

Fact Sheet

Global Perspectives on Disability Policies and Practices **AAIDD Delegation to Poland &** **UMB Special and Inclusive Education: Focus on Poland**

October 12-24, 2014

The American Association for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) *is pleased to announce the following study abroad program in collaboration with* The School for Global Inclusion and Social Development (GISD), The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), and The College of Advancing and Professional Studies (CAPS) at the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMB)

The Program

Designed for service providers, professionals, teachers and researchers, this study tour will allow participants to translate their local knowledge to an international setting through a comparative education framework that focuses on policy and practice issues of inclusion. Participants will have the opportunity to research the structure and delivery methods of education for children with special needs and supports provided for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Poland.

Participants will observe a system undergoing rapid systems change as the country implements European Union standards. Through site visits to universities, schools, clinics, and facility- and community-based services, we will examine how Poland's history, culture and context shaped the current approach to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We will meet with NGO's, researchers and representatives of Polish health, education, social service systems for briefings on historical and contemporary prevalence data, educational interventions and outcomes, health service structures and emerging strategies for long term care, and social welfare interventions and policies. Daily briefings will provide many opportunities to share information, insights, and resources, and to network and develop professional connections with our Polish colleagues. In addition, enriching context will be provided through a number of

cultural excursions that will explore Poland's rich and complex history.

As a result of this program, participants will be able to answer the following questions:

- How has the nation's history, culture, and context shaped the Polish approach to intellectual disability?
- What are the structure and delivery methods of supports provided for people with intellectual disability in Poland?
- How do people with intellectual and developmental disabilities participate in the development of their supports?
- How does the service system respond across the lifespan with different packages of supports?

Highlights

- Meet with leading disability professionals and academic researchers as well as families and self-advocates
- Guided tours of the historic cities of Gdansk, Warsaw, Lublin, and Krakow, with visits to places such as historic city centers, the Solidarity Memorial, the Warsaw ghetto, and ancient royal castles

- Work at one of Europe's oldest universities, Krakow's Jagiellonian University, which celebrated its 650th anniversary in 2012
- Guided tour of Auschwitz
- Guided tour of the ancient salt mine of Wieliczka

Itinerary

October 12-15: Gdansk
 October 15-19: Warsaw
 October 19-21: Lublin
 October 21-23: Krakow
 October 23: tours of Auschwitz and the famous salt mine at Wieliczka
 October 24: Depart

The Faculty

Margaret Nygren, EdD is the Executive Director and CEO of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the oldest professional society concerned with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She has lead past AAIDD international delegations to Cuba, Brazil, and Norway.

Felicia L. Wilczenski, EdD, is Professor and Interim Dean in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She has participated in AAIDD delegations to India and Brazil.

Academic Credit

This study tour is offered as

- a non-credit program open to all AAIDD members and others *or*
- a program for academic credit towards a UMB or other degree program (participants must make arrangement with their respective program advisors).

Students register for either SGISD 697 (Special Topics in Special Education) or SGISD 695/696 (Independent Study, variable credit, 1-6 credits).

Program Fee

\$3,599

This fee includes instructional content and activities, 4 star accommodations, program-related ground transport, museum and programmed excursion tickets, three daily meals, and travel insurance.

Participants must purchase their own round-trip airfare. UMB program staff will provide suggested routes/carriers and agencies.

This fee does not include the cost of non-scheduled meals, and any shopping or miscellaneous expenses you may incur while overseas.

To Apply

Applications may be downloaded at:

www.umb.edu/academics/caps/international

or

<http://aaidd.org/education/education-through-travel/poland-delegation>

Completed applications, and additional questions, should be emailed to: jennifer.goode@umb.edu

Deadline

August 12, 2014 (60 days prior to departure). Early application is advised as enrollment is limited. American citizens need a valid passport only; no visa required.

Accepted applicants must participate in a pre-departure orientation by conference call or online, scheduled several weeks prior to departure. Full payment is expected by August 12.

For More Information:

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Margaret Nygren, EdD, Executive Director and CEO American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)

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Felicia L. Wilczenski, EdD, Professor and Interim Dean College of Education and Human Development University of Massachusetts Boston

Learn more about this exciting trip at: caps.umb.edu/international/Poland