



A Collaborative Publication from MSCDD, DRMS and IDS

## DD Network Partners Provide Training for College and University Disability Services Staff

The Institute for Disability Studies (IDS), the Mississippi Council for Developmental Disabilities (MSCDD) and Disability Rights Mississippi (DRMS) recently trained 75 staff from 18 community colleges and universities on how to better assist and accommodate students with disabilities. The trainings were held in Jackson, Hattiesburg, and Starkville.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) covers virtually all colleges and universities in the United States. Title II covers state funded colleges, universities, community colleges, and vocational schools. Title III covers private colleges and vocational schools. Any institution that receives federal dollars, whether public or private, is also covered by the regulations of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act that require school programs be accessible to qualified students with disabilities. All programs, including extracurricular activities, must be accessible to students with disabilities. This includes architectural access, providing aids and services for communication, and by the modification of policies, practices, and procedures where necessary.

Designed to provide participants with an interactive learning experience, the ADA Training provided a basic overview of the ADA and the incorporation of its elements in the postsecondary educational environment. Self-advocates shared personal stories regarding their on-campus experiences, including requesting and receiving accommodations. Training participants discussed emerging issues related to accommodations, such as emotional support animals, they are currently facing on the state's college and university campuses.

The DD Network partners plan to develop and implement a follow-up training focused on educating students with disabilities about how to ask for accommodations and how to accomplish their goals.

DD Network  
Partners Host  
Community  
Conversations

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"The only disability in life is a bad attitude." -**Scott Hamilton**

If you have information or news you would like to be included in the next issue, please email Jin Joo Crosby at [jin.mcclendon@usm.edu](mailto:jin.mcclendon@usm.edu).

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## DD Network Partners Host Community Conversations

Recently, Disability Rights Mississippi (DRMS), the Institute for Disability Studies (IDS), and the Mississippi Council for Developmental Disabilities (MSCDD) hosted three Community Conversations with 85 people with disabilities, family members, caregivers, and resource/service providers. The conversations were held in Flowood, Greenwood, and Gulfport.

These interactive sessions provided an opportunity for members of the community to come together to discuss priority disability-related issues and identify available resources in local areas. The open forum of these conversations allowed people with people with disabilities and their families to gather information, speak with advocates, and engage with representatives from disability resource, service, and advocacy organizations.

Information gathered during the Community Conversations will serve as a foundation for strategic and future planning for the DD Network partners as they continue their work to enhance quality of life for Mississippians with disabilities.

