



MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH: NEWSLETTER



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ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY** 

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ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The Institute for Human Development is a research and training program located on Northern Arizona University. Our program is part of a national network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). In Arizona, we are designated as one of two Arizona University Centers on Disabilities (AzUCD).

INTRODUCTION

The American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Training and Technical Assistance Center (AIVRTTAC) Team extends a warm "Hello" to all the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) programs and consumers across Indian Country!

Spring is here and the warmth of the day invites us out to plant seeds and to provide the nurturing care so that the fall harvest can be enjoyed. In the same manner, the staff at AIVRTTAC are like landscapers as we sprinkle new seeds among our AIVRS community.

The AIVRTTAC team wants to say thank-you to all the AIVRS programs who participated and are currently participating in either or all of the AIVRTTAC products, such as the universal, targeted and intensive technical assistance activities. Because of your participation in the activities, we have learned so much about each of your individual AIVRS programs and ways to go about developing technical assistance activities catered to your individual program needs. "Year in Review" of AIVRTTAC Activities and what is to come.



DISCLAIMER

The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the Department of Education (PR/Award#H250Z150002). However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. (Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e-3 and 3474)



REVIEW OF PAST ACTIVITIES

2016

Four Talking Circles

Conducted four talking circles and from them, reported on the AIVRS program needs identified. (Stay tuned for the publication of this report)

Five Webinars

- Introduction to Assistive Technology (May, 2016)
- Introduction to Program Evaluation (May, 2016)
- Intake to Post-Employment Services (June, 2016)
- Implementing Professional Development Practices (July 12, 2016)
- Promising Practices for Providing AIVRS Services (September, 2016)

Four (4) of the five (5) webinars are part of a series that include a Community of Practice and a Follow-up Webinar.

Drum Beat Fact Sheets, 3 produced and 1 Smoke Signals Practice Guide

- One Way of Knowing is Not Always the Best Way: Introduction to Evidence Based Practice for AIVRS Programs (March, 2016)
- Resources for American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Programs (April, 2016)
- Characteristics of Effective Vocational Rehabilitation Programs (September, 2016)
- Referral to AIVRS Programs Practice Guide

2017

Regional Training Cluster, held in Albuquerque, NM, January 24 and 25 2017.

- Focus: New Director experiences and AIVRS program management. This was a huge success!

A huge shout out and THANK YOU to the AIVRS Community for participating and completing the AIVRTTAC Survey in April! Here is a small snapshot of what we learned:

The AIVRS program staff who accessed AIVRTTAC activities and products indicated these items on average as very useful and would recommend these activities. We also learned that there are still a number of the respondents who have not accessed AIVRTTAC products and activities. We will increase and improve our efforts with outreach and dissemination.

AIVRTTAC provides on-site personalized technical assistance and training to address identified program needs (Intensive TA). We are now partnered with two AIVRS programs and will continue to grow the number of programs we partner with on a quarterly timeframe.





CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

We are excited here in the office because we are busily planting seeds for activities to come for the remainder of 2017 that include:

- AIVRTTAC Regional Training in Scottsdale, Arizona. July 24th and 25th .
- AIVRTTAC Regional Training in Anchorage, Alaska. (Date to be determined)
- The launching of the AIVRTTAC 1-800- helpline to provide assistance to AIVRS programs (stay tuned for the launch date)
- The launching of AIVRTTAC Learning Modules with opportunities to earn Continuing Education Credits (CRCs) for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (Stay tuned for dates)
- Continuing to provide Intensive Technical Assistance to programs

In summary, if you missed any of our past activities and want to continue to engage with current AIVRTTAC activities, please visit our website at <http://aivrttac.org>.

Our AIVRTTAC team expresses our sincere appreciation for your contribution in your communities to serve individuals with disabilities by creating opportunities to achieve employment outcomes through AIVRS services. We join you in your contributions and encourage you to reach out to our AIVRTTAC team for any questions or inquiries you have regarding training and technical assistance.

Remember, our community is your community! To show this we are sharing tidbits of our AIVRTTAC Team.



In the third year of the project the AIVRTTAC will:

- Continue building its capacity to provide intensive technical assistance (This is the most important activity in Year 3. Consider creating a section in this newsletter or in a future newsletter that highlights the current intensive TA underway in the two sites, materials developed, how TA will be evaluated, and report outputs and early indicators of outcomes that will lead improved program performance and that shares with AIVRS projects how to request intensive TA)
- Continue providing intensive technical assistance to two AIVRS projects that began in FY 17.
- Complete a toolkit designed for AIVRS Project Directors and pilot the toolkit through a community of practice established for project directors prior to dissemination.
- Conduct a robust face to face outreach effort to AIVRS projects by regions of the country in order to increase the AIVRTTAC's provision of intensive technical assistance.
- Continue efforts to evaluate universal, targeted, and intensive technical assistance.
- Continue targeted and universal technical assistance efforts such as topical webinars, e-learning modules, communities of practice, maintaining the AIVRTTAC Web site, developing newsletters, and widely disseminating these products to all AIVRS projects.



AIVRTTAC EAGLES SOAR: MILEAGE TRACKER

SOARING TO SUCCESS

AIVRTTAC provides technical assistance and training to AIVRS staff throughout the country. As you can imagine the staff log-in an abundant amount of frequent flyer miles. We'll keep a tally of mileage activities for each staff in our upcoming newsletters. Take a look at the leaderboard:

LEE GASEOMA: 19,848 MILES

SUZANNE MALSON: 17,942 MILES

MARC ESPINO: 4,992 MILES

DAROLD JOSEPH: 1,906 MILES





TEAM TIDBITS

A WORD FROM US ALL

Lee Gaseoma, Ed. D. , Project Director

Dr. Gaseoma is our AIVRTTAC Project Director. As our fearless leader, Lee holds on to the lead for greatest amount of miles traveled! With all his travel, we are sure to get a good recommendation of where to eat on our travels.

Suzanne Malson

Suzanne is one of the VR specialist for AIVRTTAC. Her passion is social justice and she has always been passionate about social justice issues. During her educational journey at the University of California Davis, she was honored to have some of the most extraordinary Professors who taught her from indigenous writings and these teachings broadened her life experiences and prepared her for her journey in the discipline of American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation.

Marc Espino

Marc Espino is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor in AZ and CA, a member of CA State Rehabilitation Council and is one of AIVRTTAC's VR Training and TA Specialist. An interesting side note for Marc is that he enjoys traveling and visited 7 Major League Baseball Parks last season.

Darold H. Joseph

Darold is from the Hopi and is one of the three Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist for AIVRTTAC and has previously served as a special education teacher and then a special education director in the Hopi community. Darold grew up farming and ranching and very much enjoys eating rocky mountain oysters. Yum!

Jessy Zukosky

Jessy is AIVRTTAC's multilingual administrative assistant. Besides taking good care of us there are a few interesting things you should know about Jessy. She was bit by a Himalayan monkey, a rabid stray dog for which took injections in the stomach. She was bit by a poisonous centipede, as well. Ouch! Besides getting bit by things, she loves to travel, read and meet new people.

John McDermott

John is the Dissemination Coordinator for the Institute for Human Development and works with AIVRTTAC on product development and dissemination. John's interests include parenting (19, 11, and 4 year old), music, most recreational outdoor activities, and consumer technology. His studies range from aviation, science, technology, education, meditation, contemplative traditions, music, sociology, and psychology.

Dana Cihelkova

Dana is AIVRTTAC's Program Evaluator. She has a lovely daughter, speaks five languages, has two dogs, loves to read and has written four books! She is especially grateful to be working with AIVRTTAC and to learn about the diversity of Native America. Dana says, "I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from my AIVRTTAC Native American colleagues about their history, wisdom, and resilience!"

