

# **Innovative Concepts and Practices Certificate Program**



**This Seminar Series will provide up-to-date information, ideas and inspiration for professionals working with people with disabilities. It is designed for both new and experienced direct support professionals, managers and administrators.**

## **Session One: Who Are These People? Separating Fact from Fiction**

This session begins with a comprehensive look, both past and present, at the ways in which people with disabilities have been portrayed in our culture through books, television and movies. We will examine common stereotypes of people with disabilities and contrast that with up-to-date information on the causes, characteristics and support options for several types of disabilities.

## **Session Two: Life Goes On: Critical Issues in the Lives of Adolescents, Adults and Older People with Disabilities**

The transitions from one stage of life to the next are often more difficult for people with disabilities. For adolescents, adults and older people, the continuing struggle is for enhanced independence and increased quality of life. This session will look at the latest information in areas such as transition from school to work, sexuality, marriage, parenting, residential options, and the effect of the aging process on people with disabilities.

## **Session Three: The Times They Are a Changing: New Directions in the Field of Disabilities**

The topic of self-determination is no longer a concept...it is becoming a reality. This movement, which requires that the service community actively support the individual's right to choose his/her own services and supports, is revolutionizing the way in which we do business as agencies and relate to people with disabilities as individuals. This session will examine in detail the self determination movement and how support brokerage, informed choice, person centered planning and self-advocacy will become standard practice in the work that we do. A comprehensive look at successful self-determination models in other states will be offered.

## **Session Four: Living in the Free World: Natural Supports in the Community and Workplace**

To be truly included, a person needs to be not just a member **in** the community, but a member **of** the community. In our work and leisure lives, the only way to achieve this is through the process of natural supports, i.e. partnering with individuals who are already part of the social fabric of that community. This session will look at innovative strategies for building community, fostering meaningful relationships, and promoting greater success and stability in employment settings.

### **Session Five: And Justice For All? Criminal and Legal Issues**

In increasing numbers, people with disabilities are drawing the attention of the criminal justice system, both as victims and perpetrators of crime. This session will take an honest look at the ability of this system to treat people with disabilities in a fair and equitable manner. Ways to prevent or at least minimize victimization will be explored and the issue of accountability for misdeeds on the part of people with disabilities will be debated.

### **Session Six: Are You Positive About This? Implementing Positive Behavior Support**

Working with people who present challenging behaviors requires patience, compassion and an open mind. Professionals need to do detective work, identifying clues, uncovering motivations and interpreting behavior. The concept of positive behavior support means changing the environment that is contributing to unwanted behavior rather than changing the person him/her self. This session will provide clear strategies for implementing this technique and will challenge more traditional methods of behavior management and restrictive procedures.

**Sessions begin Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**All sessions begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m.**

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN HOURS**

Who Are These People?	April 17th
Life Goes On	April 24th
The Times They Are a Changing	May 1st
Living in the Free World	May 8th
And Justice For All?	May 15th
Are You Positive About This?	May 22nd

Participants are expected to attend all six sessions. A University of Delaware certificate is awarded upon completion of the series.

**Sessions will be held at the Delaware State Fire School in Dover.**

For more information, contact Mark Bernstein at  
302-831-3458 or [mjberns@udel.edu](mailto:mjberns@udel.edu) before April 1<sup>st</sup>  
610-639-3389 or [m.mjbernstein@verizon.net](mailto:m.mjbernstein@verizon.net) after April 1<sup>st</sup>

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# Certificate Program Registration Form

Please check one:

Innovative Concepts and Practices \_\_\_\_\_ First Line Supervisor Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Individual & Family Support Coordination \_\_\_\_\_

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Name

Email address

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Home address (include zip code)

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Home Phone #

Work Phone #

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Job Title

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Employer

Work address

Fees:

- One-Time Registration Fee \_\_\_\_\_ \$50
- Tuition (Non-Profit)\* \_\_\_\_\_ \$200

**\* DDDS employees, staff of DDDS provider agencies, consumers, and their family members do not pay tuition.** Registration fee is one-time, for ALL participants **except DDDS employees**. You do not need to pay this fee if you previously paid for one of our Certificate Programs (other than New Visions).

If you need accommodations, please contact Community Education at least 10 days before the starting date of your certificate program.

Mail or fax registration form and send payment (if applicable) to:

Center for Disabilities Studies  
Community Education Certificate Program  
Attention: Nancy Freedman  
University of Delaware, 461 Wyoming Road, Newark, DE 19716  
FAX # 302-831-0350

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