



# Quarterly Update

## What is the Disability Training Network for the Texas A&M University System?

The Disability Training Network (DTN) for the Texas A&M University System is a U.S. Department of Education demonstration project designed to ensure that students with disabilities receive a quality postsecondary education. The DTN provides disability training and technical assistance to administrators, faculty, and staff within the nine institutions of the TAMU System. The training and technical assistance emphasizes professional development in understanding the needs of students with disabilities, providing effective instruction and services to students with disabilities, and increasing the academic performances of students with disabilities.

The DTN provides four levels of training. Level I training provides introductory training to new employees. Level II training includes dissemination of policy, practice, and issue updates. Level III training provides instructor-led seminars and self-paced online seminars, and Level IV training includes summer institutes, train-the-trainer modules, and mini-grants to develop and share new strategies in teaching students with disabilities.

### Did you know?

- ⇒ Over one million students with disabilities enrolled in postsecondary institutions in 1999/2000 (NCES, 2002).
- ⇒ Over 2,000 students with disabilities are currently enrolled in the TAMU System.
- ⇒ The number of students with disabilities enrolled in the TAMU System has increased 74% since 1997.
- ⇒ Students with disabilities are covered under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- ⇒ Students with disabilities are entitled to equal access to courses, programs, activities, services, and facilities of higher education institutions.

### Project Activities

- Disability awareness training at new employee orientations
- Instructor-led topical seminars
- Self-paced topical training through the project's website
- Quarterly updates on policies, practice, and issues
- Summer train-the-trainer institutes
- Mini-grants awarded to faculty for new strategy developments and disseminations
- Quarterly and need-based technical assistance
- On-going seminars through the project's website