Quarterly Update

DISABILITY TRAINING NETWORK

Introducing . . .

Disability Training Network

Training, Innovation, and Research

The Disability Training Network for the Texas A&M University System was originally funded from 2005 until 2008. However, a one year no cost extension and an additional three year's of funding from the Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education have allowed the DTN to continue its mission. With the new funding comes a new name for the project: the **Disability Training Network: Training, Innovation, and Research (DTN-TIR)**. The expanded purpose of the DTN-TIR is to develop Texas A&M University System faculty and administrators on disability issues and to empirically examine the effects of the project's training. As the new name implies, there are three components to the project.

Training: Awareness, Updates, Topics, and Summer Institutes

The training activities of the original DTN have been continued. Thus, the DTN-TIR provides four levels of training: 1) introductory disability training at new faculty orientations; 2) quarterly updates on policies, practices, and issues; 3) instructor-led seminars and self-paced online seminars on topics of importance; and 4) summer institutes.

Innovation: Faculty Learning Communities and Mini-Grants

Activities designed to develop teaching innovations include the Faculty Learning Community (FLC) and the Mini-Grant Program. Members of the FLCs participate in professional development, work with each other and with students to identify innovative strategies, field-test the strategies, and assist the project in dissemination of results. The Mini-Grant Program awards funds to faculty from different disciplines for developing, testing, and disseminating new or applied instructional strategies.

Research: Effects of Training and Instructional Strategies

Quasi-experimental research that empirically examines the effectiveness of training on faculty competencies in teaching students with disabilities will be conducted. Research findings and other project information and materials are disseminated by multiple means, including traditional and online media.