

# CENTER ON DISABILITY AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION



## Center on Disability and Community Inclusion

Our mission is to promote opportunities for meaningful relationships, personal choice and control, safety and health, and full community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities. We see disability as one form of diversity and strive for cultural and linguistic competency. We believe diversity is essential for our success.

The Center on Disability and Community Inclusion (CDCI) was created in 1974. We are the University of Vermont's (UVM) University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, part of a network of similar programs around the United States. CDCI has 20 projects with teams of experts focused on different disability topics across the lifespan. We share knowledge and resources between the university and Vermont communities. Our connections promote inclusion for people with disabilities while enhancing student learning and faculty scholarship at UVM.

### We Study

We evaluate our work and do research. This helps us be better at our work and to share what we learned. We also work with researchers in our College of Education and Social Services, others at UVM, and beyond.

- Jesse Suter received a grant from the Institute of Education Sciences to evaluate the RENEW Intervention.
- Faculty throughout UVM participate in CDCI's Developmental Disabilities Researchers Network

### We Teach

We teach in person and online, run educational programs, create innovative courses, and give guest lectures. We use Universal Design for Learning strategies to promote inclusion, diversity, and self-determination.

- CDCI's popular course Culture of Disability is offered in-person and online. It is also part of our Disability Studies Certificate Program.
- "Think College is a great opportunity for students like me to pursue their dreams to go to college." --Think College Vermont student

### We Support

We train, support, and provide other services for people with disabilities, their families, and communities.

- Projects like BEST and I-Team offer supports and training in schools for students with a wide range of strengths and needs.
- "I-Team is an incredible resource, with insightful and thoughtful ideas for our child and family inclusion." --Parent of a child receiving services from Vermont I-Team Project.

## We Share

We take the work, findings, and stories from our projects and share them in accessible formats.

- Our Life Histories Project documents the lives of Vermonters with disabilities.
- To help reach more people, our Research into Practice Series summarizes our Center's findings and work.

## Our Network

### National

CDCI is one of 67 centers located in every state and territory in the United States. These Centers are authorized by the federal government to serve people with a wide range of abilities in the areas of education, research, and service.

### State

Within Vermont, we work with the Vermont Developmental Disability Council and Disability Rights Vermont to promote leadership, advocacy, and legal protection on behalf of people with disabilities. All three organizations exist because of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.

### University

At UVM, CDCI is in the College of Education and Social Services. We are connected to faculty, staff, and students committed to making a difference in education, social work, and human services.

### Community Advisory Council

Our Community Advisory Council includes individuals with disabilities, family members, and representatives of Vermont organizations and agencies. Their role is to advise and guide the work of CDCI and represent the interests of people with disabilities and their families.

### Want to learn more?

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