The Mission
The Institute on Disability (IOD) at the University of New Hampshire strengthens communities to ensure full access, equal opportunities, and participation for all persons. The IOD envisions a future where all persons, including those living with disabilities, are fully engaged members of communities. It is a future where culturally appropriate supports are available across the life span to individuals and families that lead to independence, productivity, and a satisfying quality of life.

Strategic Partnerships
The Institute on Disability is a University Center for Excellence on Disability - one of 67 nationally - in partnership with Children's Hospital at Dartmouth - Division of Genetics and Child Development; Franklin Pierce Law Center - Institute for Health, Law, and Ethics; Southern New Hampshire University - Center on Community Economic Development and Disability. We work closely with local and state agencies, including the NH Department of Education and the NH Department of Health and Human Services, to advance policies and practices that improve the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities and their families.

Selected Initiatives
Community outreach initiatives connect IOD’s research, service, and educational endeavors to individuals with disabilities, their families, and those who provide their supports and services. The IOD has made it a priority to extend outreach to underserved areas within all ten regions in the state on personal, systems, and community-wide levels.

Seacoast Child Development Clinic provides family-centered and culturally sensitive interdisciplinary evaluation and consultation to assist families of children ages birth through six who have developmental challenges, to make informed decisions regarding medical, developmental, and educational needs.

NH Leadership Series provides individuals with disabilities and family members with state-of-the-art information and strategies to affect change at personal, community, and statewide levels. There are over 700 NH Leadership Series graduates to date and alumni have gone on to serve on school boards, family support councils, judicial benches, medical teams, local and state government, various community boards and are representatives in the current NH House of Representatives and the NH State Senate.

The Beyond Access model demonstration project promotes the improved learning of general education curriculum content by students with the most significant disabilities. The project assists school teams to learn, implement, and refine a student supports and team planning model. Studies on model activities shows an increase in the amount of time and quality engagement in the general education classroom by as much as 40% using the Beyond Access model.

More info at: http://www.iod.unh.edu

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