### **UNH** TODAY



## **Advancing Disability Services**

Institute on Disability receives \$3M grant from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Monday, September 19, 2022



UNH received a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to continue its support of the one in eight New Hampshire residents who report having a disability, including those with serious difficulties with vision, hearing, mobility, cognition, self-care or independent living. The award will allow the Institute on Disability (IOD) to continue serving as New Hampshire's designated University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD).

With the funding, the IOD will provide training to more than 10,000 current and future professionals in New Hampshire; increase access to higher education for students with developmental and other disabilities; and lead research and evaluation that advances effective interventions and services for people with disabilities.

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"For more than 35 years the IOD has provided and facilitated training, research and services using personcentered, strengths-based, and culturally responsive approaches," says Kelly Nye-Lengerman, director

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of the IOD. "We continue to explore new and innovative ways to partner with people who have lived experiences to diversify the types of research and training we conduct.

Our partnerships with the university, people and the community allow the IOD to better serve the diverse needs of people with disabilities and their families in New Hampshire."

The goal of the IOD is to help 12.8% of the Granite State's population—over 170,000 people—access the services and supports they need for housing, healthcare, education, employment, and transportation. The pursuit of this goal requires the support and development of strategies and interventions that prioritize diverse voices, self-direction and a focus on the quality of life across the lifespan.

"The IOD provides applied research, critical resources and evidence-based practices to help individuals with disabilities and their families participate fully in their communities," says Kirsten Corazzini, dean of UNH's College of Health and Human Services. "I am delighted the IOD will continue building local, state and national capacities to respond to the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families."

The Institute on Disability was established to provide a university-based focus for the improvement of knowledge, policies and practices related to the lives of people with disabilities and their families. The IOD is a federally designated center authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Act.

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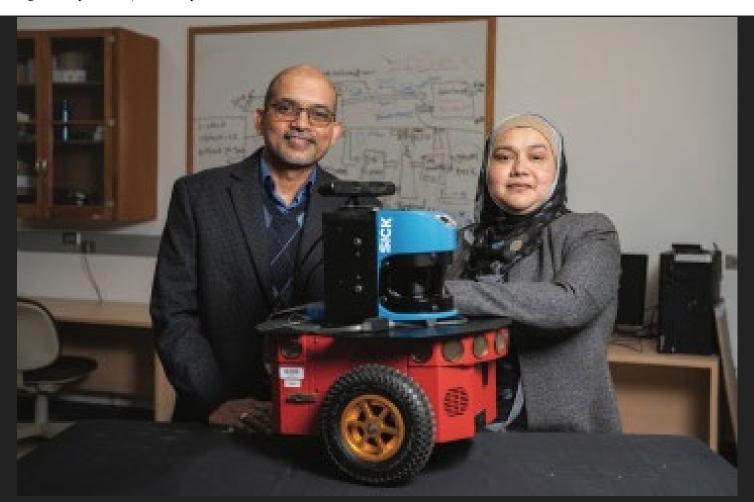
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