



# Innovative and Sustainable Teaching Methods and Strategies to Ensure Students with Disabilities Receive a Quality Higher Education (IST)



## Get Connected! Disability Mentoring Day 2008 Hawai'i

In 2008, for the second year, the Innovative and Sustainable Teaching (IST) project of the Center on Disability Studies facilitated Hawai'i's Disability Mentoring Day. Building on 2007 activities, the 2008 DMD facilitators sought to further establish DMD throughout the state. To reach that goal, liaisons were sought on other islands. A liaison on the Big Island of Hawai'i (BI) assisted in expanding BI matches. Although no official liaison emerged from any of the other islands, two informal liaisons worked with IST staff to expand onto Maui.



## Disability Mentoring Day 2008 (DMD)

- DMD is a national effort to promote career development for students and job seekers with disabilities through hands-on career exploration, one-on-one job shadowing, and internship and employment opportunities.
- DMD first started in the White House in 1999 to increase the profile of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which is celebrated every October.
- DMD is commemorated on the third Wednesday of every October.
- Since 2001, American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) has been the leading coordinator and provides resources for DMD.
- Currently, all 50 states and over 20 international locations participate.

## Mission and Goals

The mission of Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) in Hawai'i is to increase internship and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. This is fostered through job shadowing, which increases motivation and confidence of job seekers with disabilities, dispels fears about hiring people with disabilities, and promotes diversity in the workforce. By increasing the visibility of persons with disabilities in the workforce, DMD is intended to counter common stereotypes ascribed to persons with disabilities.



- **Career Planning:** encouraging people with disabilities to think early about their careers and develop the skills necessary to compete in the marketplace
- **Empowerment:** exposing people with disabilities to opportunities that can help boost their financial security and inclusion in America's economic growth
- **Recruitment:** providing employers with a talented employee base that can be a hiring source now or in the future
- **Workplace Diversity:** educating employers about the importance of including people with disabilities in their diversity initiatives

## Mentors and Mentees

In 2007, 19 mentee and 24 mentor applications were received from the islands of O'ahu and Hawai'i. To increase the number of mentee applications, more focus was placed on recruiting mentees in 2008. A total of 27 persons agreed to participate as mentees and a total of 24 persons agreed to participate as mentors. This was also an increase of 10 matches in 2007 to 17 matches in 2008.

O'ahu	Maui	Big Island
22 mentees/22 mentors	2 mentees/1 mentor	3 mentees/1 mentor
15 matches made	No matches made	2 matches made

## Mentee Interests

- The participating mentees held a wide variety of job interests
- Nearly one-third of job interests were clerical or other computer-related professions.
  - One-sixth of job interests were in healing and social service professions.
  - One-sixth of job interests dealt with customer and employee services.

Clerical	Dispatcher for EMS	Computers	Food services	Sports/Events	Customer Service
Clerical	Nurse	Computers	Food services	Public Policy: Agriculture	Customer Service
Clerical	Mortuary Assistant	Data Entry	Communication	Public Policy: Environment	Customer Service
Clerical	Healing with Macro-biotics	Sound Engineer	Visual Communications	Sales	Human Resources
Clerical	Social Work	Inventor	Creative Writing	Business/Finance	Reception

Mentee Job Interests listed by category.

## Mentor Professions

DMD seeks to coordinate mentoring opportunities that closely match with the mentees' job interests. For that reason, mentors are recruited from diverse professional backgrounds.

Actor/Director/Producer	Consultant	Filmmaker/Screenwriter	Pharmacist	Stand-up Comedian
Artist	Director	Librarian	Professor of Philosophy	Student Athlete
Biomedical Research Assistant	Disability Specialist	Media Specialist	Psychologist	Teacher
Clerical	Emergency Medical Services Coordinator	Nurse	Recreational Specialist	Writer
CDS Life Coach	Entrepreneur	Nutritional Therapist	Social Worker	Youth Coordinator

Mentor Professions listed in alphabetical order.

## Disability Mentoring Day, Hawaii in the Press

**In 2008, DMD sought to expand the scope of the program by establishing mentoring matches on the neighbor islands. As part of this initiative, DMD appeared in media across the state.**

- Governor Linda Lingle issued an official Governor's Proclamation making October 15, 2008 Disability Mentoring Day in Hawaii.
- The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) issued a press release about DMD 2008 in both English and Hawaiian.
- The Maui News printed an article calling for participants and liaisons.
- Olelo Public Access Television issued a press release about DMD.
- Hawaii Public Radio and KTUH both ran stories about DMD.
- Ka Leo ran a feature article about Disability Mentoring Day.

## Future Directions with Disability Mentoring Day

**Based upon the responses to the DMD Evaluation Form, participants would like to see DMD improved in the following ways:**

- Participants would like more time with their mentors or mentees.
- Participants would like to have more support or information on the day itself.
- An event in which all participants can come together to discuss their experiences and thank their mentors and mentees for giving of their time.
- An opening session facilitated by DMD staff.
- A brochure for participants to keep that includes a fact sheet, topic starters and goals for the day.
- More directed information that would help them learn more about their chosen future career.
- Also, based on participant job interests, DMD may consider adding a computer skills workshop for future mentees.