

## About the Center

Under the leadership of founding director, Lucille Zeph, Ed. D., CCIDS is Maine's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD). Established in 1992, CCIDS is part of a national network of congressionally authorized University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities sponsored by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Grant No. 90DD0005). Our statewide mission is met through interdisciplinary education, research, community services, and dissemination of state-of-the-art information.



**Interdisciplinary Education:** CCIDS offers a nationally and internationally recognized undergraduate and graduate education in Interdisciplinary Disability Studies. CCIDS also sponsors Maine's only graduate specialization in early intervention program in collaboration with the university's College of Education and Human Development and the Maine Department of Education.

The **University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS)** serves a unique and critical role in enhancing the quality of life of Maine's citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and the professionals and communities that support them.

**Research and Evaluation:** Through diverse projects and initiatives, CCIDS contributes to and advances the knowledge base in a wide range of disability-related areas through ongoing research, evaluation, and the analysis of public policy. Recent initiatives include the areas of inclusive childcare, literacy and health information access for individuals with intellectual disabilities, universal design, autism, and early childhood mental health.

**Community Services – Outreach Education and Technical Assistance:** Through outreach education, professional development and technical assistance, CCIDS faculty and staff enhance the capacity of individuals, communities, organizations, and state systems to create services and supports for individuals with disabilities. Methods reflect current and emerging evidence-based practices that are inclusive and respect the inherent abilities of each person to contribute to society.

**Dissemination of Resources:** CCIDS implements the principles of universal design in the development of its publications, products, presentations, resources, curricula and virtual environments, so they are accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities. Scholarly and community resources are shared through the CCIDS website and Resource Center.

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