

Inclusive Recreation Resource Center

Fall 2011

Happenings and Highlights

As we near the end of the IRRC's fifth year, we would like to provide you with some of the highlights of 2011, and wish you all a wonderful 2012!!

- 215 people attended Inclusion U training this year, representing 5 states outside of NY and people from 4 other countries! That brings the total number of Certified Inclusivity Assessors to 1,190!
- 84 people attended Recreation Inclusion Tips and Tools (RITT) training to learn how to assist people with disabilities develop meaningful leisure goals. The IRRC has received very positive feedback not only about the quality of the training, but also of the great value of the assessment tools provided.
- In order to reflect the IRRC's broad impact well beyond the state of New York, several changes have been made to the Center's name, mission statement and logo. Formally the NYS IRRC, the Center is now simply, the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center.
- In addition to Inclusion U and RITT, staff of the IRRC provided many presentations and trainings to a wide variety of audiences. In June, Dr. Lynn Anderson delivered the keynote address at the Canadian Congress on Leisure Research. In July, Dr. Vicki Wilkins and Laurie Penney McGee created an ability awareness training for youth and staff at the Ulster County CYO's Hook A Kid On Golf Camp. More recently, sessions were provided at the World Waterpark Association's international conference in New Orleans, and at the National Recreation and Park Association's annual conference in Atlanta. The IRRC has also developed a number of regional trainings, including those given at the Cortland Recreation Conference, the Downstate Conference and the Genesee Valley's Recreation and Park Society's annual conference in Rochester.



Inside this issue:

<i>Meet Katie Wryk IRRC Grad Assistant</i>	2
<i>ADA, AmeriCorps and Seeking CIA's</i>	3
<i>The IRRC: Looking to a Bright Future</i>	4-5
<i>Inclusion U Training: Dates & Information</i>	6

The IRRC Delivers Inclusion U to an International Audience!

In October, the IRRC was contracted by the World Waterpark Association to provide Inclusion U training at their international conference, held in New Orleans, Louisiana. Dr. Lynn Anderson, Dr. Vicki Wilkins, and Laurie Penney McGee presented the full-day training to people from the USA, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates. Conversations about varying inclusion practices around the world made the training of great interest not only to attendees, but for the IRRC staff as well. In addition to Inclusion U, Dr. Lynn Anderson and Laurie Penney McGee presented a conference session entitled, "Let the Mainstream be a Widestream" which provided professionals with a new way to approach inclusion, viewing all of their facilities, staffing, programs and practices through an inclusion lens. Both the conference and trip to New Orleans were great experiences for the IRRC staff!



Meet Katie Wryk IRRC Grad Assistant 2011-2012



In August, the IRRC welcomed Katie Wryk as the Center's new 2011-2012 Graduate Assistant. Katie, who has an undergraduate degree in Elementary and Special Education from SUNY Geneseo, brings a wealth of personal experience and education to her role at the IRRC.

Katie is currently pursuing her Master's Degree at SUNY Cortland in Outdoor and Environmental Education. While she is required to attain a master's degree for her teaching certification, Katie's interest in furthering her education in the field of recreation developed during her nine years working at summer camps that served children with and without disabilities. During her student teaching in Africa, she became passionate about using alternative teaching methods, such as those used in the outdoors. After graduation, Katie would love to work with school districts that utilize outdoor education as part of their curriculum. Katie would also welcome the opportunity to teach in a foreign country. When asked about what impacted her the most while working in Africa, Katie said that, while it may seem cliché, she was struck by how "grateful I am for what I have here." She described working with children who were always eager to learn and expressed gratitude daily for things many students in the United States take for granted; such as being given a pencil or having a teacher to teach them each day.

Initially, Katie seems quiet and reserved, but she loves working with people and enjoys chatting once she gets to know someone. Her recreation interests include reading, drawing, and outdoor activities. She loves working with youth and recently enjoyed volunteering at a Christmas tree sale where she taught children how to make "Reindeer Food." She loves Christmas and is a big fan of gingerbread houses and building snowmen, which is a common winter activity in her hometown of East Aurora, just outside of Buffalo, NY.

Katie has spent much of her IRRC time working on Inclusivity Assessments and Inclusion U data. Katie especially likes to know how things work "behind the scenes" and is looking forward to being trained to use the IRRC database. The IRRC is grateful to Katie for her work this semester and is happy to have her as part of the team!



The Global Reach of the IRRC Newsletter

Dr. Ori Caroleo at Lehman College writes, "About a month ago I received an email from a man in Italy. Apparently, he read your Inclusivity Newsletter that included me as your "hero". Well, he was taken aback when he read my name, the same name as his grandmother's long-lost brother who moved to America. Well, guess what, we are cousins! We've been emailing each other and sharing photos. I now have a couple of HUNDRED new cousins! After "talking" to him, so much has become clear regarding my paternal grandfather's family. He's the medical director for a hospital in Italy and is interested in inclusion and trying to move hospital staff to an inclusive mindset. Who would have thought that your article would bring families together!"

2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Effective March 15, 2012 Are You Ready?



Over the past year, the IRRC has been working closely with recreation providers across the state who are making changes to become more inclusive and address the 2010 changes to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our Spring Newsletter focused on the programmatic regulations which became effective in March. The next change, the 2010 Revised Standards for Accessible Design, will become effective on March 15, 2012. The standards include several new regulations specific to recreation areas, such as fishing piers, boating facilities, play areas and swimming pools. For example, the law requires accessible means of entry and exit for swimming pools. If you operate a miniature golf course, at least 50% of the holes must be accessible, and they must be consecutive and located on an accessible route. These are just a few of the changes that directly impact recreation facilities. It is important to note that the law requires that providers either meet the guidelines or have a transition plan in place by March 15, 2012 that addresses how the agency will “soon” meet the guidelines.

The U.S. Department of Justice provides a wealth of information, including the guidelines and resources about the Americans with Disabilities Act on their ADA Home Page, which can be found at www.ada.gov.

The IRRC is Awarded an AmeriCorps Staff Member

The IRRC is very happy to announce that a new AmeriCorps staff member will be joining the team in January. Deanna Moore, a graduate of SUNY Cortland's Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department, is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist who will be involved in all aspects of the Center. We congratulate her on her new position and welcome Deanna to the IRRC!



Certified Inclusivity Assessor Needed on Long Island!

Since 2004, HOPEFitness has been providing inclusive fitness centers for people of all abilities. With two locations serving Long Island, one in North Bellmore and one in Bohemia, HOPEFitness strives to provide accessible exercise facilities, equipment, programs and services to people with disabilities. In order to promote this resource to individuals, families and providers, HOPEFitness President Harvey Greenberg



would like to have both locations assessed for the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center's on-line database. If you are a Certified Inclusivity Assessor who would be willing to complete one or both assessments, please contact the IRRC at InclusiveRec@cortland.edu or call us at (607) 753-4833.

Thank you in advance for your help!

The Growth and Development of the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center at SUNY Cortland: Looking to a Bright Future

In late 2006, the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center (IRRC) was launched at SUNY Cortland with funding from the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC). Under the leadership of Dr. Lynn Anderson, CTRS, CPRP, a professor in the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department at SUNY Cortland, the Center began its work by hiring staff and graduate assistants, as the development of a state-wide resource center to promote inclusive recreation was a significant task. We were fortunate, in January, to hire Laurie Penney McGee, CTRS. Laurie came to us from Exceptional Family Resources, an agency also dedicated to inclusion of people with disabilities.

In our first year, we worked very hard to develop the activities of the Center, based on research and best practices. We conducted focus groups across the state, reviewed the research literature from the past several years, and conducted pilot studies. By the end of our first year, we had developed the *Inclusivity Assessment Tool* and the first version of Inclusion U, the training for foundations of inclusion and the *Inclusivity Assessment Tool*. In that first year, we also developed the Recreation Referral Service, a more individualized service for people with disabilities, and our evaluation and research plans for all our services and activities. We formed our State Advisory Committee and began forming many regional advisory committees, all with the intention of having an ongoing communication channel with those in the state who most need assistance with inclusive recreation. We developed many partnerships around the state that we sustain today.

In our second year, we developed and launched our well-received website, loaded with resources to promote inclusive recreation. Our most important resource, the online recreation database, was launched in 2009. The ever growing database contains the recreation inclusion information collected by numerous trained *Certified Inclusivity Assessors* around the state, and provides accurate, specific, and descriptive information about recreation inclusion to people with disabilities and their families. Dr. Vicki Wilkins, CPRP, a professor in the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department, joined the Center in our second year. We continued to develop partnerships with new colleges and universities that offer degree programs in parks, recreation and therapeutic recreation, including: Corning Community College, Erie Community College, Ithaca College, Kingsborough Community College, Lehman College, Onondaga Community College, Paul Smiths College, St. Joseph's College, SUNY Cortland, and Tompkins Cortland Community College. Presently, nine colleges state-wide have incorporated Inclusion U into their recreation degree programs. We continue to forge more partnerships with universities, with the goal of having every college student entering the parks and recreation field as a *Certified Inclusivity Assessor*, ready to promote accessibility and inclusion in their parks, community centers, sports programs, gyms, and the like.

In our third year, we continued to refine all our activities, grow the database, and train an ever growing army of *Certified Inclusivity Assessors*. We continued to work with more universities and other partners, including the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation,

(continued on page 5)

I Love New York Tourism, the New York State Recreation and Park Society, and the New York State Therapeutic Recreation Association.



Through continued funding from the DDPC, in our fourth and fifth year, we developed a new half-day training in collaboration with the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. This training, called Recreation Inclusion Tips and Tools (RITT), focuses on helping those who work in direct service with people with disabilities, like Medicaid Service Coordinators or case managers, facilitate inclusive recreation. A key focus has been to help people learn about the online recreation database and how it could help people with disabilities plan quality recreation in the most inclusive setting. In the last year, we have also begun offering Inclusion U on a contractual basis to outside organizations, which has been very successful. In our fifth year, we “graduated” our 1,000th *Certified Inclusivity Assessor* from Inclusion U. And that number continues to grow.

The Inclusive Recreation Resource Center has grown and developed from an idea to a thriving Center. Through our evaluation data, we know that people learn more about inclusion and have a more positive attitude toward inclusion. We know that Inclusion U, the website, and the online database are regularly used, well received and evaluated positively. We continue to involve undergraduate and graduate students in our work and as a key focus of the Center.

We are now ready for the next phase of growth for the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center. Over the next year and half, we are planning to develop Inclusion U as an online training. By having Inclusion U web-based, anyone anywhere will be able to complete the training, learn about inclusion, how to use the *Inclusivity Assessment Tool*, and become a *Certified Inclusivity Assessor*. We will be able to broaden our reach, make our work more accessible to a wider audience, and do so in a more sustainable manner. At the same time, we will continue to deliver Inclusion U in person for those who contract with us, and will continue to work closely with colleges and universities. The database will become more populated, more automated, and hopefully, more useful to those who need it most.

As we move toward the future and the next phase of development, the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center will be saying goodbye to Laurie Penney McGee, who has served for nearly five years as a full-time project coordinator. The coordinator position will end March 31, 2012. Laurie has been an important part of the growth and development of the Center, and she will be missed. Laurie’s cheerful, positive presence has helped build a multitude of partnerships and contacts for the Center and we will continue to sustain that work. Laurie’s passion for inclusion is an asset that will continue to shine for all. We wish Laurie the best in her future work and know that she will continue to make a positive impact for people with disabilities.

Dr. Lynn Anderson, CTRP, CPRP

Dr. Vicki Wilkins, CPRP

Inclusive Recreation Resource Center at SUNY Cortland

InclusiveRec@cortland.edu

The IRRC at SUNY Cortland

Inclusive Recreation Resource Center
SUNY Cortland
Professional Studies Room 2223
P.O. Box 2000
Cortland, NY 13045

Phone: (607) 753-4833
Fax: (607) 753-5982

FUNDED BY



Our Mission

To promote and sustain participation by people with disabilities in inclusive recreation activities and resources

Inclusion U Training!

Become a Certified Inclusivity Assessor!

Learn about best practices in inclusion and accessibility so that you can assess recreation sites and facilities for physical, administrative, and programmatic inclusion. Whether you are a person who has a disability, a family member, a recreation professional, human service provider, student or advocate, this training is for you!

How do you register for training?

Pre-register for Inclusion U training by contacting the IRRC at (607) 753-4833 or email inclusiverec@kortland.edu. The cost of the training is \$95.00 and includes the bound Inclusion U Manual as well as the toolkit needed to complete assessments.

Inclusion U provides 7 full training hours. If you would like to purchase Continuing Education Credits, CEU's will be available on site for a payment of \$8.00. Please bring a **separate** check payable to "NYSRPS."

- We welcome people of all abilities to attend Inclusion U. If any accommodations are needed, please provide that information when you register for training.
- All Trained Assessors are asked to complete 2 Inclusivity Assessments at recreation sites or facilities of their choice within 6 months of training. The IRRC will be happy to assist you in identifying a site.

2012 Inclusion U Training Dates and Locations

Friday, February 3rd, 12:30-9:00 PM: SUNY Cortland, Cortland

Friday, February 17th, 8:00-4:30 PM: Onondaga Community College, Syracuse

Sunday, March 25th, 8:00-4:30 PM: Saratoga Springs (NYSRPS Conference Pre-institute)

Saturday, April 14th, 8:00-4:30 PM: Saratoga Springs (NYSTRA Conference Pre-institute)

Reduced Rate.....only \$40.00 for pre-institute Inclusion U trainings for conference attendees!

Bring Inclusion U to Your Agency!!

Significant cost savings!!!

Are you interested in holding an Inclusion U at your agency? The IRRC offers several training options for agencies who would like to train their staff in the best practices of both physical and social inclusion. By bringing Inclusion U to your organization, you can provide training for up to 25 people at a significantly reduced rate. Save costly travel and accommodation expenses for staff by hosting Inclusion U at your facility. For more information, contact

Dr. Lynn Anderson at lynn.anderson@kortland.edu or call (607) 753-4833.

NYS Inclusive Recreation Resource Center

Spring 2011

Happenings and Highlights

Hello and happy Spring! Here are just a few highlights of NYS IRRC activities since our last newsletter:

- In March, Dr. Lynn Anderson was awarded the NYS Therapeutic Recreation Association's Member of the Year award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field of Therapeutic Recreation. The NYS IRRC is fortunate to have such a highly esteemed director! Congratulations Lynn!!
- On March 27th, Mandigoh Vambe traveled from Zimbabwe Africa to attend Inclusion U at the NYS Recreation and Park Society's Annual Conference. Mandigoh, who works for Zimbabwe Wheelchair Sports, traveled from Africa just to attend the IRRC training! He is very excited to bring the information back to his country and would like to collaborate in the future!
- A link to the NYS IRRC's website can now be found on the National Inclusion Project's website.
- The NYS IRRC has been accepted to present a conference session entitled "Let the Mainstream be a Widestream: Helping ALL People Play" at the National Recreation and Park Association's Congress to be held in Atlanta, GA later this year.
- Since January, 123 people have attended Inclusion U training, resulting in 120 new Certified Inclusivity Assessors.
- Students at 4 colleges are currently working on over 70 assessments for the NYS IRRC's database. Several agencies are already making changes to be more inclusive!



Mandigoh Vambe at IU



Inside this issue:

<i>Meet the NYS IRRC's Spring Inclusivity Hero</i>	2-3
<i>IRRC Celebrates 1,000th CIA - Anna Williams</i>	3
<i>Revised ADA Regulations Impact Recreation Areas</i>	4-6
<i>Barry Elementary's Inclusive Playground</i>	7
<i>Inclusion U Dates</i>	8

The NYS IRRC Provides Inclusion U to the Rockford Park District in Illinois!!



Dr. Vicki Wilkins, Laurie Anderson, Dr. Lynn Anderson & Laurie Penney McGee at the Rockford Park District

In March, IRRC staff traveled to the Rockford Illinois Park District to provide Inclusion U training for 29 park staff. The following week, the newly trained assessors formed teams to conduct assessments in their various park facilities. The following feedback was provided by their Manager of Community & Recreation Services, Laurie Anderson:

"Initial reports are wonderful!...one of my managers that had a team at a Community Center said, "oh my gosh"this is going to be great to help with the Master Plan of the facility. "We found things we never even looked at before". This process also made them look at maintenance and cosmetic things from a different perspective....THANK YOU!!"

We are grateful to Laurie Anderson for providing us with the opportunity to work with the Rockford Park District staff!

Introducing the NYS IRRC's Spring 2011 Inclusivity Hero Dr. Orazio "Ori" Caroleo



In August 2007, Dr. Ori Caroleo attended Inclusion U training on Long Island. The training was only the NYS IRRC's second Inclusion U, and soon afterward, Ori was one of the first Certified Inclusivity Assessors to complete an assessment. Ori chose to assess a recreation agency that was developing new facilities, and thought that the Inclusivity Assessment Tool might be useful in their process. Because of his assessment and IU training experience, it was not long before Ori contacted the IRRC to discuss the creation of a brand new course at Lehman College where he teaches, based on Inclusion U. Ori's class, "Assessing for Inclusivity," which has now been offered during three semesters, has resulted in over 100 assessments and has become a model for other colleges across the state that are now embedding Inclusion U in their recreation programs. For his immeasur-

able contribution to the NYS IRRC and his dedication to inclusion, we are pleased to designate Dr. Ori Caroleo as our Spring 2011 Inclusivity Hero.

NYS IRRC Graduate Assistant Amanda Lengauer recently interviewed Ori and provided the following:

Dr. Ori Caroleo's story of how he got involved in the recreation field is both fascinating and motivating. Ironically, Ori did not even begin his career in the therapeutic recreation field; he was involved with advertising. A close friend of his was a director at a senior center and asked Ori to host a program for the guests. Ori agreed, but under the condition that the activity would have to have a beginning, middle, and end. The two agreed upon the program, and once a week Ori taught the seniors how to sew. After teaching the individual participants the basic skills, he taught them how to create the layout of a dress. The culminating event was a fashion show. But, just as he promised, Ori stopped working with the seniors after his class was finished, or so he thought.

While conducting the sewing program, Ori met a woman who truly enjoyed participating and being part of the group. The older woman had limited time out of her home, and after the program finished, she no longer had any form of recreation. Ori recognized that this woman was isolated and so he would consistently visit her and develop different activities to do with her. He realized that the time he spent with her was becoming a priority in his life, and he soon told his job he could no longer work full-time, reducing his hours to only three days a week. Ori continued his work with the woman and began to recognize the need for more people to work with individuals who had limited recreation. Soon he connected with a church group, applied for a grant, and received financial endowments, which enabled him to hire two employees to visit other people who were isolated at home.

It was only a matter of time before Ori resigned from his job and pursued a master's degree in Therapeutic Recreation at NYU. Soon, Ori committed to a doctorate program in Health Sciences while working at NYU. Ori is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and his past experience includes working with community centers for people with AIDS and providing a variety of recreational activities for them. Now, Ori teaches full-time at Lehman College.

Ori's rich history led him to create his "Assessing for Inclusivity" class. After taking the training himself, he thought that students would benefit from assessing facilities. The course requires all students to complete Inclusion U training and then complete an assessment of two recreation sites. In addition to Inclusion U, guest speakers are also a key part of the classroom experience. This semester, Ori has 23 students, which means that 46 new recreation sites will be added to the database. "Students are able to grasp a different perspective when assessing facilities," said Ori. The graduate students, those who are

Dr. Orazio “Ori” Caroleo Continued

already working full-time in the field, are changing how their programs are run and are bringing new information to their staff because of the course content. “The course,” Ori explained, “has real life implications and impacts.”

The students’ overall perspectives are dramatically and positively changing, in both their classroom and homework assignments. For example, Ori will purposely use inaccurate language, such as the word “handicapped,” and students will immediately correct him saying that he is not using Person First Language. Students are becoming attuned to the issues and barriers involved in inclusion. Ori’s class has also powerfully impacted the program at Lehman. The course provides an opportunity to experience recreation from a new perspective and it is an overall beneficial learning experience.

Each semester Ori invites a woman with multiple disabilities to class to speak with his students. She shares with the students that her parents left her at the hospital when she was born because they did not want a child that “looked like that.” Fortunately, a foster family took her in and forced her to become independent. “This,” she tells the students, “was the best gift they gave me.” The woman admits that nothing stops her. She received her master’s degree in Therapeutic Recreation and has done a variety of recreational activities, including scuba diving, traveling to Italy, and horseback riding. She did every recreational activity she wanted to and overcame all obstacles. Ori describes his class as being in awe listening to the woman’s story. “Regardless of the population you work with,” Ori stated, “I think that you can bring enjoyment to a person’s life, and that’s important.”

During his free time, Ori enjoys cooking, baking, and home remodeling. He loves to experiment and create different recipes. He still volunteers in his community and facilitates a baking and decorating class for middle school students. We are honored to name Dr. Ori Caroleo our Inclusivity Hero. His ambition and dedication is inspirational and motivational to all with this field!

- contributed by Amanda Lenagauer

The NYS IRRC Celebrates Anna Williams -1,000th Certified Inclusivity Assessor!

On February 5, 2011, the NYS IRRC trained our 1,000th Certified Inclusivity Assessor (CIA) at Lehman College in the Bronx. How fitting that our Inclusivity Hero, Dr. Ori Caroleo hosted the training that would result in this auspicious occasion! The 1,000 CIA, Anna Williams was recently interviewed by Christina Rossetti, a SUNY Cortland graduate student.

Anna Williams is currently a graduate student at Lehman College and was the 1,000th person to become certified through Inclusion U. Anna has just started her master’s degree program in Recreation Education is looking forward to getting started in the field. Anna said, “I chose recreation because I was formerly obese, and recreation and leisure, most specifically physical fitness, saved my life, literally!” Anna said she that she was happy to be the 1,000 CIA because she loves to win. Her favorite part of Inclusion U was meeting different people. Anna said she is interested in inclusion because it addresses fairness directly. Currently Anna works in the pre-media field for an image studio. “My ultimate career goal is to be a fitness counselor for people with limited mobility, so principles of inclusion will be my bread and butter (whole grain bread, easy on the butter!)”

To date, Anna has assessed two recreation sites, but said that she cannot help but notice whether or not recreation facilities are accessible wherever she goes.

Anna’s interests include being an “aerobics queen and weight lifting addict.” When asked to share something that others might not know about her, Anna said, “In another life, I would have liked to have been a lumberjack!” Anna also loves to bake. Thank you Anna for attending Inclusion U and contributing to the NYS IRRC database!



-contributed by Christina Rossetti

Revised ADA Changes Effective on March 15, 2011

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) amended Final Rule substantially revising and expanding the regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became **effective on March 15, 2011**. The regulations include a broad range of changes that will enable recreation providers to make both their physical environments and social policies inclusive of people of all abilities so that everyone can fully enjoy recreation in their communities. A brief overview is provided below.

What titles of the ADA are covered by the revised regulations?

- The new regulations apply to **Title II of the ADA**, covering programs, activities, and services of public entities, and **Title III of the ADA**, covering public accommodations, commercial facilities and private entities offering certain examinations and courses.
- Common examples of facilities covered under Title II include state and local government park and recreation facilities, public schools, and state licensing and exam centers.
- Common examples of facilities covered under Title III include hospitals, restaurants, retail stores, hotels, movie theaters, private schools, convention centers, day care centers, and recreation facilities, such as sports stadiums and fitness clubs.

What are some of the key changes in the revised regulations?

- Among other substantive changes, the amended regulations adopt the **2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design**, which implement new accessibility guidelines for government facilities and commercial places of public accommodation. Compliance with the [2010 Standards for Accessible Design](#) is permitted as of September 15, 2010, but not required until March 15, 2012. The Department of Justice has prepared fact sheets identifying the major changes in the rules.
- In addition, the amended regulations address numerous accessibility issues, including those specific to recreation services:
 - selling and issuing **tickets** to individuals with disabilities
 - accommodating **service animals, wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices**
 - providing auxiliary **communication aids**
 - making **reservations in places of lodging**

Because these changes were effective March 15, 2011, recreation providers need to ensure that their policies and procedures reflect the new guidelines and that all staff are trained to implement them.

What are some of the recreation environments covered under the new regulations?

- Amusement Rides
- Recreational Boating Facilities
- Exercise Machines and Equipment
- Fishing Piers and Platforms
- Golf Facilities and Miniature Golf Facilities
- Play Areas
- Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, and Spas
- Shooting Facilities with Firing Positions



The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

The DOJ characterized these new guidelines as “more than incremental” compared with the previously applicable standards, which were issued in 1991. The heightened standards are technical in nature and include, for example: wheelchair access points (e.g., wheelchair spaces and companion seats may not be located on or obstructed by temporary platforms or other movable structures); reach ranges; single-user toilet rooms; assembly areas; location of accessible routes; entrances from parking structures; and location of guest rooms in lodging facilities.



Wheelchairs and Other Assistive Mobility Devices



The regulations adopt a two-tiered approach to mobility devices, distinguishing between wheelchairs and “other power-driven mobility devices,” which include a range of devices not specifically designed for individuals with mobility impairments (e.g., Segways). Wheelchairs and other devices designed for use by people with mobility impairments must be permitted in all areas open to pedestrian use. “Other power-driven mobility devices” must be permitted unless such use would fundamentally alter the entity’s programs, services or activities, create a direct threat, or create a safety hazard.

Service Animals

The regulations define a “service animal” as any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Other animals and dogs that are not trained to assist with a disability or who merely provide emotional support are excluded from this definition. The rule also clarifies that individuals with mental disabilities who use service animals that are trained to perform a specific task are protected by the ADA.



Miniature Horses

Although not included in the definition of service animals, the regulations permit the use of trained miniature horses as an alternative to dogs, where appropriate and in accordance with the assessment factors outlined in the revised regulations.

Reservations for Places of Lodging



Places of lodging must: (1) allow individuals with disabilities to make reservations for accessible guest rooms during the same hours and in the same manner as other guests; and (2) identify and describe accessible features in the hotels and guest rooms. Furthermore, places of lodging must ensure that reserved accessible guest rooms are actually available for those guests with disabilities upon their arrival.

Communication

The new regulation includes guidance on how to provide effective communication for persons with disabilities. For example, the regulation allows for use of video remote interpreting services as an auxiliary aid, if the entity complies with specified performance.



Ticketing

The regulations provide guidance on the sale of tickets for accessible seating, the sale of season tickets, the hold and release of accessible seating to non-disabled individuals, ticket pricing, prevention of the fraudulent purchase of accessible seating, and the ability to purchase multiple tickets when buying accessible seating.

(continued on page 6)

Revised ADA Changes Continued

“The Safe Harbor” Provision

The final rule includes a “safe harbor” provision protecting facilities built or altered in compliance with the 1991 Standards for Accessible Design.

Those facilities are not required to comply with the 2010 Standards until future alterations or renovations impact issues addressed by the 2010 Standards.



Notably, however, the safe harbor provision does not apply to those portions of existing facilities that are subject to **new accessibility requirements not covered by the 1991 Standards**. For recreation providers, this means that the newly established guidelines for recreation areas must be addressed either by alteration or a transition plan by the March 12, 2012 deadline. Those features, such as accessible means of entry to a swimming pool must be modified to the extent readily achievable to comply with the 2010 Standards.

Learn more about the new ADA regulations and 2010 ADA Standards by contacting the ADA National Network by DBTAC at 1-800-949-4232 (voice/tty) or by visiting the Department of Justice’s ADA page at www.ada.gov.



Resources:

- Revised ADA Regulations Implementing Title II and Title III www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAregs2010.htm
- 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm
- ADA Update: A Primer for Small Business www.ada.gov/regs2010/smallbusiness/smallbusprimer2010.htm
- Summaries of Accessibility Guidelines for Recreation Facilities www.access-board.gov/recreation/guides/index.htm

Reprinted and adapted with permission from the DBTAC: Southeast ADA Center, a project of the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) at Syracuse University. Revised ADA Regulations Effective on March 15, 2011 (http://sedbtac.org/ada/publications/updates/ADA_Revised_Regulations_March-15-2011.php), © 2011.)

Reduced Inclusion U Registration for Medicaid Service Coordinators and Supervisors

Are you a Medicaid Service Coordinator (MSC) or MSC Supervisor? In response to MSC and MSC Supervisor annual training requirements, the NYS IRRC is currently offering reduced rates for you to attend Inclusion U. Inclusion U offers 7 training hours and all MSC attendees receive a certificate of participation for your training file. See page 8 for details and upcoming training dates near you!

Barry Elementary School's Inclusive Playground Program

When redesigning the layout of a college course, a professor sought to establish a service-learning component in addition to the classroom experience. Dr. Wilkins, a long-time professor in SUNY Cortland's Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Studies Department, decided to implement a field work experience in the class *Recreation 293: Diversity and Inclusive Recreation Services*. She decided to create a program that provided an opportunity for college students to work with local elementary school children. The professor's goal was simple: inclusion.

For the past three years, the Inclusive Playground Program has been thriving at Barry Elementary School. The program was designed to implement cooperative games into playground time at elementary schools. Research studies have proven that less bullying happens with the combination of extra supervision and cooperative games. When there is a decrease in bullying, there is an increase with interpersonal relationships. SUNY Cortland's program goal was to strive to create an inclusive model for ALL children to play.

The fieldwork experiences lasted eight to nine weeks. SUNY Cortland students spent the first week attending recess sessions and observing different behaviors. With this information gathered, the students proceeded to create cooperative lesson plans. For the next six weeks, two SUNY Cortland students each day (Monday through Thursday) organized and led the Inclusive Playground Program. During the recess time, the SUNY Cortland student leaders facilitated and taught age-appropriate cooperative activities for the Barry students. Each week, the Cortland students taught approximately two to three cooperative games. During week eight, the Cortland students retaught all the games to the children. The purpose of this was so the children will remember how to play each game and continue playing even after the Cortland students left. The last week of the program was spent observing the Barry students. This hands-off approach for the last week allowed SUNY Cortland students to view not only their accomplishments during the length of the program, but also examine how inclusion makes a positive difference.

Throughout the course of the program, the Cortland students met for reflection meetings to discuss what worked for the week and what improvements could be made. The prime focus was including all students into the program. This meant not only including students with functional differences but also including students from all different grades to participate in games. As Corey Nortz, a senior Recreation major at SUNY Cortland remarked, "I feel that in the past weeks, the students are not only participating in the activities that we are playing, but they are also starting to include other students that were maybe not in their grade or circle of friends."

Our group successfully achieved our goal of inclusion. Not only did the elementary school students learn cooperative games and inclusion, but so did the SUNY Cortland students. The Cortland students provided leadership and necessary steps to establish and promote and inclusion. "Simply," as one Cortland student remarked in their weekly reflection paper, "inclusion is the right thing to do," and that's exactly what we facilitated at Barry Elementary School: inclusion!

- contributed by Amanda Lengauer



Inclusive Playground Program Student Leaders

Top: Kris Docherty, Corey Nortz, Brittan Kuhlman & Thomas Szevin

Bottom: Matthew Schwartz, Amanda Lengauer, Kayleigh Quell & Dylan Lovit

Visit the NYS IRRC on the web at
www.nysirrc.org

The NYS IRRC at SUNY Cortland

NYS Inclusive Recreation Resource Center
SUNY Cortland
Professional Studies Room 2223
P.O. Box 2000
Cortland, NY 13045

Phone: (607) 753-4833
Fax: (607) 753-5982

FUNDED BY



Our Mission

To promote and sustain participation by people with disabilities in inclusive recreation activities and resources throughout the state of NY

Inclusion U Training!

We invite you to become part of the NYS IRRC!

Become a Certified Inclusivity Assessor!

Learn about best practices in inclusion and accessibility so that you can assess recreation sites and facilities for physical, administrative, and programmatic inclusion. Whether you are a person who has a disability, a family member, a recreation professional, Medicaid Service Coordinator, student or advocate, this training is for you!

How do you register for training?

Pre-register for Inclusion U training by contacting Laurie Penney McGee at (607) 753-4833 or email laurie.penneymcgee@cortland.edu. The cost of the training is \$95.00 and includes the bound Inclusion U Guide as well as the toolkit needed to complete assessments. Due to grant funding, Medicaid Service Coordinators can attend Inclusion U for only \$40.00! Please contact Laurie Penney McGee for more information.

- Inclusion U provides 7 full training hours. If you would like to purchase Continuing Education Credits, CEU's will be available on site for a payment of \$8.00. Please bring a separate check payable to "NYSRPS."
- We welcome people of all abilities to attend Inclusion U. If any accommodations are needed, please provide that information when you register for training.
- All Trained Assessors are asked to complete 2 Inclusivity Assessments at recreation sites or facilities of their choice within 6 months of training. The NYS IRRC will be happy to assist you in identifying a site.

2011 Inclusion U Training Dates and Locations

Thursday, May 26th Jamestown (Western New York)

Friday, September 9th Cortland (Finger Lakes Region)

Saturday, September 17th Patchogue (Long Island)

Saturday, September 24th Paul Smiths (Adirondack Region)

Thursday, November 17th TBA (New York City Region)

Bring Inclusion U to Your Agency!!

Significant cost savings!!!

Are you interested in holding an Inclusion U at your agency? The NYS IRRC offers several training options for agencies who would like to train their staff in the best practices of both physical and social inclusion. By bringing Inclusion U to your organization, you can provide training for up to 25 people at a significantly reduced rate. Save costly travel and accommodation expenses for staff by hosting Inclusion U at your facility. For more information, contact Laurie Penney McGee at laurie.penneymcgee@cortland.edu or call (607) 753-4833.