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Juneteenth and Disability

On June 19th, millions of Americans will celebrate Juneteenth, a holiday rejoicing the end of slavery in the United States. It was on this day in 1865, a full two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, that federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to ensure all slaves were finally freed. Learn more about the intersection of Juneteenth and disability by visiting these articles:

[Juneteenth through the Lens of Disabled Women of Color](#)

[Juneteenth and the legacy of disabled Black slaves](#)

[The Continuation of Slavery: The Experience of Disabled Slaves during Emancipation](#)

Miranda Hooper Selected for AUCD Leadership Academy

[Miranda Hooper](#), the Community Education Coordinator at the Center for Learning and Leadership | UCEDD, has been chosen to participate in the prestigious national leadership training program, the [AUCD Leadership Academy](#). Held in Atlanta, Georgia, this weeklong intensive learning experience, is combined with a year of post-training mentoring. The program aims to enhance the skills of current and emerging leaders from disability networks across the US and territories. The primary focus of the program is to build coalitions that improve systems of support and services for people with disabilities, their families, and communities.

Miranda's selection for this outstanding opportunity is a testament to her growing expertise in family advocacy and leadership. She has actively contributed to various initiatives, serving as the policy Chair for the OSDH (Oklahoma State Department of Health) State Health Equity Planning Committee and previously chairing the [Cleveland County disABILITY Coalition](#). Currently, in addition to her CLL | UCEDD job, she holds the national position of secretary on [AUCD's Community Education and Dissemination Council](#).

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Miranda Hooper and look forward to the positive impact she will continue to make in the field of disability services and leadership!

Access and Achievement Act Signed into Law

[Governor Kevin Stitt](#) has signed a new law called the Access and Achievement Act. This law will give college scholarships to high school graduates with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oklahoma. [Representative Ellyn Hefner](#), an OKLEND graduate and a disability advocate, helped write this bill. Before this law, the Oklahoma Promise program gave scholarships to students, but it did not include students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. [This law helps everyone have a fair chance to go to college](#).

Report: More Students with Disabilities Attending College than Previous Decades

The Government Accountability Office released a report on the experience of college students with disabilities. Twenty years ago, only 11% of college students identified as having a disability. By 2020, that number has increased to 21%. [Read more about the report and what students have to say about their successes and challenges](#).

Events and Announcements

June 23rd – 28th | Visually Impaired and Blind Empowerment (VIBE) Transition Program

[The Transition VIBE Program](#) helps students figure out what they want to do after high school and how to get there. This week-long program teaches students skills to live on their own, have successful job interviews, communicate clearly, use technology, work in a team, write a good resume, and get around town. To learn more, contact your DRS Counselor, Deitra Woody at 405-522-3410, or Magan Rowan at 405-522-3380.

June 24th | Summer Family Fun Safety Event | 4pm-8pm | Oklahoma City | FREE

[The Center for Learning in Leadership/Family Support 360 Program](#) in collaboration with [Oklahoma Family Network](#) is hosting an event on Monday, June 24, 2024, from 4PM -8PM. A day of fun and safety for families of children with special health care needs or disabilities. Come and enjoy a fun afternoon by the water spray ground. Food, games, and vaccinations provided by [Blue Cross Blue-Shield of OK](#). Also, while supplies last a safety summer bag to take home! [Address given only after confirming registration](#).

June 25th -27th | Sibling Day Camp | 9am-2pm | Two Locations - Tulsa, OK | FREE

Sibling Day Camp is coming to Tulsa! Join in for a FREE action-packed day camp for siblings of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Sibling Day Camp is for children 8-17 years old and includes fun activities, valuable information, and engaging games that celebrate the many contributions made by siblings of children with disabilities and special health care needs. The first two days will be held at The Sun Room at The Gathering Place, and the last day will be at Weststreet Ice Center in Tulsa. For more information, please contact Molly.Zirix@creoks.org. [Registration is required](#).

June 28th and 29th | OK Parent's Center 15th Annual Statewide Conference | Midwest City, OK | FREE

The Oklahoma Parents Center (OPC) will host their 15th Annual Statewide Conference "Navigating Special Education and Beyond" on Friday June 28th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday June 29th from 8:30am – 3:30pm. The conference will be held at the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City. The conference is designed to educate parents, families, and professionals in building partnerships that meet the needs of children and youth with a full range of disabilities, ages birth to 26. [It is free to attend, but you must register](#).

July 23rd | 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 23rd 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](#).

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](#).

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. All submissions should be in no later than the fourth Friday of the month before publication (ex: 4th Friday in June for July's newsletter).

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

Or use your cell phone camera and point it to this QR code



The University of Oklahoma advances a diverse, equitable, and inclusive university community by embracing each person's unique contributions, background, and perspectives. OU Norman, OU Tulsa, and the Health Sciences Center recognize that fostering an inclusive environment for all, with particular attention to the needs of the historically marginalized populations, is vital to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our institutional mission and enhances the OU experience for all students, faculty, and staff. **focus facts** is published for the University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network members. Its purpose is to highlight specific information and data items relevant to developing and sustaining positive community environments. Individual information items are provided for use in this form, or for further circulation. When re-printing information please reference *focus facts* and the month of issue noted below the banner at the top of this page. The name of a contact person for additional information on items referenced in the newsletter is provided for your convenience. If you have data, information or a story to report relevant to community living, please send it to **focus facts** Editor at the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD OU Health Sciences Center, PO Box 2690, Oklahoma City, OK 73126. Please include the information source, by title, a one paragraph (or less) description or story, a contact name who can provide additional information on the subject, and a daytime or evening telephone number for the contact.

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. It is helpful if you share what type of accommodations will be needed to ensure that you are able to use the resource materials.