



ICI INSTITUTE *on* COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

Ensuring that all people with disabilities have the opportunity to be participating members in their communities of choice

AUGUST 2018

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FEATURE STORIES



Certificate in Disability Policy and Services: Start Here, Go Anywhere

"If you can, you should consider completing the certificate!" says Haley Hajjali (pictured), who is working on her graduate degree in nursing at the University of Minnesota. "The people you meet, the things you learn, and the new experiences you have will help round you out, no matter what profession or path you go down." Hajjali is speaking about the [Certificate in Disability Policy and Services](#), which is designed to allow

graduate students, as well as community professionals, to study policies and services that affect the lives of children, youth, and adults with disabilities. The 12-credit interdisciplinary program is a collaboration between ICI and the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development in the University's College of Education and Human Development. The program examines the spectrum of education, employment, community living, and health policies impacting individuals with disabilities and their families, and surveys the public and private networks of disability services. While the program addresses the needs of people with all types of disabilities, it emphasizes intellectual and related developmental disabilities across the lifespan. The program addresses topics in the field of developmental disabilities, including:

- Past and present inclusion of people with disabilities in their communities.
- Significant legislation and laws impacting services and supports.
- Exploration of school, residential, employment, and community programs.
- Perspectives and roles of professional disciplines in providing services and collaboration.
- Current trends and issues in policies and service provision.

"Working at a group home, I knew I loved working with the disability community, but I wanted to work with the community in a new setting and gain new experience," says Hajjali. "Additionally, the disability community is a group of wonderful, understanding and compassionate people. Although there are many self-advocates out there who are making an impact on policy and improving life for individuals with disabilities, the community needs help and support to make sure that we keep progressing. The program focuses on individuals with disabilities, but the policies that affect them affect a lot of other people too, such as people using Medicaid/Medicare and the aging population. The information you learn will be applicable and helpful in many fields." Program coordinator [Beth Fondell](#) agrees, pointing to one of the Certificate's career benefits. "Past participants have told us that the Certificate was the deciding factor in securing their desired positions."

Applications are accepted year-round. For further information, contact Fondell at fond0030@umn.edu.



"Inclusion Starts with Me" at this Year's Great Minnesota Get-Together!

Join ICI at the Minnesota State Fair this year as the organization brings its message of inclusivity to the fair-going public for the sixth straight year. Each year, ICI puts together a team of creative volunteers to collaborate and coordinate our booth and a State Fair experience that celebrates the impact of people with disabilities living in their communities. This year's approach includes two new "graffiti walls" that invite the public to share, in their own words, their support of the following: 1) "Inclusion starts with me because..." and 2) "I support disability research because..."

"We all have a part to play in living in an inclusive society," says project organizer [Connie Burkhart](#). The "Inclusion Starts with Me" theme is supported with new hand-drawn artwork conceived of by graphic designer [Sarah Hollerich](#). Fairgoers will also be able to pose for pictures in new hand-held photo frames that will be featured on [ICI's Facebook page](#). Creative give-aways will be shared with all booth visitors, including stories of individuals with disabilities thriving on their own. In addition to Burkhart, State Fair committee members include [Tony Baisley](#), [Claire Benway](#), [Priscilla Brinkmann](#), [Kristin Dean](#), [Heidi Eschenbacher](#), and [Chet Tschetter](#). The ICI team will be at the Fair on Tuesday, August 28 at the U of M building on Dan Patch Avenue from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The team invites you to visit with us.



ICI, MN DHS Partner to Produce Cross-Cultural Films on Autism

ICI, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), has produced, ["On the Autism Spectrum: Families Find Help and Hope,"](#) a series of five short films that raise awareness and understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and of services available to Minnesota families

within the African American, Hmong, Latino, Native American, and Somali communities. The new films, available for viewing on YouTube, were created for and are distributed by DHS to provide support, encouragement, and direction for families in diverse communities who experience ASD, inspiring them to use available resources. Each 15-20 minute film features interviews with parents, advocates, medical professionals, educators, and community leaders speaking in the language of the target community with subtitles in English.

"Unfortunately, some families still experience stigma around disabilities and find it difficult to talk openly and seek needed support," says [Jerry Smith](#), director of the films. "As families hear from others in their communities experiencing the same issues, and from health professionals and educators offering guidance and direction, we hope more people will act early and take advantage of the services available throughout Minnesota."

"DHS wants to ensure that families and others are aware of the Early Intensive Developmental and Behavioral Intervention [EIDBI] benefit available to Minnesota children and youth with ASD or related conditions," says Alex Bartolic, director of DHS' Disability Services Division. "It's critical to identify the signs and symptoms of ASD and developmental delays early to positively alter the developmental trajectory of children with ASD at a young age. We were pleased to partner with ICI to produce these excellent videos, which are designed to encourage families from ethnic communities to pursue treatment for their children by showing them members of their communities who have been helped with autism services, including EIDBI."

ICI's work on the films is part of its [Minnesota DHS Systems Change and Capacity Building Through Research, Training, and Technical Assistance Projects](#), a partnership of DHS and ICI's Research and Training Center on Community Living (RTC-CL) that began in 2012. That collaboration includes research, training and technical assistance activities that enhance Minnesota's capacity to support community living for individuals with disabilities and/or mental illness, including early intervention for children with ASD.



MNLEND Fellow Develops Sensory Friendly Sunday at Walker Art Center

Fellows from ICI's [Minnesota Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program \(MNLEND\)](#) have been instrumental in creating [Sensory Friendly Sunday](#), a free monthly event at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis for children, teenagers, and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder or sensory sensitivities, and their families.

This first-of-its-kind program in a Twin Cities museum, Sensory Friendly Sunday, which launched in May, offers the opportunity for families to make art together, explore galleries, watch a short film, or just relax in a setting with accommodations that make it more comfortable.

Julia Anderson (MNLEND, 2016-17, pictured), Family and Access Programs Coordinator at the Walker

Art Center, began developing Sensory Friendly Sunday as part of her year-long MNLEND project. After securing funding from MRAC (Metro Regional Arts Council), Anderson recruited a Community Advisory Group of parents, self-advocates, and professionals to inform and guide the program. Two MNLEND Fellows serve on the Advisory Group: Mariana Walther (MNLEND, 2017-18) and Fatima Molas (MNLEND, 2016-17). The Walker Art Center also consulted with art teachers and special education teachers from Lionsgate Academy and Minneapolis Public Schools, the University of Minnesota's Program in Occupational Therapy, and colleagues from the Minnesota Access Alliance.

From 8 to 11 a.m. on the first or second Sunday of each month, the Walker galleries are closed to all other visitors. Guests can enjoy the museum with accommodations such as quiet spaces, headphones, sunglasses, sensory maps, social narratives, and fidgets. At the next Sensory Friendly Sunday on September 2, visitors can explore an exhibit about citizenship and belonging called [*I am you, you are too*](#); play [Skyline Mini Golf](#) on the Walker Terraces; and learn the cyanotype printing process using photo paper and an ultraviolet lamp with teaching artist Simone Needle.

"Visiting the Walker Art Center can be an overwhelming experience. Sensory Friendly Sunday strives to mitigate this by providing sensory supports, a comfortable environment, friendly staff to greet and help, and opportunities to engage with art. The long-term goal is that folks with sensory sensitivities will feel comfortable visiting the Walker independently, even on a day other than Sensory Friendly Sunday," says Anderson. To learn more, read the [*Star Tribune's* recent article](#) about Sensory Friendly Sunday.

ICI Supports Social Inclusion of Young Russians with Disabilities

[Brian Abery](#) and [Renáta Tichá](#) (pictured in Moscow during a previous trip) from ICI's [Global Resource Center on Inclusive Education](#) (GRC) lead a new project known as [Community Participation and Employment as Strategies for Social Inclusion: A U.S.-Russian Dialogue](#). The project aims to

enhance the social inclusion of youth and young adults with disabilities by developing community living and supported employment programs in the Moscow area. Funded by a one-year, \$29,000 grant that began on June 22 from the Eurasia Foundation's U.S.-Russian Federation Social Expertise Exchange Program, Tichá and Abery will work with a Russian nongovernmental organization called Journey Through Life to develop materials that support youth with disabilities to successfully transition from school to employment and community living. Activities will include staff from Journey Through Life visiting Minnesota for a 10-day period this fall to observe employment and community living programs, and GRC staff will travel to Russia to provide technical assistance to their partnering organization.

"Many Russian parents don't see the point of educating children and youth with disabilities because options in Russia for supported community living and employment are virtually non-existent," says Abery. "Working with nongovernmental organizations and parents on these transition issues can both enhance the quality of life of persons with disabilities and begin to change public attitudes towards this part of the population."



Tichá agrees. "This project helps us continue our work in the Russian Federation by supporting the infrastructure needed for community living and employment for young adults with disabilities. This project builds on GRC's previous work in the Russian Federation, which focused on community living, employment, and inclusive education for adults, youth and children with disabilities."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



Featured on [ICI's Facebook](#) on August 10, 2018

[#InclusionStartswithMe](#) is our theme for this year's Minnesota State Fair!

ICI will once again be at the Great Minnesota Get-Together on Tuesday, August 28th from 9 to 9 in the U of M building on Dan Patch Ave. So, grab some cheese curds, a soda pop, and come on over to see us! Stop by to get your FREE swag, sign one of our NEW graffiti walls (1. "Inclusion starts with me because...", and 2. "I support disability research because...") and pose for a photo too! We always have a great time at the Fair and look forward to seeing you and celebrating the contributions -- and accomplishments -- of people with disabilities.

NEW RELEASES



2015-2016 APR Snapshot #16: State Assessment Participation and Performance of Students Receiving Special Education Services

Authors: [Martha Thurlow](#) and [Yi-Chen Wu](#)

[This brief](#) by ICI's [National Center on Educational Outcomes](#) (NCEO) is part of a series that provides a snapshot of the participation and performance of students receiving special education services in statewide assessments used

for Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) accountability. Using federally submitted data for the 2015-16 school year, NCEO presents information from states' Annual Performance Reports on participation and performance in reading and mathematics statewide assessments administered to grade 8 students. Published by NCEO.

2015-2016 APR Snapshot #17: Students in Special Education Receiving Assessment Accommodations

Authors: [Yi-Chen Wu](#) and [Martha Thurlow](#)



This is [another brief](#) from NCEO's APR series. This issue provides information on the number of students with disabilities receiving accommodations and the performance of these students on the general statewide assessment used for Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) accountability. Using federally submitted data from the 2015-2016 school year, NCEO presents information on accommodations for reading and mathematics statewide assessments administered to grade 8 students (and grade 4 to show a comparison to grade 8 data). Published by NCEO.



2015-2016 APR Snapshot #18: AA-AAS Participation and Performance

Authors: [Martha Thurlow](#) and [Yi-Chen Wu](#)

This is the [latest brief](#) from NCEO's APR series. This issue summarizes Alternate Assessment based on Alternate Achievement Standards (AA-AAS) data used for Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) accountability to measure the academic achievement of students with significant cognitive disabilities. Using federally submitted data from the 2015-2016 school year, NCEO presents information on the number of students participating in the AA-AAS and the performance of those students. Published by NCEO.

Journal Article Published

"Exploring retirement for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities: An analysis of National Core Indicators data." (2018). By [Roger J. Stancliffe](#), [Julie E. D. Kramme](#), and [Kelly Nye-Lengerman](#). Published in [Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#), 56(4), 217-233.

EVENTS

Art for All: The Stephanie Evelo Fund for Art Inclusion Reception

August 29, 5-7 p.m.

The Minneapolis Club

729 Second Avenue South

Downtown Minneapolis



Join in on this special public art reception at the Minneapolis Club, curated by ICI's [Art for All: The Stephanie Evelo Fund for Art Inclusion](#). The Fund curates ongoing and revolving exhibits of visual art by artists with disabilities at ICI and off-campus, celebrating art and diversity while supporting artists with disabilities. The exhibit at the Minneapolis Club is a free event that will honor the work of five distinctive

artists: Katharine Fitzgerald, Ingrid Hansen, Jon Leverentz, Geoffrey Mikol, and Jimmy Reagan. Artists will be on hand for a meet-and-greet, which is being hosted by Patty Connelly with Sheryl and David Evelo. There will be a short program around 6:30 p.m. [RSVP here](#). Includes hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Complimentary parking is available directly adjacent to the Minneapolis Club, entrance on Eighth Street. (Please tell the attendant you are attending the "Art for All" reception.)

2018 Minnesota Gathering

September 25-26

Eagan Community Center

501 Central Parkway

Eagan, Minnesota



ICI and its [Research and Training Center on Community Living \(RTC-CL\)](#), the Minnesota Department of Human Services, and The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices will host the [2018 Minnesota Gathering for Person-Centered Practices](#) in September. Advocates, self-advocates, family members of persons with disabilities, providers, and community members from all over the state are invited to meet face-to-face and engage with one another about their lives and work regarding person-centered practices. Rather than call it a conference, event organizers purposely use the term "gathering" to convey a more casual atmosphere that encourages participants to share intimate stories, feel closer to the people they meet, and have deep conversations about person-centered practices. The Gathering also features a Learning Marketplace, Gallery Walk, lunch and learns, and breakout sessions. Alex Bartolic, the Director of Disability Services at the Minnesota Department Human Services, will welcome participants to the two-day event and the keynote speakers will be Michael Steinbruck, who is executive director of The Learning Community, and [Amy Hewitt](#), director of ICI and RTC-CL. [Registration is open](#).

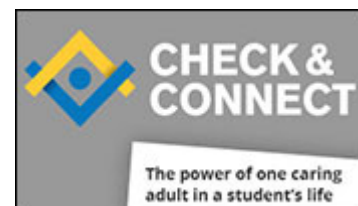
Check & Connect Training

October 1-2, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center

1890 Buford Avenue

St. Paul, Minnesota



[Check & Connect](#) 's two-day Comprehensive Implementation Training provides participants with a thorough overview of Check & Connect and its background; how to prepare their site for implementing Check & Connect; and the information, competencies, and skills needed to be an effective Check & Connect mentor. Limited to 30 participants, this training is designed for education administrators, lead staff (decision-making stakeholders), their site coordinator(s), and assigned Check & Connect mentors. Check & Connect is an intervention used with K-12 students who show warning signs of disengagement with school and who are at risk of dropping out. At the core of Check & Connect is a trusting relationship between the student and a caring, trained mentor who both advocates for and

challenges the student to keep education salient. [Register by September 10.](#)

Responses Sought for Online Survey About ICI Website



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The ICI Web Team is asking our friends and colleagues around the world to take a moment today to let us know what you think of the [ICI Website](#) and how it can better serve you in the future. The short, four-question survey takes only a few moments to complete and can be found [here](#). We would love to hear from you. Thank you!

STAFF UPDATES

Youngsoon Kang, Renáta Tichá, and Kelly Nye-Lengerman: On July 3, [Kang](#), presented a paper titled "Psychometric Evaluation of the National Core Indicators Adult Consumer Survey (NCI-ACS) Using Item Response Theory" at the bi-annual meeting of the International Test Commission Conference in Montreal, Canada. [Tichá](#) and [Nye-Lengerman](#) were her co-authors.



Claire Benway: On July 11, [Benway](#) participated in a panel presentation on the Direct Support Professional workforce titled "Direct Support Professionals: "We ARE Ready!" at the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities annual conference in Washington, DC.



Laurie "Chet" Tschetter and John Smith: On July 18 and 19, [Tschetter](#) and [Smith](#) trained 60 of MRCI's frontline supervisors/leaders in Shakopee, Minnesota, using the curriculum that former staff member Angela Amado developed for ICI's Research and Training Center on Community Living: [Friends: Connecting People with Disabilities and Community Members](#). MRCI is a social services

organization that supports individuals through day programs, including retirement support and employment. MRCI has over 400 employees in locations such as Chaska, Rosemount, New Ulm, Fairmont, Shakopee, and Mankato. All of MRCI's leadership staff have completed Person Centered Training through [DirectCourse](#), and MRCI executives requested this training for their frontline supervisors because the organization wanted the people they support to be part of the community, not just in the community.

Claire Benway, Mark Olson, Nicole Duchelle, Beth Fondell, Susan O'Neill, and Barb Kleist: On July 22-25, [Benway](#), [Olson](#), [Duchelle](#), [Fondell](#), [O'Neill](#), and [Kleist](#) participated in the annual Portland Gathering in Oregon, sharing their work supporting the growth and use of person-centered practices in Minnesota. The event was hosted by The Learning Community for Person-Centered Practices.



Jerry Smith: On August 2, [Smith](#) began a one-month contract with The Arc of the United States to produce an advocacy video on the importance of the Family and Medical Leave Act for families who have children with disabilities and for people with disabilities.

ALUMNI UPDATES



Allana Walsh: Allana Walsh, who began serving on the [ICI Community Advisory Committee](#) in January, is a District Program Facilitator for the Minneapolis Public Schools. But back in 2013-15, she was a Graduate Research Assistant at ICI and in 2016, she completed the Institute's Certificate in Disability Policy and Services. "My time at ICI helped me understand the importance of having a big

picture appreciation of life with a disability," she says. "It also helped me honor the varied and specific needs of individuals and families. The certificate program nurtured my passion for political activism. I am acutely aware of the need to advocate constantly for and with individuals with disabilities. My time at ICI has helped foster more open communication with primary caregivers, accepting personal responsibility within the educational setting, and empowering individuals with disabilities to make as many choices for themselves as possible. Every day I see firsthand how critical advocacy is for individuals with disabilities and for their families."

"My work and partnerships with ICI have helped me create professional development opportunities in Minneapolis Public Schools surrounding inclusive practices. I have had the honor and privilege to support Individual Education Plan (IEP) teams in student-led IEPs. I have worked to create ability awareness professional development district wide, helped create a framework for paraprofessional support that fosters student independence and self-advocacy, and collaborated with Minneapolis Public School leaders to create a continuum of special education services for students within buildings. Also, it's been an honor to be invited to serve on ICI's external advisory board with so many talented people. It's another reminder of the importance of being a lifelong learner."

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