EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

WE INNOVATE.

WE INCLUDE.

WE COLLABORATE.

WE CARE.

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From Our Director

Reflecting on our collective accomplishments over the past year, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude for the commitment and professionalism of our staff and collaborators here at Utah State University’s (USU) Institute for Disability Research, Policy & Practice (IDRPP). Each research project, training session, technical assistance consultation, or service interaction has been a testament to the dedication, passion, and expertise of our remarkable team. I genuinely believe that every accomplishment serves as a beacon of hope and progress, reminding us of the transformative power of inclusion, partnership, and purpose.

If I were to characterize our past year, two words come to mind—“Innovation” and “Partnerships.” In the ever-evolving landscape of disability services and supports, innovation remains a cornerstone in creating inclusive and effective programs. Leveraging new, data-driven approaches ensures that we remain at the forefront of advocacy, accessibility, and empowerment. But all this work would not be possible without our multiple local, state, national, and international partnerships. Our collaborative efforts with various stakeholders, including individuals with disabilities, their families, community organizations, and government agencies amplifies the impact of our programs. By continuing to foster innovation and promote strong partnerships, we pave the way for a society that is more inclusive and responsive to the needs of children and adults with disabilities.

This past fiscal year has been one of tremendous growth and capacity-building at the IDRPP—a fact that is reflected in our record-breaking program income. In the 2023 fiscal year, the IDRPP successfully implemented 181 total projects with an operating budget of $21,374,148. This is almost $1.5 million more than 2022 and is a direct reflection of the hard work of our staff. Ninety percent of the funding at the IDRPP comes from competitive grants, contracts, and fee-for-service programs. We believe that it is important to remember that each dollar we bring into USU’s IDRPP means one more individual served, one more family supported, or one more professional trained!

USU’s IDRPP is committed to a future that embraces diversity and champions inclusivity. Our enduring dedication to exemplary research, training, and service stands as a beacon of hope, guiding the way toward improved outcomes for individuals with disabilities and their families, one step at a time.

Sincerely,

Matthew Wappett, Ph.D.

Our Mission

We are working together to create inclusive communities and improve the lives of children and adults with disabilities and their families through sustainable innovation, collaborative research, responsive service, and interdisciplinary training and education.
As a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), the core of the IDRPP’s budget comes from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). There are currently 67 UCEDDs across the U.S. and its territories. The IDRPP leverages its federal core funding with a variety of federal, state, and local resources. With these partners, the IDRPP provides training, services, technical assistance, and information to people with disabilities, family members, state and local governments, schools, private businesses, and community organizations.
Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Numbers & Highlights

Individuals received IDRPP direct services in areas such as education, employment, recreation, technology, and literacy.

14,351 individuals directly served

We have administered a total of 181 unique projects, delivered 5,584 hours of technical assistance, offered 405 community training events, provided continuing education for 7,822 individuals in 37 states and 5 countries.

44,122 individuals trained & assisted

The IDRPP’s Developmental Disabilities Network Journal (DDNJ) has reached 22 new countries in the last year (129 countries total since launching in 2019).

12,759 DDNJ downloads

IDRPP staff members supported 305 students, taught 11 courses in 2 university departments, generating 647 credits.

$263,708 in student support

Our staff accomplished 74 professional presentations and 28 publications, including 19 published and in press papers and 9 books and book chapters.

102 publications + presentations