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mother's Day						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Memorial Day					University of Delaware Commencement
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Early Childhood Initiatives

The Early Childhood Initiatives at the Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) aim to improve the quality of programs that support children from birth to early elementary school. A critical component of this work is to provide evaluation services that document program outcomes. Since 1998, CDS has worked with Delaware's Birth to Three Early Intervention System, Child Development Watch (CDW), conducting various program evaluations. These evaluations provide feedback to CDW about program implementation as well as help the program to meet its yearly federal reporting requirements.

During fiscal year 2007, CDS conducted a survey of 224 families to ascertain their satisfaction with CDW services. This was the first year that the survey was conducted via telephone, resulting in increased family contact. The change also helped attain a random sample of families and achieve a higher response rate; these factors improve the reliability and validity of the study.



Projects like these provide opportunities for students at the University of Delaware to gain research and evaluation skills and build professional contacts. Kelly Yannetta, a graduate student in Individual and Family Studies, helped with data collection and analysis for the CDW Family Survey project. Ms. Yannetta noted, "This was a great experience for me because I interacted directly with families. The project also introduced me to administrators of programs for children with developmental delays or disabilities, and I began networking in my field."

For more information

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June 2008

30110	2000					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Father's Day	16	1 <i>7</i>	18	19	20	First Day of Summer
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities Leadership Institute

The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at the University of Delaware is a partnership of national organizations coordinated by the Center for Disabilities Studies. The consortium aims to develop a corps of well-trained leaders who have a solid commitment to progressive values. Training opportunities focus on the unique skills that professionals need to manage and lead organizations that serve

people with disabilities.

Each year, the consortium holds two or more week-long, intensive leadership institutes. Because over two-thirds of the current CEOs of nonprofit organizations that serve people with disabilities will be eligible for retirement within five years, these institutes are designed to educate the emerging leaders



who will fill these positions. The Summer 2006 Leadership Institute in July and the Winter 2007 Leadership Institute in January hosted a total of 44 participants from across the United States.

Through in-depth presentations and focused coursework, participants leave with demonstrated leadership ability. They develop a firm grasp of the values that are critical when providing quality, individualized supports for persons with disabilities. As one participant noted, "The institute provides a safe environment in which to promote individual growth while maintaining the values of dignity and respect for people with disabilities."

For more information

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www.nlcdd.org

0 1		T .	NA	T		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday Independence Day	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Early Learning Center

In June 2007 the Early Learning Center (ELC) marked its third year of operation. In addition to serving over 400 children and their families during that period of time, the ELC observed a number of other milestones:

- More than 30 research studies have been conducted at the ELC, resulting in a number of large external grant awards, including Associate Professor Anna Papafragou's language development research and UNIDEL-Amy E. duPont Professor Mary Dozier's foster care studies.
- Over 2,000 university students have participated in practica, internships, and student teacher placements.
- University alumni, such as Senator Tom Carper and civil engineer Ronnie Carpenter, have been guest teachers, interacting with the ELC children and sharing their expertise.



Photo: Kathy F. Atkinson

- In December 2006, scores of ELC children and their families and over 30 UD students, participated in the inaugural Special Olympics Youth Athletes Day.
- Seven teachers from the ELC were nominated for the Governor's Award for Teaching Excellence in Early Care and Education, and one, Barbara Clayton, was selected for the award.
- Noted national and international researchers and policy makers such as Jeanne Brookes-Gunn, Walter Gilliam, and Sara Jaffee lectured at the ELC on topics related to child development, emotional development, literacy, and human service policies.
- A new device, the UD1 robot (a collaboration between the departments of Physical Therapy and Mechanical Engineering) was tested extensively at the ELC with children as young as four months of age and received national recognition.

Most notably, the ELC achieved national accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children in August of 2006. Only 25 child care centers in Delaware have achieved this status.

For more information

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August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1 <i>7</i>	18	19	20	21	22	23
24						
31	25	26	27	28	29	30

School-Age Initiatives

The goal of the School-Age Initiatives is to create a positive educational climate that promotes the social and academic success of all children. During fiscal year 2007, the group worked with the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) as part of the Inclusive Schools Initiative (ISI). Schoolage staff gathered data that focused on the inclusion of students with disabilities in general educa-

tion classrooms, as well as the proportion of students with disabilities in these classrooms. This data was collected for six elementary schools participating in ISI. Fifty percent (66 out of 132) of the classrooms surveyed provided inclusive experiences, and on average, 18 percent of the students in these classrooms had a disability.

The Positive Behavior Support (PBS)
Initiative, also a partnership with
DDOE, helps schools create a comprehensive, proactive approach to behavior
management. Thirty-six new schools



added PBS during the 2007 fiscal year. With the addition of these schools, the PBS project had 116 active school partners, over 50 percent of Delaware public schools, by year's end.

The PBS project aligned its behavior support team process with the Instructional Support Team (IST) initiative at DDOE. Aligning training and providing a unified framework has enabled participating schools to create one team that simultaneously supports the academic and social success of students. These streamlined processes also support schools to use limited resources efficiently.

For more information

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www.udel.edu/cds/initiatives-school-age.html

September 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Labor Day	Ramadan Begins	2		5	L
190	I	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	1 <i>7</i>	18	19	20
	First Day of Autumn					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
20	20	Rosh Hashanah				
28	29	30			120	

New Directions Early Head Start

Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, New Directions Early Head Start (NDEHS) is a community resource for pregnant women, infants, toddlers to age three, and their families. During fiscal year 2007, NDEHS served 206 children and 24 pregnant women through its home-based services and partner agencies.

The NDEHS Policy Council, an elected body of parents and community persons, advises and approves this delivery of services. The 2006-2007 policy council learned about their roles and responsibilities and had great drive to create new initiatives. "We wanted to 'build a legacy' and leave a framework for the next council," said Deianna Tyree, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.

A main goal of the council was to build community involvement. For instance, the council created parental tip sheets, providing information on ways to



prepare for a new school year. The council's parliamentarian, Loretta Hooks, has catering experience and is helping to compile a book of healthy, kid-friendly recipes and snacks.

The council also developed "Parents as Presenters," which organizes NDEHS parents to share knowledge and skills to educate each other. Parent meetings in the community—at the zoo, park, or library also helped parents connect. "We reach out to other parents. We listen," said Keisha Talley, Chairperson. "We want everyone's opinions so that parents can realize that they have power behind what they say and do."

For more information

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www.udel.edu/cds/initiatives-childhood-ndehs.html

October 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		The second secon	Eid al-Fitr			
			1	2	3	4
				Yom Kippur		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Columbus Day					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
					Halloween	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 kg

Dissemination & Advocacy

Through information distribution and advocacy efforts, the Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) raises awareness of the supports and services needed to help persons with disabilities fully participate in the life of the community. This work involves convening forums that discuss disability openly and honestly, such as the Life Portraits Series. Co-sponsored by CDS and DFRC Foundation, this



series of events is designed to educate the public about disability, debunk stereotypes, and relay ways to form inclusive communities.

During fiscal year 2007, the Life Portrait Series presented two events. An event in September 2006 featured Dr. Daniel Gottleib, a psychologist, radio host, and author of the book Letters to Sam: A Grandfather's Lessons on Love, Loss, and the Gifts of Life. Paralyzed after a 1979 car accident, Dr. Gottleib discussed the challenges of living with a disability, as well as the joy his grandson, who has autism, brings to his life.

One attendee commented, "Quite simply, I met a hero that night. I have been listening to him for years on his program but to be able to actually hear him in person and meet him was exceptional. He is doing wonderful things to raise awareness."

In June 2007, the Life Portrait Series held a screening of *Twisted*, a film about the movement disorder dystonia. The film's star, Pat Brogan, a basketball coach and triathlete who developed dystonia after a bike accident, attended the event to share his in-depth experience with the disability. More than 30 community members attended the event, with attendees from as far as Washington D.C. and central Pennsylvania, to see the film and meet the panel members who spoke about their experiences living with dystonia.

For more information

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Dissemination Highlights

- Presentations at conferences including the LIFE Conference, the Inclusion Conference, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities Conference, and other state and national conferences.
- Outreach to community and neighborhood groups.
- One issue of delAware was published in 2006-2007, which focused on the role of direct support professionals in the lives of people with disabilities.
- An open house was held in March 2007 to celebrate the new office spaces on Wyoming Road shared with Cooperative Extension.

www.udel.edu/cds

November 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				April 1997		1
Daylight Savings Ends		Election Day				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Veterans' Day				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23				Thanksgiving Day		
30	24	25	26	27	28	29

Community Advisory Council

The Center for Disabilities Studies benefits every year from community partnerships, including our 2006-2007 Community Advisory Council. We value the contributions of all of our partners and supporters.

Marie-Anne Aghazadian
Parent Information Center
of Delaware

Becky Allen The Arc of Delaware

Steven Amick Delaware State Senator

> Judy Brimer Parent

Martha Brooks
Delaware Department of Education

Aaron Deede Community Member

Russ Dynes Lead Prevention Program, Public Health

Micki Edelsohn Homes For Life Foundation

Tina Fields
Community Member

Tony Glenn DFRC, Inc.

Ann Grunert
Special Olympics Delaware

Andrea Guest
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Brian Hartman
Disabilities Law Program

Linda Heller

Division of Services for Aging & Adults with Physical Disabilities

Harry Hill
Division for the Visually Impaired

Peggy Hirsch Parent

Kyle Hodges

State Council for Persons with Disabilities

Ray Hunt Independent Resources, Inc.

> Jack Jadach Leach School

Yolanda Jenkins Division of Child Mental Health Services

Dan Keating
Bancroft NeuroHealth

Brenda Kramer Parent

Rita Landgraf, Chair Community Member

Pat Maichle Developmental Disabilities Council

> Karen Mancini University of Delaware

Raetta McCall Advocate

Cathy McKelvey Freedom Center for Independent Living

Daniese McMullin-Powell
State Council for Persons with
Disabilities

Laurie Nicoli Parent

Elizabeth Nolan Community Member

> Terry Olson Mosaic, Inc.

Alfred Onuonga Delaware Center for Justice

> Ann Phillips Parent

Paul Poplawski Adult, Adolescent & Family Psychologist

Susan Robinson
Division of Substance Abuse & Mental
Health

Marianne Smith
Division of Developmental Disabilities
Services

Robert Valihura
Delaware State Representative

For more information

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Dece	mber		December Artist: Judy Hortiz			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Eid al-Adha				
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
First Day of Winter	Hanukkah Begins			Christmas Day	Kwanzaa Begins	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Muharram (Islamic New Year)					
28	29	30	31	I A S A		

2009 Calendar

January

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February

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March

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29	30	31				

April

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May

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2	1 2	2 23	3 24	25	26	27
28	3 2	9 30)			

July

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

September

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	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30			

October

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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November

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29	30					

December

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Center for Disabilities Studies 2006-2007 Staff & Students

Michael Gamel-McCormick, Director

Debbie Amsden Tracy Bailey Debbie Bain Heidi Beck Mark Bernstein Keith Boger Debby Boyer Sandi Bradford Tim Brooks Martha Buell Karen Catrow Alison Chandler Teresita Cuevas Rebecca Dougherty Nancy Edwards Steve Eidelman Laura Fisenman Diana Farrell Nancy Freedman Jackie Gallagher Carolyn Graves Norma Grice David Hannah Robin Harbauah Vanessa Harper Amy Harter Sarah Hearn

Steven Holochwost Ron Kelley Malisa Knox Debbie Koch Esther Lauser Judi MacBride Tracy Mann Janet McGehean Danielle Mekulski Diane Merrill Kathy Minke Corv Nourie Patrizia Pannebaker Michael Partie Deanna Pedicone Gwen Perella Julisa Quixchan Ilka Riddle Karen Rucker Whitney Rutherford Jim Salt C. Renée Settles-Bean Cynthia Slater Beverly Stapleford Peggy Sudler Susan Sullivan Mary Thomas

Betty Gail Timm Karen Townsend Patricia Tressell Nancy Weiss Jamie Wolfe

Graduate Students

Erin Bastien, Lisa Becker, Karen Brown, Jennifer Cali, Lauren Francis, Johanna Homan, Katie Macklin, Dorit Radnai-Griffin, Melina Rosle, Juliana Shayeb, Jin Wu, Kelly Yannetta

Undergraduate Students

Taryn Crowley, Emily Dourte, Andrew Hodgkins, Becky Koch, Laura Milazzo, Nicole Sampson, Steve Stolte, Brendan Sullivan, J. D. Sullivan, Erin Venturato



Financials

The Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) had an operating budget of \$4,591,774 from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. Of this total, \$2,353,216 was obtained through grants from the Office of Head Start and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families.

In addition to the operating budget, CDS also received matching support worth over \$1,000,000 from the University of Delaware in the form of graduate research assistantships and tuition waivers and support for a wide range of projects.

Sources of Funding

Federal Government	52%
State of Delaware	30%
Foundations	8%
Local Funding	2%
Individual Gifts	8%



About the 2008 Calendar Artwork

All artwork in this calendar was created through a partnership with the Art Therapy Express Program, Inc. Designed specifically for children and adults with multiple and severe disabilities, this innovative art program facilitates creative expression. The program aims to build a bridge between artists' capabilities and imaginations, providing a place where individuals can communicate through art. As a nonprofit organization, the program provides its services at no cost; a primary goal is to share knowledge of art with schools, hospitals, and community organizations. Through the Art Therapy Express Program learning manuals, teaching videos, and live art sessions, organizations can learn to create their own self-sustained art programs. For more information about Art Therapy Express, please visit www.arttherapyexpress.org. Also visit our online gallery of the artwork created for this calendar and photographs of the artists at www.udel.edu/cds/art.

Cover Artist: Elizabeth Nolan



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