

AAIDD National News

AAIDD has a new executive director. Doreen Croser retired after skillfully leading the Association for 22 years. During her tenure at AAIDD the accomplishments were many and the Association successfully navigated the tough times faced by most national organizations in the ID/DD field. Dr. Margaret “Maggie” Nygren became the Executive Director in May 2010 and is hard at work continuing the successes of AAIDD and developing plans for innovating and continuing the progress the association. Maggie brings an excellent balance of practical experience and knowledge of the field to this role. We welcome her and look forward to working with her over the coming years.

The current president of AAIDD is Dr. Michael Wehmeyer. Mike is a Professor of Special Education and Director of the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities. His extensive knowledge of the field and direct involvement in research and training combine with his leadership skills to make him the right person to lead the AAIDD board. We look forward to his leadership this year.

The national conference this year will be in the Twin Cities of St. Paul/Minneapolis. The AAIDD national conference this year has the theme of “Inclusive Communities: Pathways to Realizing the Vision”. It is being held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on the riverfront in downtown St. Paul, June 5 – 9, 2011. For those of you who have attended this conference in the past, you know that it’s an excellent opportunity to network with professionals from other states & countries and to learn from prominent researchers, service providers, and up and coming leaders who work in the field of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Did you know that one of the best selling publications by AAIDD is the PBS Training Curriculum used for the past 10 years by DDSN in their collaboration with the USC Center for Disability Resources? The general public pays close to \$400 for this curriculum while approved trainers of the curriculum in South Carolina get a free copy to use at their provider agency. DDSN retained the right to use the original name (Carolina Curriculum on Positive Behavior Support) and to distribute it in our state.