The April 2012 issue of Project Bridge includes project updates from recent months and events that will take place in the next few months. The next issue will be sent in May. Please send news and events for the May issue to mercooke@udel.edu by April 13.

PROJECT UPDATES

- “The ABCs of ABA: What is it and how is it used?” — the next session in the CDS Lunchtime Learning series — will be held Tuesday, April 24 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at the Center for Disabilities Studies. The workshop, which features Christine Barthold, Ph.D., BCBA-D, examines Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) — best known for its application to the treatment of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder. Chris, a researcher and clinician at CDS, will describe the theory behind ABA and discuss some common myths about ABA and ways in which ABA is used to solve everyday problems. Chris also will discuss intervention for those on the autism spectrum and explain the new partnership between CDS and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide ABA services in employment settings. Attendees are welcome to bring a bag lunch. Water and snacks will be provided. Please register with Meredith Cooke at mercooke@udel.edu and indicate if you need an accommodation.

- Micki Edelsohn, a member of the Center’s Community Advisory Council, was inducted in the Delaware Women’s Hall of Fame on March 21. She was recognized by the Delaware Commission for Women (DCW) for “changing the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Delaware and beyond.” In materials released about the inductees, DCW noted that Micki “created the ‘Homes for Life’ Foundation, a charitable organization with the purpose of building safe and comfortable homes for adults with intellectual disabilities. Since 1980, Micki has raised millions of dollars and built 25 comfortable, four-bedroom homes in residential neighborhoods. As Micki has provided housing, she has created new understanding of a population frequently stigmatized, opening possibilities that extend far beyond their front doors.” Micki and three other 2012 inductees were nominated by individuals and organizations from throughout the state, based on their reputations for innovation, respect among colleagues, their leadership roles, and the
espect and lasting effect of their work. Congratulations, Micki!

- **Brian Freedman**, director of the Transition, Education and Employment Model (TEEM) unit, contributed a short article to the Kentucky Autism Training Center newsletter, *Insight on Autism*. Titled “Supporting Parents of Young Adults with ASD,” the article offers information and resources for the transition process and parental support. The article and the newsletter are available online. Another article written by Brian, “Parental Stress and Family Relationships During the Transition to Adulthood,” was published in the Spring 2012 issue of *Autism Spectrum News*, which can be found online (page 23).

- **Eileen Sparling**, project coordinator in the Health and Wellness unit, presented at the Delaware Coalition for Healthy Eating and Active Living’s Annual Summit on March 22. Her presentation was titled, “Including People with Disabilities in Health Promotion Activities.”

- The move of the [Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI)](https://www.dati.org/) central office and [New Castle County Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC)](https://www.dati.org/newcastle) from A.I. duPont/Nemours Hospital for Children to the Center for Disabilities Studies is complete. DATI staff members **Marvin Williams** and **Joann McCafferty** can be reached at 302-831-0354. The toll-free voice/TTY number remains 800-870-DATI (3284). The new fax number is 302-831-4690.

- **Community Connectors** participated in Soap for Hope, an annual community service project held in conjunction with UD Catholic Ministries. Members collected bars of soap, washcloths and plastic bags and worked with UD students to prepare the items for shipping. The supplies were sent to Haiti to be distributed to families in need. The next event, a DJ Bash at Independence West on UD’s Newark campus on April 20 will be held with Best Buddies, CLSC students, members of Sigma Kappa and Sigma Pi and other UD students. Two fundraisers that are held annually are also being planned: Friendly’s on April 30 and a car wash on May 2. See the events section for details.

- The **Career and Life Studies Certificate (CLSC) program** recently hosted a series of Healthy Transitions workshops, a program coordinated by CDS. Sessions focused on general transition issues, insurance issues, healthy relationships and healthy lifestyles. At the healthy lifestyles workshop, students participated in an interactive session with registered dietician Irene Soucy. She emphasized the importance of nutrition and physical activity in leading a healthy lifestyle—and challenged the students to think differently about the foods they consume each day.

**HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT OF THE MONTH**

**ACCESS Project Creates Extended Standards, Provides Trainings**

- Since its inception in mid-2011, the ACCESS project (Adapting Curriculum and Classroom Environments for Student Success) has focused on both access to the academic curriculum and inclusive environments for students with intellectual disabilities. Funded by the Delaware
Department of Education (DDOE), ACCESS carries out several activities that serve students with significant intellectual disabilities, their teachers, administrators, additional school personnel and families.

The first phase of the ACCESS project involved examining the Delaware Content Standards and creating extensions for students with severe intellectual disabilities. These extended standards, known as Grade Band Extensions (GBEs), will assist special educators by providing a variety of entry points to the academic standards. After a year-long creation and review process, the GBEs for English language arts and mathematics were completed in September 2011; science and social studies were completed in February 2012. ACCESS staff held trainings in school districts throughout the state to help teachers navigate the standards and develop lesson plans based on the GBEs. New professional development sessions are planned for the science and social studies extensions.

The second phase of the ACCESS project focuses on instructional planning, creating adapted materials and supporting teachers in learning how to implement the extended standards in the classroom. A GBE companion guide was created to assist school staff in linking classroom activities to the GBEs. In addition, the ACCESS staff has created adapted materials for use within classroom settings and is continuing to move toward customizing supports for individual districts.

The ACCESS project also has a research component. ACCESS staff will collaborate with a team of teachers from around the state to develop standards-based lesson plans and adapted materials for classroom use. Teachers will then share information about the lessons in an online forum. This information will be used in a research study on student outcomes resulting from instructional planning and adapted materials. Partnering with the ACCESS project to complete this study is Dr. Chrystalla Mouza, associate professor of educational technology in the School of Education at the University of Delaware.

The project also provides technical support to DDOE for the Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System-Alternate 1 (DCAS-Alt1), the state’s new alternate assessment. ACCESS staff members conduct parent trainings on the DCAS-Alt1 to orient parents to its structure, uses and the ways in which extended standards fit with the new alternate assessment.

With the focus on improving the access of students with significant intellectual disabilities to the same content standards as their typical peers, the ACCESS project strives to provide equal opportunities for learning to all students. A future goal is to build a resource database that includes lesson plans and adapted materials that teachers can use in their classrooms. This will increase opportunities for all students to have access to the general curriculum.

Julie Bowers directs the ACCESS project. Staff members are Judi MacBride, Stephanie Demayo and Esley Newton. For more information on the ACCESS project, visit www.deaccessproject.org.
RESOURCES

- CDS has copies of “Voting in Delaware: A Guide for Citizens with Disabilities,” a resource guide about voting and voter’s rights, with particular focus on voters with disabilities. It includes sections on political parties, different methods of voting, and information about absentee ballots and voter registration. If you or your agency are interested in receiving this guide, contact Jamie Wolfe at jlw@udel.edu.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has introduced the Disability and Health Data System (DHDS). DHDS is an online interactive system that quickly translates state-level, disability-specific data into information that can be used by state health departments, national disability and health organizations, policymakers, researchers, educators and others.

- As part of National Sibling Day, The Arc and the Sibling Leadership Network are offering a free webinar to siblings of an individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities. “Getting Started: How to Bring Brothers and Sisters of People with Disabilities Together” will provide an overview of the paths to successful networking. The webinar will be held April 10 at 12 noon. Register online to hear from leaders and siblings involved in chapters of The Arc across the country.

- UD junior Elena Delle Donne received national recognition for her many achievements: being the leading scorer in the women’s NCAA basketball league; leading the Blue Hens to their first win in an NCAA tournament game in school history; and being named one of four finalists for the Naismith Women’s College Player of the Year. She is also well-known for her choice to leave the University of Connecticut after being a part of the championship basketball team for only two days. Elena chose to return to Delaware to be near her older sister, who is both blind and deaf and was born with cerebral palsy. Elena’s story was featured in an article on the ABC News website. The News Journal published a similar story on March 25.

- The Riot—a self-advocacy group housed at the Human Services Research Institute—is hosting a series of teleconferences called “A National Conversation: Who’s in Charge?” Each teleconference has its own theme related to self-advocacy. Each conference will begin at 2 p.m. EST and last a total of 90 minutes. Download the registration form for more information.
  - May 3. “How are self-advocates in charge of their own lives?”
  - June 7. “How are self-advocates in charge of their own self-advocacy group?”
  - July 12. “What steps will self-advocate leaders take to bring the movement forward?”
Visit the [CDS website calendar](https://example.com/calendar) for more events.

- **April 11.** [Marc Elliot’s What Makes You Tic?](#) A presentation about tolerance, Willard Hall 007, University of Delaware, 7 p.m. Marc Elliot is a self-advocate who shares his experiences as an individual with Tourette’s syndrome. This event is sponsored by the Center for Disabilities Studies, Hillel Student Life, U*SAID, Episcopal Campus Ministry, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, Kesher, Office of Equity and Inclusion, STAND, SGA and the Jewish Studies Department. See the [event flyer](#) for more information. To learn more about Marc Elliot, visit his [website](https://example.com/marc-elliot).

- **April 13.** “A Night to Remember,” Belavita at Cavaliers Country Club, Newark, 6:30–10:30 p.m. This dinner-dance supports the Mancus Foundation; proceeds benefit Delawareans with disabilities. Visit the [Mancus Foundation website](https://example.com/mancus) or call 302-690-8254 for information and tickets.

- **April 19.** Delaware Human Relations 19th Annual Fair Housing Training Conference, Sheraton Dover, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. The theme of this year’s conference is “The Truth and Consequences about Housing Discrimination: A Training Conference for Residents and Government Leaders.” Visit the [conference website](https://example.com/conference) for information about the speakers and registration.

- **April 20.** 7th Annual Diamond Dinner, Cranston Heights Fire House, Wilmington, 6–9 p.m. Hosted by United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware, Inc., this annual dinner honors athletes with disabilities who participate in sports. Guest speaker is [Sonal Cercena](https://example.com/sonal-cercena), Special Olympics gold medalist. To purchase tickets to the dinner, contact the UCP office at 302-764-2400 or ucde@ucpde.org.

- **April 21.** The Spring Into Action Event—Statewide Title 1 Conference, Delaware School for the Deaf, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Hosted by the Christina School District and the Delaware State Parent Advisory Council (DSPAC), this event is focused on bullying prevention and features Attorney General Beau Biden as the keynote speaker. Visit the [DSPAC website](https://example.com/dspac) or call 302-722-7206 for more information or to register for the event.

- **April 21 - 22. 2012 Walk for Autism.** This annual event will take place at Bellevue State Park in Wilmington on April 21 and Cape Henlopen State Park in Lewes on April 22. Visit the [Autism Delaware website](https://example.com/autism) for more information.

- **April 23-25.** The Disability Policy Seminar, Washington, D.C. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from leading public policy experts, disability advocates and Congressional staff discussing current key policies important to the disability community. The seminar also includes a visit to Capitol Hill to visit with Congressional delegations and deliver a unified message about high-priority disability issues. Topics to be discussed include: Medicaid and community living, federal funding, social security, employment and education, health care and
asset development. Visit the seminar website for more information or to register for the event.

- **April 24. CDS Lunchtime Learning**, Center for Disabilities Studies, 12 noon–1 p.m. This session will be led by Christine Barthold and is titled “The ABCs of ABA: What is it and how is it used?” See “Project Updates” or event flyer for registration information.

- **April 25-28. United Cerebral Palsy 2012 Annual Conference**, Washington, D.C. The theme of the conference is “Transitioning to Tomorrow.” It focuses on the transition to a new approach for UCP, its allies and partners. The conference coincides with the unveiling of two new national initiatives for UCP: 1) targeted public education and outreach campaigns around early childhood development, services and supports for youth, the transition to adulthood and vital family supports; and 2) a re-launch of UCP’s Life Without Limits Initiative, including a dynamic new language study and the birth of Life Labs, UCP’s research and development effort around adaptive technology. Visit the conference website for more information.

- **April 27. Easter Seals 3rd Annual Caregiver Conference**, 8:45 a.m.–4 p.m., Easter Seals, New Castle. Easter Seals is partnering with the Delaware Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and Delaware Family Voices to provide this informational conference for caregivers who care for people across the life span. The theme is, “Relax, Recharge, Rejuvenate with Respite!” Rita Landgraf, Secretary of the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, is the keynote speaker; she will speak about the state of respite funding in Delaware. The conference agenda is available online. Registration is $15 and must be completed online. Contact Erin Warren at ewarren@esdel.org or 302-221-2087 for more information.

- **April 27-29. Sprout Film Festival**, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, N.Y. By presenting films of artistry and intellect, the festival hopes to reinforce accurate portrayals of people with developmental disabilities and expose the general public to important issues facing this population. The goal is an enjoyable and enlightening experience that will help breakdown stereotypes, promoting a greater acceptance of differences and awareness of similarities. Visit the festival website for the schedule and to purchase tickets.

- **April 28. Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Seminar for People with Parkinson’s and Other Movement Disorders**, Cape Henlopen High School, Lewes, 8:15 a.m.–3:45 p.m. This seminar explores complementary and alternative medicine, including health-related products and practices that are not generally considered part of conventional medicine. It is sponsored by the Sussex County Parkinson Education and Support Group, Beebe Medical Center and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services. The program brochure includes a complete list of presenters and registration information.

- **April 30. Friendly’s Fundraiser**, 5–9 p.m., Friendly’s, 115 South College Ave., Newark. Enjoy dinner at Friendly’s or take your meal home while supporting Community Connectors. A percentage of the evening’s receipts will go to Connectors.
May 2. Community Connectors Car Wash, 11 a.m. –3 p.m., Elkton Road Sunoco (Elkton Road at Murray Road), Newark. Members of Community Connectors, Sigma Kappa Sorority and Sigma Pi Fraternity will wash your car to benefit Connectors. $5 for tickets in advance; $7 on the day of the event. Advance tickets for the car wash will be sold at the kiosk at the Trabant University Center on April 30 and May 1 between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Contact sjrombe@udel.edu to arrange for your advance tickets if you are not able to buy them at Trabant.

May 9. Conducting Safe and Accessible Focus Groups, 11 a.m. –2 p.m., Center for Disabilities Studies, 461 Wyoming Road, Newark. The First State Equal Access to Safety Initiative, a collaboration of CDS, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence and National Alliance for Mental Illness, Delaware Chapter, are conducting this training session for members of an initiative focus group team, focus group note-takers, staff members and students designing or participating in research. Space is limited and registration is required by May 1. For more information or to register, contact Alisha Boyd at alishab@udel.edu or 302-831-4612, or Lisa Becker, lbecker@dcadv.org or 302-658-2958. Participant should bring lunch.

ADVOCACY CORNER

This section is dedicated to informing you about advocacy efforts and new or pending legislation or policies that relate to individuals with disabilities. If you would like to suggest information to share in upcoming editions of Project Bridge, contact mercooke@udel.edu.

The first official World Down Syndrome Day was held on March 21. Although advocacy organizations around the world have observed World Down Syndrome Day on March 21 since 2006, the U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution late last year making it official. The date, 3/21, also has significance to the disability community, since Down syndrome occurs when an individual has three copies of the 21st chromosome.

Delaware Transit Corporation will conduct four Public Hearing Workshops to obtain comments on proposed changes to DART First State Fixed Route Bus Service for Kent and New Castle Counties. The changes will become effective June 17, 2012 and will affect riders that transfer buses at Rodney square; there are also other route changes. More information about the hearings and proposed changes is available online.

- Tuesday, April 10. Carvel State Office Building, 2nd Floor Auditorium, 820 N. French Street, Wilmington, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. and 5–7 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 11. Delaware Department of Transportation Administrative Building, Farmington/Felton Room, 800 Bay Road, Dover, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 12. Wilmington Area Planning Council, 850 Library Ave., Suite 100, Newark, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
The Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens, the Catalyst Center and CDS are in the process of developing the **State Transition Task Force for Emerging Adults with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs**. The purpose of this task force is to identify the “gaps” in transition services for young adults and make recommendations to the legislature on how to fill the gaps. The design team has presented draft legislation that would establish a task force to Gov. Jack Markell, Sen. Bethany Hall-Long and Rep. Rebecca Walker. Under the main task force, there will be four work groups: Health, Housing/Transportation, Education and Employment. To assist these work groups in defining their focus, the design team has planned two Key Informant Group Meeting/Discussions where participants will be given the opportunity to comment on their transition experiences:

- **Thursday, April 19.** Easter Seals, 61 Corporate Circle, New Castle, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
- **Friday, April 20.** The Biden Center, located within Cape Henlopen State Park, 42 Cape Henlopen Drive (park admission fee will be waived), 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Registration is required; contact kmullen@gacec.k12.de.us or 302-39-4553. Comments may also be sent to this email address.

The state of Delaware is seeking **long-term care volunteer ombudsmen** to visit with nursing home residents, who are usually elderly or have disabilities, and advocate for them and their families if they have concerns they cannot deal with themselves. Additional information and an application form can be found on the Delaware Health and Social Services website. A two-day training session will be conducted April 18 and 19.

Rep. Quinn Johnson and Sen. Liane Sorenson are the chief sponsors of Senate Bill 22, which would require insurers to cover behavioral health treatment, which includes applied behavioral analysis, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, mental health care and prescriptions for autism when the condition is diagnosed by a physician or psychologist. Additional information is available on the Delaware General Assembly website.

**CONTACT US**

The University of Delaware’s Center for Disabilities Studies is located at 461 Wyoming Road, Newark, Delaware, 19716. Please call us at 302-831-6974 or 302-831-4689 (TDD), send an email to ud-cds@udel.edu or visit our website at www.udel.edu/cds.

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Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and University policies. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and related statutes and regulations: Tom Webb, Director, Office of Disabilities Support Services, 240 Academy Street, Alison Hall Suite 119, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, 302-831-4643. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and to serve as the overall campus coordinator for purposes of Title IX compliance: Bindu Kolli, Chief Policy Advisor, Office of Equity and Inclusion, 305 Hullihen Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, 302-831-8063. The following individuals have been designated as deputy Title IX coordinators: for Athletics, Jennifer W. Davis, Vice President for Finance and Administration, 220 Hullihen Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, 302-831-2769; and for Student Life, Dawn Thompson, Dean of Students/AVP for Student Life, 101 Hullihen Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, 302-831-8939. Inquiries concerning the application of anti-discrimination laws may be referred to the Title IX coordinator or to the Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education. For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, visit http://wdcrobrocolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm for the address and phone number of the U.S. Department of Education office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

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