



# focus facts on community living

THE CENTER FOR LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP | OKLAHOMA'S FEDERALLY DESIGNATED UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (UCEDD)

July 2024

Access our website at: <https://ouhsc.edu/thecenter>

## July is Disability Pride / Olmstead Decision / ADA anniversary

There are so many exciting disability causes and moments to recognize in July!

-Disability Pride: Disability Pride Month is celebrated every July and is an opportunity to honor the history, achievements, experiences, and struggles of the disability community. [This year's theme is "We Want a Life Like Yours."](#)

-Olmstead Decision: Twenty-five years ago, a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling resulted in profound and positive change for people with disabilities in America. Check out the latest Department of Labor blog [The Olmstead Effect: Celebrating 25 Years of Positive Change](#) and learn more about the women who shaped the Olmstead Decision, and the significant impact the ruling has made.

- ADA Anniversary: On July 26th, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will turn 34 years old. The ADA first passed in 1990 and was signed by then President George H. Bush. The law protects the rights of Americans from discrimination based on their disabilities. [The ADA National Network](#) has put together [a toolkit](#) to help spread awareness about the impact of this monumental law. Be sure to check out the events section below to see how Oklahoma will celebrate the occasion and how you can join in the fun!

## Gale Hann Elected to Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Board of Directors

[Gale Hann](#), the Data Coordinator for the Center for Learning and Leadership|UCEDD and OK LEND, was recently elected to serve on [AUCD's National Board of Directors as their Emerging Leader Representative](#). As a young child, Gale was diagnosed with learning and sensory processing disabilities and then was later diagnosed with autism as an adult. After completing the OKLEND program in 2021, they began publicly identifying as an autistic self-advocate and intentionally focusing their professional efforts on serving their communities. Gale is passionate about how data, evaluation, and research efforts can be used to best support programs and policy, particularly for people with disabilities and the LGBTQ+ community. Gale holds a Master of Public Health degree from the Hudson College of Public Health and will be leaving CLL in August to begin their Ph.D program. Congratulations, Gale!

## Training Health Students to Care for People with IDD

[Ellen Bannister](#), Academic Programs Coordinator for the Center for Learning and Leadership, was recently interviewed by The Nation's Health, a publication of the American Public Health Association. The article discusses the importance of [training health care students on caring for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and practicing patient centered care](#). Ellen also leads a medical simulation called [SAME/FAME on the OU Health Sciences campus](#). The course strengthens students' skills in communication and collaboration with patients with I/DD and family caregivers as part of the health care team.

## National Award Recognizes Oklahoma Self-Advocate, Nancy Ward

[The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities \(NACDD\)](#) has chosen Oklahoma's own, [Nancy Ward](#) as the 2024 recipient of the Betty Williams Champion of Equal Opportunity Award. Nancy is a nationally recognized self-advocate who currently works at the [Oklahoma Disability Law Center](#) as their Voting Rights Advocate and serves on the [Center for Learning and Leadership's Consumer Advisory Committee](#). The Betty Williams Champion of Equal Opportunity Award is presented annually to recognize a Self-Advocate who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to policy that supports equal rights for people with disabilities. Nancy will be attending the [NACDD Conference in July](#) to receive her award. The NACDD has also selected three other Oklahomans, David Blose, Roderick Halpainy II, and Lamonte Jackson to join the NACDD Self-Advocacy Leadership Circle. Congratulations to all!

## Survey on Autistic People's Wellbeing: Give Your Input!

Researchers from Oklahoma State University (OSU), led by Dr. DJ McMaughan and Dr. Michael Criss, are conducting a study on the inclusion and wellbeing of autistic individuals. The study will explore how community inclusion affects autistic people's well-being. Participants must be autistic and older than 18 or caregivers of a person with autism who is older than 10 years old. Participants must live in Oklahoma. The [online survey will take 30 minutes to an hour](#). Topics include autistic identity, mental well-being, relationships, community participation, and healthcare experiences. For more information or to participate, contact DJ McMaughan at [darcy.mcmaughan@okstate.edu](mailto:darcy.mcmaughan@okstate.edu) or call: 979-204-3984.

## Events and Announcements

### July 23<sup>rd</sup> | Adaptive Family Swim | 7:30-9:00pm | Earlywine Family Aquatic Center | FREE

[OKC Parks](#) and [SoonerSUCCESS](#) invite you to attend their Swim Party for families raising a child/adult with a disability or special health care need on Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:30pm-9pm. There will be door prizes and snacks. This event will be held at the [Earlywine Aquatic Center](#) in SW OKC. [Registration is required](#).

### July 26<sup>th</sup> | 34<sup>th</sup> ADA Anniversary Celebration | 11am | Oklahoma State Capitol

Come celebrate the 34th anniversary of the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) with disability advocates from around our state! Attendees will gather in the south parking lot of the Capitol for an ADA parade procession along the sidewalks into the building at 11:30 a.m. Come early to make signs in room 100 or bring your own. There will also be a decoration station for those planning to be in the procession. [Representative Ellyn Hefner](#) will host an ADA press conference including remarks from other legislators and local leaders in the House Lounge that is open to the public. Room 100 is reserved for voter registration, ADA tribute videos and additional speakers. Advocates can also pick up cards to drop off in their legislator's offices.

### Throughout June and July | 2024 DRS STEM Camps | Various locations across Oklahoma

[The Department of Rehabilitative Services](#) is hosting STEM Camps across Oklahoma all summer. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The STEM Camp is open to all Oklahoma students with disabilities, ages 14-19. Participants must be able to follow verbal instructions with limited support. Participants will learn to use computers, software, and related technologies to design and create patches, buttons, and more. [Location and Registration Information](#).

### August 2<sup>nd</sup> | TED Talks: Topics of Interest to the Disability Community | 9am-11am | Heritage Place, OKC | FREE

The [Oklahoma City Mayor's Committee on Disability](#) and the [Statewide Independent Living Council](#) are sponsoring an event at Heritage Place in southwest Oklahoma City on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am-11am. Come hear ten short Ted Talks on topics of interest to the disability community, family and friends. This is a NEW format covering many topics of interest including transition from school to work, transportation and self-advocacy. [For more information, visit the event page](#) and to register for this free event, contact Sidna Madden-Trimmel at [smadden@oksilk.org](mailto:smadden@oksilk.org).

**August 8<sup>th</sup> | "Unseen" documentary screening | 10am-12pm | JDMC, Norman OK | FREE** SoonerSUCCESS, Oklahoma Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and JD McCarty Center (JDMC) is hosting a free community showing of the award-winning documentary *UNSEEN - How We Are Failing Caregivers and Why It Matters*. The showing will be held at JD McCarty Center (Auditorium), 2002 East Robinson in Norman, on August 8<sup>th</sup> from 10-12pm. [Registration is required](#) by August 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Save the Date: 2024 Oklahoma Autism Conference on November 7-8** at the Edmond Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center in Edmond, Oklahoma. This year's theme is *"Together We Thrive: Advocacy, Belonging, and Connection for All."* [Visit the website for more information and to learn more](#).

## We want to hear from you!

Do you have news or an event to share? Please send all information including a link (if applicable) to [learn2lead-ucedd@ouhsc.edu](mailto:learn2lead-ucedd@ouhsc.edu). All submissions should be in no later than the fourth Friday of the month before publication (ex: 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in June for July's newsletter).

Sign-up to receive our free monthly newsletter *focus facts on community living* <http://tiny.cc/focusfacts>

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If you have questions regarding the format for submissions, please call the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Headquarters Office at (405) 271-4500. The University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network is open to membership by any organization or individual who shares the interests of Network members. The Network is dedicated to identifying opportunities for collaboration and information exchange among its participating members, which leads to improving our statewide, regional or local capacity to provide a better living environment in Oklahoma for people with developmental and other disabilities and their families. The Network is partially supported through a grant from the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Human Services, and by the Offices of the Designated Representatives of the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Collaborating Partners.

If you have a disability (Deaf/hard-of-hearing, Blind/low-vision, mobility, cognitive, etc.), and require accommodations, please reach out to [Learn2Lead@ouhsc.edu](mailto:Learn2Lead@ouhsc.edu). It is helpful if you share what type of accommodations will be needed to ensure that you are able to use the resource materials.