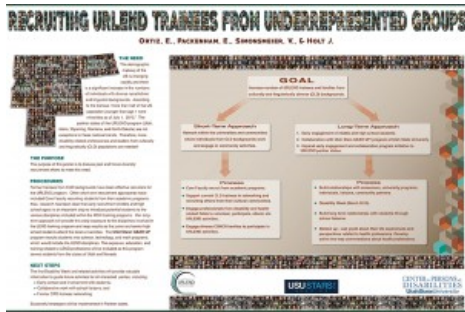


# AUCD Poster Discusses Diversity

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A poster presented at a recent Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) meeting by researchers at Utah State University's Center for Persons with Disabilities examined diversity in a CPD project.

Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (URLEND) researchers Eduardo Ortiz, Vicki Simonsmeier and Judith Holt, along with another colleague, presented the poster in Washington, D. C.

According to the poster, the demographic makeup of the United States is changing, with a rapid increase in the number of individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) backgrounds. The partner states of the LEND program (Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota) are not exceptions to the national trend, so the researchers determined that more CLD disability-related professionals are needed.

To reach this goal, both a short-term goal and a long-term goal will be initiated.

The short-term approach includes networking within the universities and communities to engage individuals from CLD backgrounds and encourage them to participate in URLEND activities.

The long-term approach includes early engagement of middle- and high-school students through collaboration with the Utah STARS GEAR-UP program at USU, which recruits students into science, technology and math programs, which include the URLEND disciplines.