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School for Global Inclusion and Social Development: Expanding the UMass Boston community on a regional, national, and international level

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School for Global Inclusion and Social Development

Expanding the UMass Boston community on a regional, national, and international level

The New School

The School for Global Inclusion and Social Development (SGISD) is the newest graduate school at UMass Boston. We are the first graduate program in the world to focus on wellness, disability, and economic development from an international perspective. The first students in our master's program will start classes in January 2014, with our PhD program to launch in September 2014.

SGISD's emphasis is on groups of people who are excluded from communities here in the US and abroad, due to disability or other conditions. Instruction will be delivered on campus, online, and through international exchange programs.

Students can specialize in:

Transition Leadership

Support young people with intellectual disabilities as they transition from high school to adult life.

Rehabilitation Counseling

Provide support to job seekers with barriers to work, including a range of disabilities.

Vision Studies

Work with students with visual impairments and blindness to ensure their success in school and in their communities.

Our students will also learn about cultural competency, nonprofit management, population needs and global practices, and research and evaluation methods.

SGISD builds off of the training and research expertise of the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI), which is now housed within the new school. Since the 1960s, the ICI has been at the forefront of disability training, research, and advocacy.

Examples of the ICI's and SGISD's global efforts between October 2011 and October 2012

Harambee Park Playground Launch
Dorchester, MA, USA

Led research on disability employment policy in a 13-country comparative study funded by the European Union. Project partners were academicians and researchers from 12 other countries.
ICI/SGISD Staff: Helle Beedtz
Country: Germany

Trained self-advocates and professionals (grassroots, non-profit, and government based) about creating fully inclusive communities. Emphasis was on using accessible language, providing accessible meeting space, and implementing accessible outreach strategies to other sub-communities such as youth and women. International partner was World Disability Union.
ICI/SGISD Staff: Erol Yildiz
Country: Turkey

Developed training materials for employment and teaching staff.
ICI/SGISD Staff: Bill Korman
Countries: Saudi Arabia, Japan, and China

Decided a distance-learning program and hands-on workshops to train professionals in the vision studies field. Collaborated with University of Guam and its CEDOMAS program (Center for Excellence in Developmental Disability Education, Research, and Services).
ICI/SGISD Staff: Bob McElroy
Countries: Guam, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Partnered with "Fundación Oportunidad" to work with preschool children from resource-poor areas in Santiago, Chile. Helped establish this project in 2006, and later served as consultant.
ICI/SGISD Staff: Judy Pelroy
Country: Chile

Worked on the Employees with Disabilities Capabilities Development project in Saudi Arabia. Consulted with the Saudi Arabian government in the area of workforce development.
ICI/SGISD Staff: Stella Fesko
Country: Saudi Arabia

Michelle Obama's Campaign Against Childhood Obesity
Washington, DC, USA

Development of a National Mental Health Policy for the Republic of Turkey
Kocaeli University, Kocaeli, Turkey

Consultation with Ministry of Labor
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Pacific Vision Impairment Project Master's Degree Program
University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam

Meeting students from Soka University Hachioji, a suburb of Tokyo, Japan

