**AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report: 2017**

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfill their purpose. (See the Interest Networks Leadership Manual for the purpose of the Interest Networks).

**Interest Network:** Education

**Lead Contact Person:** Dalun Zhang

**Annual Report for 2016-2017**

For the year that just ended (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used.

The overarching goal for the 2016 year, the executive committee focused on strengthening the group. We had a great turnout at the Education Division luncheon meeting at the 2016 AAIDD conference in Atlanta, filling four large tables at the meeting. The focus there was to discuss ideas for increasing membership in the group, and becoming a more active, vibrant Division. The application, SLACK, was set up to facilitate group communication and a newsletter editor was chosen to communicate with other potential members. A survey of current members was set as a goal to help determine the interests of the members and identify goals for the coming year. That survey was distributed in early spring, 2017, and the findings were shared with members of the Education Interest Network at the 2017 AAIDD conference. Specific goals from the 2016 report include the following:

1. Increase participation of members. We established the SLACK education group to facilitate ongoing communication. We also held an Education Interest Group meeting at both 2016 and 2017 AAIDD conferences, and increased significantly the number of Education-related sessions and poster presentations at the AAIDD conference each year. No money was spent to accomplish this goal.
2. Share information about research and promising practices that support the education of children, youth, and young adults with IDD. The focus this year on the goal was mainly accomplished through education-related sessions at the conference.
3. Identify membership goals. We did this through the online survey. A relatively small number of members responded to the survey, but those were used to identify goals for the 2017 Interest Network for Education.

The only funds that were used in the 2016 year was to cover a scholarship for student member of the Education Division to attend the 2016 AAIDD conference. We were making arrangements to use some funds to cover participation at the Education Interest Network luncheon meeting, but the arrangements didn’t work as we anticipated so we instead had the meeting during the regular luncheon meeting times and members who attended were charged the $20 to keep it the same as the other luncheon costs.

**Goals for 2017-2018**

The Education Interest Network had a meeting during the AAIDD Annual Meeting. At the meeting, new officers were elected and priorities and goals were determined for 2017-2018. New officers include: Dan (Dalun) Zhang, Chair; Debbie Taub, Vice-Chair; Leena Landmark, Secretary.

Based on the discussions, the Education Interest Network decided to work on three goals.

Goal 1 is in the area of policy. The goal is: The Education Interest Network will develop policy briefs and work with AAIDD and other organizations (e.g., AUCD) to disseminate policy briefs that can impact policy and practice in key areas such as Medicaid cuts and its impact on students and adults with disabilities.

Goal 2 is in the area of research. The goal is to synthesize research on the impact of inclusive education on school outcomes. Specific research questions include: what is the damage of segregating students? Is there research on inclusive education leading to inclusive adult outcomes (and on segregated education leading to segregated adult outcomes)? What impact does this practice have on students with the most significant needs and how are they included? The Interest Network will promote and facilitate the dissemination of research findings in these areas.

Goal 3 is in the area of communications with members and colleagues in the field. The Education Interest Network will enhance its communication to members and colleagues in the field by exploring the feasibility of developing a newsletter, establishing new networks, and expanding the website. The purpose of this goal is to make the Education Interest Network more visible and available to everyone.

**Next Steps**

* Executive group will send a proposal for elections protocols for discussion and adoption
* Members need to sign up for committees for each of the priority areas (policy, research, and communications)
* Members may join SLACK (edudivision.slack.com)
* Next meeting August 8 at 2 pm EST