

Strength in Unity: Cross-Institution Collaboration to Support Small and One-Person Offices

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We ask you to join us in creating a culture that reflects...

Access and Inclusion

and

Civility and Respect

...this week and in all aspects of our organization.

Pre-session Survey

Strength in Unity - Pre-session
Survey



Please complete this brief [survey](#) to help us understand what type of collaboration may be right for you.

What To Expect

- Introductions
- Sharing details of our networks
 - Structure
 - Function
 - Importance
- Networking opportunity
- Q&A

Learning Goals

- Participants will leave the session with at least one new professional contact for future collaboration.
- Participants will understand how to build a larger community of support within their respective systems.

Introductions

- Both of us had nontraditional paths to disability services
- Nicole
 - K – 12 background, high school special education teacher for 15 years
 - Studied Elementary, Inclusive Education and Math Education, Ed.D in Curriculum and Instruction
- Jordan
 - Studied history, worked in Accessibility Office as a graduate assistant
- Met at an AHEAD conference – AHG in 2022

Definition

Collaboration is the process of two or more individuals, organizations, or groups **working together to achieve a shared goal or objective**. It involves sharing **knowledge, resources, and expertise** to produce a result greater than what could be achieved individually.

Examples of Our Collaboration

- **SUNY** – State University of New York
- **NYSDSC** – New York State Disability Services Council
- **WNY CCDA** – Western New York Collegiate Consortium of Disability Advocates
- **AHEAD**

SUNY

- System of schools in New York State
 - Comprehensive, Research, Community Colleges
- Weekly meetings open to all schools
- Subgroups – hold monthly meetings
 - Housing, Accommodate, EITA, STAMP (testing)
- Communication via Listserv
- Organized by Director of Resources for Students with Disabilities at SUNY System Administration

NYSDSC

- New York State's chapter of AHEAD
- 3 Sectors
 - SUNY, CUNY, Independent
- Committees
 - Executive, Government Relations, Website & Access Technologies, Nominations & Awards, Professional Development
- Communication via Listserv
- 2 Conferences per year
 - In-person summer and virtual fall

WNY CCDA

- Western New York Consortium under NYSDSC
 - Open to post secondary and secondary education professionals, community and government agency representatives
- Monthly meetings open to all members
- Host events for the community
 - **College Night** – fall transition event for high school students and parents
 - **Before the Cap & Gown** – spring conference for to K-12 professionals
- Collaborate with outside agencies
 - Commission for the Blind, ACCES-VR, The Arc, Neurodiversity Network

Other Professional Networks

- AHEAD
- CLD
- Share any networks

How Can You Apply This?

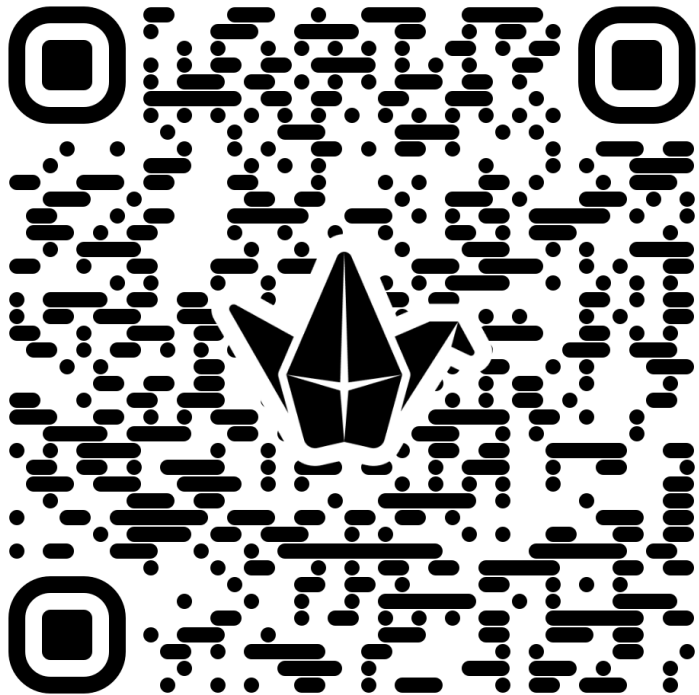
- Find other institutions
 - National
 - State
 - Region
- AHEAD Groups
- Seek out professionals in area of need rather than size of school
 - Testing
 - Accommodations
 - Programming

Discussion and Networking

- Do you already have similar networks that you are connected with? Are you an active member? If so, describe that looks like?
- What are some of your practices for collaboration?
- What are the barriers you've faced when trying to build or maintain cross-institutional relationships?
- Where do you need more support?

Share Out

Discussion and Networking



To access board, please go to following
[site:](https://padlet.com/nmucica/AHEADCollaboration2025)

<https://padlet.com/nmucica/AHEADCollaboration2025>

Questions?

- Nicole Mucica – Nmucica@brockport.edu
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Session Evaluation



tinyurl.com/AHEADFeedback

Your feedback helps shape future programming.

Thank you for attending!