

# AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report: 2021

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfil their purpose.  
(See the *Interest Networks Leadership Manual* for the purpose of the Interest Networks.)

<b>Interest Network:</b> Direct Support Professional Interest Network
<b>Lead Contact Person:</b> Colleen McLaughlin & Dorothy Hiersteiner
<b>Annual Report</b> <i>For the year that <b>just ended</b> (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used.</i>  This year, the DSP Workforce Interest Network focused on what activities were feasible given COVID-19 and competing demands. Co-Leads Dorothy and Colleen met a few times throughout the year to discuss the year's actionable items and planning for the future.  A webinar was conducted with Amy Hewitt, PhD to share information about their national research study on the Impact of COVID-19 on DSPs. This webinar was held on March 16, 2021.
<b>Annual Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies</b> <i>For the <b>coming year</b> (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds.</i>  The DSP Interest Network is dedicated to providing members with information that can be used to examine and address DSP workforce issues. We also aim to collect data and information about the DSP experience to provide context to workforce research being conducted by AAIDD members.  To that end, the network plans to work with other existing organizations and use targeted strategies to collect, distill and disseminate information to members and other interested parties. These strategies may include:  <b>Regularly disseminated information about topics important to improving the DSP workforce may include:</b> a) Awareness of DSP Workforce and pressing issues b) Peer-reviewed research c) Current and upcoming legislative action items.  In order to share this information, we may use the following media: 1) Social Media and Email Distribution Lists 2) Webinars 3) Newsletter development or contributions to a section in the AAIDD newsletter 4) Contributions to other Interest Network's or collaborator's newsletters