

The Capacity Builder

Newsletter of the
Center for Capacity Building on Minorities with Disabilities Research
University of Illinois at Chicago

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UIC

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Dear Colleagues,

This is the fourth newsletter of the Center for Capacity Building on Minorities with Disabilities Research.

Our Center, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), works to build the capacity of state vocational rehabilitation agencies (VR) and community based-organizations (CBOs like Centers for Independent Living and/or other agencies serving minorities with disabilities) to develop more culturally competent services. In addition, we are devoted to improving the capacity of researchers to include individuals with disabilities from underrepresented groups in their work. Our work involves a national network of collaborators who are conducting a variety of research, evaluation, and training projects to fulfill our mission.

In this issue we share news of our *Disability, Race and Culture: The State-of-the-Science Conference*, held in Chicago, July 25 to 27, 2007. Presenters were leading national scholars whose work focuses on the nexus of disability, race and culture. The conference also included practitioners and advanced graduate students who reflected on the work presented and shared their reflections in a closing plenary. We are currently working on publishing an edited volume based on the conference presentations and reflections. We will include updates on the status of the book in future newsletters.

Please feel free to contact us if you are interested in any of our research or training. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you.

Sincerely,

Fabricio E. Balcazar, Ph.D.
Director & Professor
Dept. of Disability & Human Development

Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Professor & Head
Dept. of Occupational Therapy

Recent Publications and Accomplishments

- Harley, D.A., Alston, R.J., & Middleton, R.A. (2007). Infusing social justice into rehabilitation education: Making a case for curricula refinement. *Rehabilitation Education*, 21(1), 41-55.
- Suarez-Balcazar, Y., & Balcazar, F. (2007). Empowerment approaches to identifying and addressing health concerns among minorities with disabilities. In C. Dumont, & G. Kielhofner (Eds.), *Positive approaches to health* (pp. 153-168). New York: Nova Science Publishers.
- Suarez-Balcazar, Y., & Orellana-Damacela, L. (2007). Reporting bad news: Challenges and opportunities in an ethical dilemma. In M. Morris (Ed.), *Evaluation ethics for best practice: Cases and commentaries* (pp.155-165). Guildford: New York.
- Suarez-Balcazar, Y., & Rodakowski, J. (September, 2007). Becoming a culturally competent occupational therapy practitioner. *OT Practice*, 12, 14-17.
- Reginald Alston, Ph.D. received the James F. Garrett Distinguished Career in Rehabilitation Research Award, American Rehabilitation Counseling Association, 2007.

Disability, Race and Culture: The State-of-the-Science Conference Chicago, Illinois, July 25 to 27, 2007

THE CONFERENCE WAS CO-SPONSORED BY:

- The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) through a grant to the Center for Capacity Building on Minorities with Disabilities Research (the Center);
- The University of Illinois at Chicago's (UIC) Department of Disability and Human Development, Office of the Dean of Applied Health Sciences and Department of Occupational Therapy; and
- DePaul University's Department of Psychology and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

CONFERENCE GOALS:

- To provide an interactive forum for sharing state-of-the-science research concerning the juncture of disability, race, and culture among researchers, students, service providers, and people of color with disabilities.
- To prepare and publish a book based on the conference presentations and the perspectives of participants.

CONFERENCE FORMAT:

The conference included an evening reception on July 25th and full days on July 26th and 27th. It included two keynote addresses and 12 presentations by leading scholars, as well as three reaction panels of researchers, practitioners and recent doctorate and graduate students. In all, 77 people attended.

OPENING RECEPTION, JULY 25:

The opening reception on the evening of July 25 launched the conference. One hundred people attended, including conference participants, Center collaborators and agency partners, and invited guests. Music was played by Horacio Esparza and a light dinner and cocktails were served. Remarks were made by Michael Tanner, Ph.D., Provost, UIC; Charlotte (Toby) Tate, Ph.D., Dean, College of Applied Health Sciences, UIC; Tamar Heller, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Disability and Human Development, UIC; Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar, Ph.D., Head, Department of Occupational Therapy, UIC; Christopher Keys, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Psychology, DePaul University; Karen Tamley, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, City of Chicago; Grace Hou, Assistant Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services; Teresa Garate, M.Ed., Chief of Staff, Office of Specialized Services, Chicago Public Schools; and Fabricio Balcazar, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Disability and Human Development, and Director of the Center, UIC.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON JULY 26:

Disability, Ethnicity and Identity by Carol Gill, Ph.D., UIC, and William Cross, Ph.D., City University of New York.

PRESENTATIONS ON JULY 26:

A Conceptual Framework for Cultural Competence: Evidence of Organizational Impact by Fabricio Balcazar, Ph.D., Celestine Willis, M.A., Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar, Ph.D., UIC; Paul Leung, Ph.D., North Texas University; Rooshey Hasnain, Ed.D., University of Massachusetts; and Francisco Alvarado, M.A., Division of Rehabilitation Services, Illinois Department of Human Services.

Providing Rehabilitation Services to Recent Immigrants: Cultural Competence Education for Future Service Providers by John Stone, Ph.D. and Mary Matteliano, M.S., OTR/L, Center for International Rehabilitation Research Information and Exchange (CIRRIE), State University of New York at Buffalo.

Vocational Rehabilitation Acceptance and Phenotype: Expanding What We Know About Colorism by Keith B. Wilson, Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University, and Julissa Senices, Ph.D., Miami Counseling and Resource Center.

Building Capacity for Outcome Evaluation of Programs for People of Color with Disabilities: The Art and the Science by Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar, Ph.D., Tina Taylor-Ritzler, Ph.D., Edurne Garcia-Iriarte, M.S., UIC; Christopher Keys, Ph.D., DePaul University; Maria Restrepo-Toro, M.S., Boston University; Paul Leung, Ph.D., North Texas University; Holly Ruch-Ross, Sc.D., Independent Consultant; Leah Kinney, M.A., American Red Cross of Greater Chicago; and Gloria Curtin, M.Ed., El Valor.

Examining the Cultural Appropriateness of Psychological Tests when Assessing Vocational Rehabilitation Clients by Brigida Hernandez, Ph.D., Elizabeth Horin, M.A., Oscar Donoso, and Carrie Kaufman, DePaul University.

A Systems Approach to Placement (SAP) for Culturally Diverse People with Disabilities by Madan Kundu, Ph.D., and Alo Dutta, Ph.D., Rehabilitation Research Institute for Underrepresented Populations, Southern University.



Disability, Race and Culture: The State-of-the-Science Conference Chicago, IL, July 25 to 27, 2007

KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON JULY 27:

The Nature of Our "Knowing": Epistemology of Race and Disability Research by Glenn T. Fujiura, Ph.D., and Carlos Drazen, M.A., UIC.

PRESENTATIONS ON JULY 27:

Theory and Research on Ethical Decision-Making Models: Implications for Multicultural Rehabilitation Counseling by Jorge Garcia, Ph.D., George Washington University.

Three-factor Model of Multicultural Counseling for Consumers with Disabilities by Allen N. Lewis, Ph.D., CRC, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Aisha Shamburger, M.S., CRC, Richmond Public Schools.

Employment and Rehabilitation Issues for Minority Women with Disabilities by Diane Smith, Ph.D., and Reginald Alston, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Challenges to Providing Culturally Appropriate Care in Rehabilitation Setting: Defining a Behavioral Research Agenda and Examining Recent Advances with African Americans by Felicia Hill-Briggs, Ph.D. ABPP(Rp), Charisse Ewing, M.A., and Kennesha Kelly, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions.

Community Participation of American Indians with Disabilities Living on Tribal Lands by Julie Clay, MPH, and Tom Seekins, Ph.D., Rural Institute, University of Montana.

Development of Culturally Competent Mental Health Services and Supports for Minority Populations by Judith A. Cook, Ph.D., and Lisa A. Razzano, Ph.D., UIC National Research and Training Center on Psychiatric Disability.



RESEARCHER PANEL:

Angela Odoms-Young, Ph.D.
Northern Illinois University

Juan Carlos Arango, Ph.D.
Virginia Commonwealth University

Gary Kielhofner, Ph.D.
UIC

Glen White, Ph.D.
University of Kansas

Felicia Wilkins-Turner, Ed.D.
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
Vocational Rehabilitation Program

PRACTITIONER PANEL:

James Charlton
Access Living Center for Independent Living

Teresa Garate, M.Ed.
Chicago Public Schools

Rene Luna
Access Living Center for Independent Living

Orville Townsend
Iowa Department of Vocational
Rehabilitation Services

RECENT DOCTORATE AND GRADUATE STUDENT PANEL:

Courtney Bates, M.A.
Ph.D. student in Psychology at DePaul
University

Erin Hayes Kelly, Ph.D.
Shriners Children's Hospital, Chicago

Yanling (Millie) Li, M.S., M.A.
Ph.D. student in Disability Studies at UIC

Juleen Rodakowski
OTD student in Occupational Therapy at
UIC

Antonio Vasquez, M.A.
Ph.D. student in Disability Studies at UIC



Dinner and Dancing at Restaurant “Mi Tierra” on July 26th with Music by Carpacho Super Combo



A very special thank you to our staff who helped to make the conference a success:
Ximena Melo, Faby Balcazar, Shawn Dimpfl & Elizabeth Montalvo

University of Illinois
at Chicago

Center for Capacity Building on Minorities with Disabilities Research



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Check out our new website:
www.disabilityempowerment.org