

## AAIDD Student and Early Career Professional Committee

The goal of the AAIDD Student and Early Career Professional Committee (SEPC) is to develop and implement strategies that foster the involvement and representation of students, recent graduates, and junior faculty/executives within AAIDD.

In the early 2000s, students and early career professionals within AAIDD emphasized the need to direct attention to the recruitment and retention of student and early career members. Several grassroots initiatives emerged from the efforts of these students and early career professionals, including the Student and Early Career Professional Webpage.

Over time, the committee has grown significantly and is now an official Ad Hoc Committee of AAIDD appointed by the Board of Directors. There are currently 25 members of the SEPC who work in teams on the diverse initiatives undertaken by the committee.

## Early Career Professional Webpage

The AAIDD Early Career Professional (ECP) page was founded with the vision of providing a great web site synthesizing and organizing the multitude of information relevant to today's young researchers and professionals working in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities.



We hope to connect the community of new and excited professionals by sharing resources, providing a place for student and faculty profiles, maintaining a calendar of events in the field, and creating interactive networking opportunities through blogs and other social networking technologies. The ECP website is managed by members of the SEPC, and is also the forum for organizing information on the initiatives of the SEPC.

There are several exciting areas of the ECP Website:

- Career Development Resources
  - University Programs in IDD
  - Clearinghouse of Post-Doc Opportunities in IDD
- SECP Newsletter
- AAIDD Guide Program
- SECP Webinar Series

[www.aidd.org/ECP](http://www.aidd.org/ECP)

## Student and Early Career Professional Newsletter

The SEPC publishes a newsletter that focuses on issues relevant to students and early career professionals. Sections include:

- Student Research Highlights
- Available Post-Doctoral Positions
- Webinar Summaries
- Ways to get involved in AAIDD and build your vita and network with professionals in the IDD field

The SECP Newsletter is published three times a year and distributed to all student and early career members of AAIDD and through various partner networks.

To date, seven issues have been published and are available on the ECP webpage ([www.aidd.org/ECP](http://www.aidd.org/ECP)).

## Student and Early Career Professional Webinar Series

The SEPC, in collaboration with AUCD, has organized a Webinar Series on topics of interest to students and early career professionals in the intellectual and developmental disability field. Since 2006, we have hosted 2-3 webinars a year on topics ranging from grant writing to the academic job search to writing for publication. Each webinar pairs an early career professional with an recognized expert in the field to provide diverse perspectives on the topics.

Our most recent webinar featured **Drs. Anna Esbensen and Ann Turnbull** who spoke on **Identifying Grant Opportunities Across Diverse Funding Sources & Building your Research Agenda**. Over 100 students and early career professionals were in attendance.

Look for our next webinar in the Fall of 2010!

## Student Scholarships

The SEPC proposed and began coordinating the Student Scholarship in 2007. Any student who submits a presentation for the Annual Meeting can apply for the scholarship. After presentations for the conference have been selected, all accepted student presentations are sent to AAIDD Fellows who review the presentations and select the student scholarship winners.

2007 Winners		2008 Winners	
Jennifer Jones Oklahoma State University	Rebecca Zaja George Mason University	Alexa Martin-Storey Concordia University in Montreal	Alacia Trent Stainbrook Vanderbilt University
2009 Winners		2010 Winners	
Sayeed Salamadi University of Ulster at Jordanstown	Meghan Burke Vanderbilt University	Cameron Neece University of California, Los Angeles	Caroline Bruttin University of Geneva

Winners receive free registration for the annual meeting, as well as \$600 to support travel expenses.

## The AAIDD Guide Program

The Guide Program matches experienced AAIDD fellows with students and new members based on interests or locality. AAIDD Guides commit to providing students and new members with information about opportunities to become involved in AAIDD for two years. This allows students and new professionals to network and develop relationships with established individuals in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

**The Guide Program has two aims:**

**Aim 1:** Guides will offer information about opportunities to become involved in the organization. This will allow new members to network and develop relationships with established individuals in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Aim 2:** Guides encourage new members to continue their academic and/or professional work in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities

The program has matched 25 Guides with 26 students and early career professionals. If you are interested in participating in the program, please complete the AAIDD The Guide Program application available at the ECP webpage ([www.aidd.org/ECP](http://www.aidd.org/ECP)).

## The Clearinghouse

The purpose of the SEPC Clearinghouse project is to organize resources to assist students and professionals interested in the IDD field to find masters and doctoral training programs as well as fellowship/post-doctoral opportunities. The SEPC Clearinghouse project is being completed in collaboration with AUCD.

On the ECP Webpage, you can find Tip Sheets on:

- Finding Academic Programs in IDD
- Finding a Post-Doc Opportunity

You can also find databases that provide information on:

- Research Centers in the IDD Field
  - Information is organized by location and types of programs offered
- Post-Doctoral Fellowships
  - Information is organized by area and descriptions of the fellowship and former awardees are provided

Area	Fellowship Description, Foundations and Institutions	Former Fellows
AAIDD Disability Policy Fellowship	AAIDD Disability Policy Fellowship is awarded to a graduate-level student who is currently enrolled in a graduate program in a field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. The program will benefit from having "one of its own" participating in national-level activities and subsequently informing AAIDD about their activities and knowledge gained. AAIDD will benefit from having increased member awareness to benefit ongoing and future work.	AAIDD: Mary Beth Caldwell and Andrew Bennett
Professional Public Policy Fellowship Program	The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation is pleased to announce the Professional Public Policy Fellowship Program. Each year, the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation brings identified and accomplished professionals to Washington for a 10-day period of intensive training and public policy development through work on the staff of congressional committees, or a federal agency. Former Public Policy Fellows describe the Fellowship as a major learning quest in their lives. The program offers exciting opportunities to be involved in policy and legislation development in any area such as special education, health and mental health care for persons with mental illness, child care, housing, justice, child welfare and other areas related to improving the quality of life for individuals with mental illness/developmental disabilities.	AAIDD: Andy Shoen, Bill Reagin, George Jansen, Cheryl Lutz, Julie Malachuk, Lisa Zapp
Parent Family Public Policy Fellowship	The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation is seeking outstanding leaders who are parents or family members of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and who are working toward the advancement of public service and insights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for an intensive one-year Public Policy Fellowship in Washington, D.C. During this one year Fellowship, the successful applicant will learn how legislation is drafted, developed, and passed by the Congress, or how programs are administered and regulations promulgated by federal agencies. The purpose of the Fellowship is to prepare emerging leaders in congressional bodies appropriate to assist legislators in the public policy arena, or their home state and/or nationally.	AAIDD: Andy Shoen, Bill Reagin, George Jansen, Cheryl Lutz, Julie Malachuk, Lisa Zapp

## Partnerships and Networking Opportunities

The SEPC has developed partnerships with other national organizations who are interested in collaborating to support students and early career professionals.

### National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities, University of Delaware

- Partnering to connect young leaders in the field of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)
- Sharing newsletters, trainings, resources and teleconference information
- Encouraging AAIDD participation for attendees of The Leadership Institute @University of Delaware
- Providing all graduates from The Leadership Institute receive one year's free membership to AAIDD

### Association of University Centers on Disability

- Partnering through a formal agreement signed by the Board of Directors of AAIDD and AUCD to collaborate to support student and early career professionals
- Collaborating on Webinar Series and Clearinghouse
- Hosting joint sessions at each organizations Annual Meeting highlighting the perspectives of Student and Early Career Professionals
- Collaborating on a joint webpage for student and early career professionals
- Disseminating membership materials, newsletters, and other resources through both organizations

## Committee Members

<b>Cameron Neece</b> (SEPC Co-Chair)	<b>Loui Lord Nelson</b> (SEPC Co-Chair)
Julie Bershadsky	Xiaoyi (Kimberly) Hu
Meghan Burke	Nancy Miodrag
Caya Chiu	Shea Obremski
Yu-Chi (Angel) Chou	Susan Parish
Melissa DiSipio	Ali Samadi
Anna Esbensen	Hyogeong Seo
Grace Francis	Youjin Seong
Chelsey Gierzt	Luchara Sayles Wallace
Judith Gross	Mian Wang
Anke Groß	Shelley Watson
Susan Haverkamp	Nina Zuna
Karrie Shogren (Board Liaison)	

## Getting Involved

The SEPC meets via teleconference once per month to provide updates and share ideas. Various committee members lead each of the different initiatives, and we are always interested in including more students and early career professionals in our activities. Please contact Loui Lord Nelson ([lordnelson@raiseinc.com](mailto:lordnelson@raiseinc.com)) or Cameron Neece ([cneece@ucla.com](mailto:cneece@ucla.com)) for more information.