The mission of the Center for Disabilities Studies at the University of Delaware is to enhance the lives of individuals and families in Delaware through education, prevention, service, and research related to disabilities. We promote independence and productivity so individuals and families can fully participate in the life of the community.

Since its founding in 1993, the Center for Disabilities Studies has influenced policy and practice for persons with disabilities in such key areas as:

- Health and well-being
- Community-based services
- Early intervention for young children
- Inclusive education
- Transition from school to work
- Employment, housing, and transportation

The Center for Disabilities Studies is one of 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. It is a member of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, a national network of interdisciplinary centers advancing policy and practice for and with individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families and communities.

For more information about CDS visit www.udel.edu/cds
The Center for Disabilities Studies engages in projects that cut across age, disability, and life domain.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY EDUCATION AND SUPPORT
- Conducts a variety of education and outreach programs
- Connects families with community resources for medical care and other special needs
- Operates assistive technology resource centers throughout Delaware

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION
- Coordinates the University of Delaware undergraduate minor in disabilities studies
- Provides assistantships for graduate study
- Facilitates the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities to cultivate future leaders in the field of developmental disabilities

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
- Unites multiple perspectives within focused research projects
- Engages in long-term applied research
- Carries out demographic research regarding employment, health, and education

DISSEMINATION AND ADVOCACY
- Increases awareness of disability-related issues and services through websites, newsletters, research articles, an annual report, and speaking engagements
- Represents the interests of people with disabilities to state agencies, community organizations, and public officials

Early Childhood
To improve the quality of programs that support children from birth to early elementary school, the Center for Disabilities Studies:

- Enhances provider skills through professional development
- Documents program outcomes through evaluation activities
- Partners with New Directions Early Head Start to empower and support infants, toddlers, their families, and pregnant women in their homes and at child care centers
- Engages in collaborative research with the University of Delaware Early Learning Center and the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

School Age
To ensure learning environments that promote the academic and social success of all children, the Center for Disabilities Studies:

- Provides professional development and technical assistance to educators and other professionals to facilitate positive and inclusive education experiences for children with and without disabilities
- Advances access to the general education curriculum for students with significant cognitive disabilities through the development, distribution, scoring, and reporting of alternate assessments
- Promotes accessibility of instructional materials for students who have print disabilities
- Conducts evaluations to determine program impact, identify unmet needs, and provide data for ongoing quality improvement

Adult
To enable and empower adults with disabilities to thrive in their personal lives and in their communities, the Center for Disabilities Studies:

- Collaborates with schools and health care organizations to help teens and young adults transition from school to work and from the pediatric to the adult health care system
- Provides supports in the areas of housing, transportation, employment, health and well-being, and daily living
- Conducts and evaluates programs that pioneer new approaches to the delivery of high quality services for individuals with disabilities and their families

“"All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should have an equal opportunity to develop our talents.”
— JOHN F. KENNEDY