

Advisory Board Assists in Development of UDI Web Site

The Universal Design for Instruction Project Advisory Board has an important role in the development of ways to apply the principles of Universal Design for Instruction in the postsecondary environment. The UDI project team had the opportunity to meet with several of the Advisory Board members at the Postsecondary Training Institute (PTI) in Portland, ME, in June. At that meeting, we identified the primary focus of the Advisory Board for the next year to be on assisting us to identify faculty who might contribute instructional products for publication on the Facultyware web site. This involves identifying faculty who use innovative teaching methods to enhance instruction, particularly those that have provided more inclusive instruction for diverse students. The gathering and sharing of instructional products is a critical component of our work that will enhance the concept of UDI and validate its principles as we work to translate them from theory to practice.

In order to assist Board members with this task, we have recently focused on orienting them to the foundations of our work. Reference manuals have been disseminated to them in order to provide background and general information about the conceptual foundation of Universal Design as well as the emerging Principles of UDI ©. Of course, we then asked them for feedback on the orientation materials to continue to engage in ongoing reflection and dialogue about our work.

The Advisory Board will also be instrumental in assisting us with the development of the Facultyware web site. The site continues to be a work in progress with the eventual goal of widespread dissemination at the conclusion of the project. We

will be engaging the collective expertise of the Advisory Board throughout the development process, and look forward to some interesting discussions as we enter into the final phase of the UDI project.

Our collaboration with the Advisory Board is a wonderful enhancement to our project. We appreciate their participation and consider ourselves fortunate to have this wealth of experience and expertise available to us.