



PRESS RELEASE

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AUCD, ICI, and HI Launch Professional Fellows Program for Inclusive Disability Employment

SILVER SPRING, MD – The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston and Handicap International are pleased to announce that they will host participants from the U.S. Department of State’s Professional Fellows Program in April and May of 2018. As part of the fellowship, 10 mid-level emerging leaders from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda will travel to cities around the United States to broaden their professional skills and expertise.

The participants will arrive in the United States on April 26, 2018 and will be placed at University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) for individually tailored professional development experiences. The Fellows will build a network with their American counterparts as they develop a deeper understanding of U.S. society. Participants will also develop individual action plans to address a challenge in their community or region to be implemented when they return home.

The Professional Fellows Program concludes with the Professional Fellows Congress, a capstone event May 30 – June 1, 2018 in Washington, D.C. focusing on professional development, leadership, problem solving, and networking.

After the program concludes, some of the Americans who hosted Fellows in their workplaces will travel overseas for participant-driven reciprocal programs that support the implementation of Fellows’ action plans in their home communities.

For further information, please contact the program team at sdemaio@aucd.org / (240) 821-9463. For press inquiries on the Professional Fellows Program, contact ECA-Press@state.gov.

About AUCD

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), located in Silver Spring, MD, promotes and supports a national network of interdisciplinary centers on disabilities. The members of AUCD

represent every U.S. state and territory and include 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), 49 Interdisciplinary Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Programs and 15 Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRC). Together, these organizations advance policies and practices that improve the health, education, social, and economic well-being of people with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and their communities, in support of independence, productivity, and healthy and satisfying quality of life.

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