Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities Topic Area
Saying Yes to Equality

Historically there have been many types of discrimination against persons with disabilities, particularly intellectual disabilities (ID). Though ID is the most common type of disability, people with ID tend to be the most marginalized, in societal, educational and professional settings.

Though institutionalization in the United States has ended and been replaced with inclusion and independent living, many barriers still exist and improvement is needed fast. Many countries, particularly developing nations, still to this day institutionalize people with disabilities while deinstitutionalization has only partially been achieved.

Even in the United States, many areas are not accessible, and people with disabilities are faced with burdens such as unemployment, lower work wages, and fewer opportunities for education. In a society where diversity is touted as a good thing, it cannot exist with groups of people still marginalized.

We invite you to participate in our topic area. This topic will interest people on all different levels of involvement, including advocates, self-advocates, teachers, researchers and other experts. We will discuss important issues such as policies, programs and activities for persons with disabilities. We want to know the work you are doing in the community. Do you have any good ideas for improving services and programs? Is there important research you would like to share with us?

We are interested in the following areas of inquiry:

- Programs and initiatives which promote self-determination while being inclusive;
- Best practices for emergency and disaster preparation;
- Programs which support people going to college or trade schools;
- Human Rights campaigns including voting rights, rights to be in the community and rights to be married and have a family;
- Ways in which friends, family and allies, support people to achieve equality;
- Initiatives and policy directives which support persons with ID with age related challenges and health related issues;
- Self-advocacy leadership initiatives;
- Envisioning a positive future of persons with ID;
Ways in which society combats exclusion and isolation including institutionalization and unsafe living conditions;

International perspectives on achieving equality for persons with disabilities.

You are also invited to submit other proposals that were not listed above.

We welcome proposals in any presentation format. Please see presentation formats on our webpage at: http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/submissions/presenters/formats/. You may submit proposals online at: http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/submissions or send your proposals by email to prcall@hawaii.edu.

Please call us if you have questions. Our number is 808 956-8816. You can email us at prinfo@hawaii.edu.

For general information on the conference you can call Charmaine Crockett at cccrocket@hawaii.edu, (808) 956-7539.