

Poster highlights CPD youth programs | CPD

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A poster presented at a recent Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) conference highlighted three programs at Utah State University's Center for Persons with Disabilities that empower, elevate and offer experiences to youth with disabilities. The poster was presented by Judith Holt, Jeff Sheen and Sarah Bodily.

The New Ideas for Networking Junior Advocates (NINJA) conference brings together youth from across Utah who are involved in the Utah Statewide Independent Living Center (USILC) youth groups. The NINJA conference emphasizes leadership and advocacy skills for youth with disabilities.

Aggies Elevated is an inclusive college experience for young adults with intellectual disabilities. The program, now in its second year, serves 11 students who live in campus housing, take college classes with their typical peers and participate in campus activities. The program was recently awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education for expansion.

Project PEER (Post-secondary Education, Employment & Research), currently in its 10th year, provides an environment in which young people learn, research happens and volunteerism thrives. It offers work experience and opens doors for students with disabilities, allowing them to participate in post-secondary education.