



Fall 2023 Newsletter

## OSUCDD at the Capitol

Dr. Jennifer Jones and members of the Opportunity Orange Scholars team were invited to speak to Oklahoma legislators at an interim study, *Oklahoma Promise and Post-Secondary School for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, led by Rep. Ellyn Hefner. Orange Power and Cowboy Pride were on full display as our Opportunity Orange Scholar students, partners, instructors, and supporters shared the powerful impact OOS is having on the OSU community.

A recording of the interim study is available [here](#).



## Welcome, Cowboys!

Opportunity Orange Scholars (OOS) welcomed a new cohort of 5 students to the OSU campus in August 2023.

Click on the photos below to read more about life as an OOS student:



Help us create an inclusive educational experience and a more diverse campus at OSU by supporting student scholarships for Opportunity Orange Scholars.

[Donate to PhilanthroPETE here!](#)

Want to learn more about Opportunity Orange Scholars?

<http://oos.okstate.edu>

## OSU Unified kicks off new season bringing record number of athletes and partners together

OSU Unified provides and supports opportunities for adult Special Olympic athletes to compete alongside OSU students, faculty, and staff in OSU intramural sports.

The Fall season of OSU Unified has seen the highest attendance numbers to date for the sports club. Athletes and partners teamed up to play bocce, cornhole, flag football, 3v3 basketball, and bowling.

Are you interested in getting involved? Find us [here](#).



## OSUCDD partners with Stillwater Public Schools

As part of an ongoing partnership with Stillwater Public Schools (SPS), each semester students in the SPS PathFinders program participate in Self-Determination training facilitated by OSUCDD staff and interns. The OSUCDD Self-Determination training teaches the skills needed to enhance self-awareness and self-determination. These skills help support students as they explore volunteer experiences and internship opportunities.

## Faculty affiliates join OSUCDD



Dr. Mike Stout joins OSUCDD as Associate Director of Policy. Dr. Stout is an Associate Professor in Human Development and Family Science, the George Kaiser Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Family and Community Policy, and State Extension Specialist in Family and Consumer Science at Oklahoma State University-Tulsa. Dr. Stout's main area of research focuses on



Dr. Emily Abel joins OSUCDD as a Faculty Affiliate. Dr. Abel is an Assistant Professor in Human Development and Family Science (HDFS). She received her PhD in HDFS from Purdue University in 2022. Dr. Abel has extensive training in pediatric sleep health, developmental assessment, and developmental disabilities. Her research is broadly focused on

how social and economic inequities limit access to valuable connections, resources, and opportunities in underserved communities, and how these inequities lead to disparities in outcomes related to health and well-being. Dr. Stout works with individuals, organizations, and decisionmakers to build capacity for community-driven approaches to policy and systems change.

“I am thrilled and honored to be working with Dr. Jones and her amazing team at OSUCDD. The Center is doing such important work to improve outcomes for one of our society’s most marginalized populations. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities experience profound challenges, including disparities in health, employment, education, and community inclusion. I look forward to contributing to the Center’s efforts by supporting the impactful work that is already being done and by helping to integrate community-driven approaches to policy and systems change so that all people with IDD have equitable opportunities to thrive and live their best life.”

measuring, understanding, and promoting sleep health for autistic children. Most recently, Dr. Abel’s work is focused on increasing accessibility in sleep research for autistic children and their family using telehealth approaches to sleep measurement (non-invasive, remote monitoring). In this work, she aims to improve equity in recruitment strategies and develop opportunities for children and caregivers to determine what improvement in sleep and quality of life looks like for them.

“The OSUCDD is a huge part of what drew me to my current position in HDFS and why I love OSU. I am excited to partner with the OSUCDD in their mission to enhance quality of life, health, and belonging for all. I am passionate about promoting access to sleep resources and research opportunities for children with developmental disabilities and families in the state of Oklahoma and beyond.”

### ***Our Mission***

**The Center for Developmental Disabilities elevates the land grant mission by learning from and working alongside individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and supporters to enhance the quality of life for all.**

### ***Our Vision***

**Live in a world that supports everyone to pursue & experience their best life.**

**For more information about ongoing research and programming, visit the Center for Developmental Disabilities [website](#).**



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Center for Developmental Disabilities | 032 Nancy Randolph Davis (NRD) | Stillwater, OK 74078  
US

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