

National Capacity Building Institute

Guest Speaker Bios

Paul Leung, Ph.D., CRC
University of North Texas
Department of Rehabilitation, Social Work and Addictions

Dr. Paul Leung is currently professor and chair, dept of rehabilitation, social work and addictions at the University of North Texas. Dr. Leung has held academic and administrative appointments at the University of Arizona, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Illinois-Urbana and Deakin University (Victoria, Australia). While at the University of Illinois, his responsibilities included services for students with disabilities (arguably the first in the U.S. as well as one of the most comprehensive) and during his tenure at Deakin University led a team of researchers to completing the first national survey of assistive technology requirements of post secondary students with disabilities funded by the Australian government. His interests have focused most recently on disability and rehabilitation of ethnic minority populations targeting those groups who have traditionally not been well served by vocational rehabilitation. Dr. Leung has an extensive publication record, served as editor for the Journal of Rehabilitation, and is currently President of the National Association on Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns.

Bobbie J. Atkins, Ph.D.
San Diego State University
Interwork Institute

Dr. Bobbie J. Atkins has over 30 years of experience in teaching, research, publications, and service in rehabilitation counseling. She has distinguished herself as a leader nationally and internationally with expertise in diversity, leadership, alcohol and drug prevention, AIDS education, and leadership. In 1999, the National Association for Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC) named its research award the Bobbie J. Atkins Rehabilitation Research Award. She received the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) President's Award in 2003. In her role as National Project Coordinator for the Rehabilitation Cultural Diversity Initiative (RCDI), she was able to more directly impact diversity developments for rehabilitation. Dr. Atkins serves as Project Director for several grants where she impact people of color through training, technical assistance, and universal teaching and learning in higher education.

Mari Guillermo, Ed.D.
San Diego State University
Interwork Institute

Dr. Mari Guillermo serves as project coordinator of Capacity Building Success, the RSA funded capacity building project at San Diego State University. As the project coordinator, she is responsible for developing and delivering online modules in grant writing for minority entities. Dr. Guillermo has valuable experience in online instruction and is currently teaching online courses for rehabilitation professionals. Her expertise is in the areas of training on disability and diversity, program development, capacity building, and community outreach. In addition, she is Project Coordinator for two other projects focused on 1) universal teaching and learning and 2) disability and domestic violence.

Sheryl Burgstahler, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking and Technology (DO-IT)

Dr. Sheryl Burgstahler directs DO-IT and Accessible Technology Services and Outreach at the University of Washington. DO-IT promotes the success of students with disabilities in postsecondary programs and careers. DO-IT employs technology to help young people with disabilities achieve success in postsecondary education and careers. It sponsors programs that increase the use of assistive technology and promote the development of accessible facilities, computer labs, electronic resources in libraries, Web pages, educational multi-media and Internet-based distance learning programs. Dr. Burgstahler is also Co-Director of the National Center on Accessible Information Technology in Education (AccessIT). This alliance coordinates a nation-wide effort to assist educational and governmental institutions to reach the goal of making education-based information technology (IT) accessible to all students and employees, including those with disabilities. Dr. Burgstahler directs the Northwest Alliance for Access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (AccessSTEM). This center, funded by the National Science Foundation, serves to increase the participation of people with disabilities in STEM academics programs and careers.

Margo Vreeburg Izzo, Ph.D.
Ohio State University
Nisonger Center

Dr. Margo Vreeburg Izzo is Research Associate and Program Manager for the Special Education and Transition area at the Nisonger Center, a University Center of Excellence on Disabilities at the Ohio State University. With over 26 years experience in the special education field, Dr. Izzo has extensive experience with grant management, program evaluation, and political advocacy. Currently, Dr. Izzo is the Principal Investigator of two federally funded education grants designed to improve the academic outcomes of students with disabilities at both the secondary and postsecondary levels. Dr. Izzo has also developed educational curricula for students with disabilities and their parents, conducted numerous trainings, focus groups, and interviews with teachers and students, managed the development of websites, videocassettes, and other dissemination products including a national teleconference, and has published several articles, papers, and information briefs on disability and transition issues. Dr. Izzo completed her Ph.D. in Special Education, Rehabilitation and Research at OSU in 1998, and received her MA from George Washington University in Washington D.C. She is a recipient of a Mary E. Switzer Fellowship from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) and is also a Past President of the Division of Career Development and Transition (DCDT) within the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).