

Institute for Human Development

REPORT TO THE *Community*

July 1, 2022 to June 20, 2023



NAU
NORTHERN
ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY

Institute for Human
Development

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Kelly Roberts, PhD
Executive Director and Professor

As the executive director of the Institute for Human Development (IHD), I am pleased to present our 2023 Report to the Community.

For nearly 60 years, the mission of IHD has been to advance attitudes and increase access so that people with disabilities can engage in all aspects of the human experience. To support our mission, IHD offers a diverse array of programs, many of which are described in the following pages.

IHD is composed of four "core function" areas. Our community service core function offers programs such as early intervention services for infants and toddlers on the Navajo Reservation; a statewide assistive technology program; and support to help youth with disabilities succeed in higher education. Our interdisciplinary education and training core function offers a number of academic degrees, courses, and

programs to prepare individuals to work in disability fields. Our research and evaluation core function engages in research on such diverse topics as birth defects and developmental disabilities; individuals with disabilities in STEM disciplines; and culturally appropriate practices in American Indian vocational rehabilitation. Finally, our dissemination core function is responsible for ensuring that IHD materials are available to a broad audience.

I want to thank our staff, many of whom were recognized by the university this year, for their dedication to promoting the full participation of people with disabilities in all life activities. I am grateful to our partners, our university, and the community for their continued support. Together, we are creating a more inclusive society.

Kelly D. Roberts

OVERVIEW

4 CORE FUNCTIONS

45 PROJECTS

732 ACTIVITIES

14,981 PARTICIPANTS

74 PRODUCTS & PUBLICATIONS

8,967 PRODUCT RECIPIENTS

28 GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED



IHD's Mission

Promote full inclusion by advancing attitudes that value persons with disabilities and enhancing access to all aspects of the human experience.

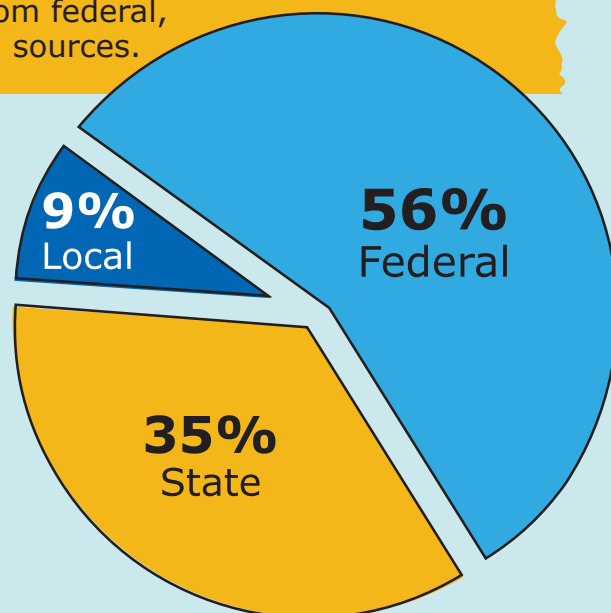
IHD's Vision

People with disabilities fully participate in all life experiences.

IHD's Fiscal Year 2023 budget stood at

\$8.8 million

with funding from federal, state, and local sources.



FEATURED PROGRAM

ADAPTIVE GAMING CLINIC

In July 2022, the Arizona Assistive Technology Act Program (AzTAP) launched an Adaptive Gaming Clinic. Its goal is to help individuals with disabilities benefit from the social, developmental, and recreational value of video games, which have historically lacked accessibility options for people with disabilities.

Through consultations, assistive technology (AT) device demonstrations, and equipment trials, AzTAP staff help determine what games, specialized hardware, and accessibility settings will accommodate individual players' needs.



Clinic Highlights

72 individuals participated in training events about the clinic and adaptive gaming technology options.

22 gaming assistive technology device demonstrations were conducted with 60 participants.

6 equipment loans were provided.

21 individuals were provided with information and assistance for AT devices/services and funding.



This clinic is held in partnership with AbleGamer's Charity and is funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan. In addition to these funds, AzTAP is using its resources to provide space, equipment, and other infrastructure to support this program. AzTAP is exploring additional long-term funding options to sustain the clinic.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

IHD provided 6,587 individuals with disabilities, their families, and service providers with services and supports to promote the engagement of individuals with disabilities in their communities.

Growing in Beauty Partnership Program (GIBPP)

works with the Navajo Nation to provide early intervention services for children up to 3 years old who are believed to have a disability. GIBPP staff provide professional services to the Navajo Nation, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech language pathology.

GIBPP Highlights

371 children were enrolled in the Navajo Nation Growing in Beauty Program.

116 children were found eligible for early intervention.

58 children per month (on average) received therapy from GIBPP therapists.

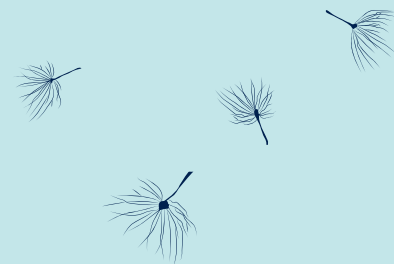
Assistive Technology for Employment and Independent Living (ATEI)

helps Arizona State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) clients reach their employment and independent living goals. ATEI is conducting an extended trial and training process with VR staff.

ATEI services include:

- Comprehensive AT assessments/evaluations
- Short-term AT device loans
- Client-specific AT product purchases
- Implementation services





Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP)

offers a range of assistive technology (AT) services throughout the state. AT includes thousands of devices and aids that enable persons with disabilities to be more productive and independent.

AzTAP Highlights

644 equipment loans for 2,301 AT devices were provided to 34 professionals, 459 persons with disabilities, and 2 family members/caregivers of persons with disabilities.

111 gently used AT devices were provided to 51 individuals, leading to an estimated consumer savings of \$56,245.

926 individuals received training from AzTAP on AT-related topics.

19 low-interest loans were granted for the purchase of AT devices, totaling \$148,803.

1,736 information and assistance events were provided on AT devices and funding-related matters.

56 public awareness events were held, reaching 2,114 community members.

8 community programs received individualized technical assistance to address AT-related needs.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Evaluation and Training Program

helps individuals with speech and language barriers and their families find devices to improve communication.

240 AAC trainings were provided to clients and their caregivers.

170 evaluations were completed.

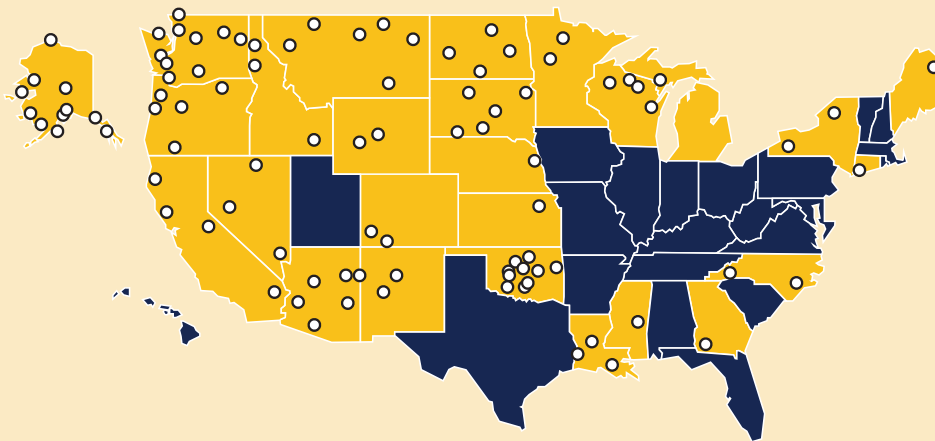
An article authored by AAC Program Manager Nikkol Anderson, "Changing the Game: Coaching in Tele-AAC," was published in January of 2023.





The American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Training and Technical Assistance Center (AIVRTTAC)

provides training, technical assistance, and continuing education opportunities to personnel at the 90+ American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) projects across the nation. AIVRTTAC is a partnership between IHD and the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) Institute at Northwest Indian College.



AIVRTTAC supports more than 90 AIVRS projects across the country.

AIVRTTAC Highlights

16 AIVRS projects received long-term in-person training and technical assistance.

25 webinars were conducted.

271 students from 52 AIVRS projects enrolled in courses offered by the TVR Institute, with 19 earning an award of completion.

30 people were provided self-employment training through a partnership between AIVRTTAC and the Rural Institute at the University of Montana.

INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION & TRAINING

IHD's Interdisciplinary Education and Training initiatives consist of programs that foster academic attainment, skills development, and professional growth for individuals working in disability-related fields.

5,667 people participated in professional preparation, continuing education, and community training.

25 courses were offered for academic credit.

“ *IHD has great professors with a great amount of knowledge who are well trained and also have experience in the field they are teaching.*

- DRS Certificate Program graduate

”

Disability Resource Specialist (DRS) Graduate Certificate Program

prepares students to support individuals with disabilities enrolled at institutions of higher education.

14 graduate students were admitted.

5 courses were offered.



“

I had an amazing real life work experience as a student, which has been invaluable to me. My supervisor was excellent and taught me more than any other supervisor I had throughout grad school...

- DRS Certificate Program graduate

”



Assistive Technology Certificate Program

trains students and professionals to utilize assistive technology tools when providing services to individuals with disabilities.

94 graduate students were admitted.

9 courses were offered.



Special Education Learning Experience for Competency in Teaching (SELECT)

provides graduate-level courses to help school personnel work effectively with K-12 students.

36 SELECT courses were offered on topics such as behavioral management in special education, diagnosis and assessment of exceptional children, and administration and supervision of special education.

473 individuals participated.



Interdisciplinary Training Clinic

offers free comprehensive health evaluations to children. It also serves as a training experience for NAU graduate students in several fields related to health and education.

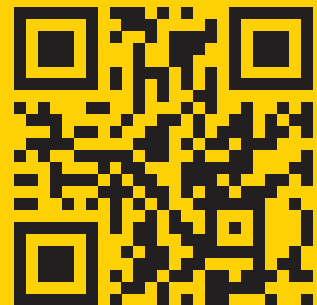
9 developmental clinics were held, providing evaluations to 17 children.



Supporting Inclusive Practices in Colleges (SIP-C) supports students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) in attending and succeeding in postsecondary education.

59 students with I/DD received vital support services.

100 individuals with disabilities, community members, and family members received information on our program, services/supports, and general consultations.



Project SCOPE: Supporting Children of the Opioid Epidemic

provides training to interdisciplinary teams on screening, monitoring, and caring for children who are impacted by opioid use.

A course was offered on 8 topics, including trauma, development, and the effect of opioid use on infants.

99 individuals participated.



“

This is a great program to teach accessibility, human rights, and understanding. This study should be offered/required for anyone entering college...

*- Disability Studies Minor
Program graduate*

”

Minor in Disability Studies

explores disability through the social model lens and focuses on the historical aspects of disability, as well as the role of disability in contemporary society.

93 students declared the minor.

11 courses were offered, taken by a total of 213 students.



“

I wouldn't change anything about this program...The courses were well thought out and implemented. The Disability Studies program has proved to be my most valuable experience at NAU.

*- Disability Studies Minor
Program graduate*

”

Other Trainee Programs

5 events/workshops were held, each of which was co-led by and/or included trainees:

- Disability Film Festival
- Laura Nadine Dooley (self-advocate and performer) event
- Hearts of Glass film screening
- Dating and relationships summer session for students with I/DD (led by SIP-C peer mentors and IHD staff)
- Student-led discussion panel at the 2023 IHD Evidence for Success Disability Conference



RESEARCH & EVALUATION

IHD has an outstanding team of researchers who are expert practitioners in the disability disciplines of medicine, psychology, speech-language pathology, and education.

TAPDINTO-STEM

is a nationwide, ongoing research project focused on preparing people with disabilities for success in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. IHD is the leading institution for the Mountain Hub region.



TAPDINTO-STEM Highlights

15 students were recruited over 3 semesters at the Mountain and Yuma Campuses.

5 students were invited to present their research at prestigious state, national, and international conferences.

2 students graduated with Bachelor of Science degrees and we anticipate awarding our first Master of Science degrees in December 2023.

A Universal Design for Learning workshop was held for STEM faculty to support instructors in making classrooms more accessible.

Research Highlights

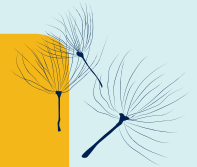
28 grant proposals submitted

17 proposals funded and 7 pending

7 articles submitted for publication in peer reviewed journals

13 conference presentations

11 ongoing research projects



Culturally Appropriate Research in American Indian Employment (CARE)

studies the practices and policies used by American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) projects, with the goal of learning what practices have been most useful in helping service participants find jobs.

Health and Disabilities-Related Research

is conducted by IHD in collaboration with the University of Arizona. Our work emphasizes public health surveillance of birth defects, developmental disabilities, and genetic conditions. Projects include:

- Congenital Heart Defects Surveillance and Tracking Across Regions Project
- Arizona Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program
- Hypermobile Ehlers Danlos and Congenital Heart Defects Autonomic Dysfunction Study
- Hypermobile Ehlers Danlos Deep Phenotyping
- Northern Arizona Disability Needs Project

DISSEMINATION



IHD's dissemination team is responsible for making IHD materials available to a broad audience. Activities include:

- Assisting with online and virtual services, training, and learning opportunities
- Developing and updating the IHD website, brochures, and other print and electronic communication materials, ensuring accessibility to a wide audience
- Collaborating in the creation of 4x5 ft. wall displays which describe the breadth of IHD programs
- Maintaining the IHD email list used for communication of IHD highlights and research articles, as well as IHD events and other announcements

Dissemination Highlights

67 different types of support and educational materials

8 resource guides

10 informational videos in support of the adaptive gaming clinic

14,000+ individuals reached



Examples of Dissemination

IHD continues to focus on developing creative and unique products, presentations, and materials to improve the quality of life and community participation for individuals with disabilities of all ages and interests.

Some of our activities included:

- In-house training on "Do's and Don'ts When Meeting People with Disabilities" for all IHD staff
- Development and distribution of a tool to assess in-home nursing hours
- Weekly AIVRTTAC updates distributed to AIVRS projects

2023 IHD EVIDENCE FOR SUCCESS DISABILITY CONFERENCE

24 Years of Disability Conferences

Focusing primarily on providing professional development, education, and training, the IHD Evidence for Success Disability Conference highlights several IHD focus areas, including assistive technology and disability studies.

478 participants

74 educational sessions

47 exhibitors, including national and local AT companies, government agencies, and disability services organizations

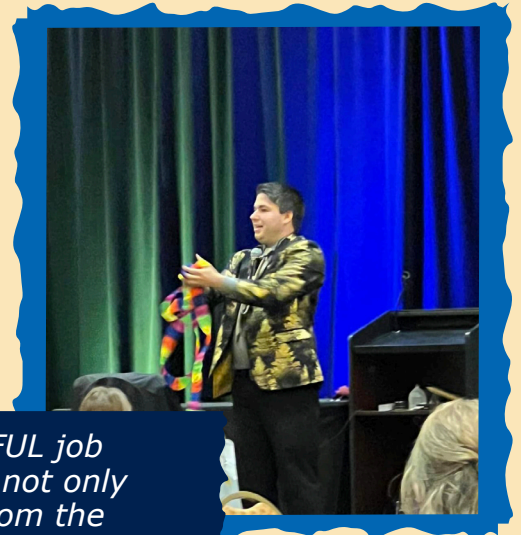
"You all did a WONDERFUL job with this conference! I not only enjoyed and learned from the sessions, but really enjoyed all the presenters..."

-Conference Attendee

"I appreciated the inclusion of people with a range of disabilities as participants and speakers."

-Conference Attendee

100% of survey respondents reported being highly satisfied with the conference



SPOTLIGHT ON EMPLOYEES

Several IHD staff and faculty members were recognized by NAU's leadership in 2023, highlighting their significant contributions and dedication to promoting inclusion for individuals with disabilities and their families.



Dr. Lee Gaseoma
AIVRTTAC Traditional Cultural
Guidance and Support Liaison
**Cal Seciwa Outstanding
Staff Award**



Dr. Jade Metzger
Research Coordinator
**Leadership Award &
Educator of Influence**



Dr. Sakénia McDonald
Assistant Director of
Academic Programs
Educator of Influence



John Schaffer, MA
Minor in Disability Studies
Program Coordinator
**Commission on Disability Access
and Design Faculty Award**



Charlotte Willin, BS
SIP-C Employment Coach
Golden Axe Award





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*IHD is an institute of the College of Social and Behavioral
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