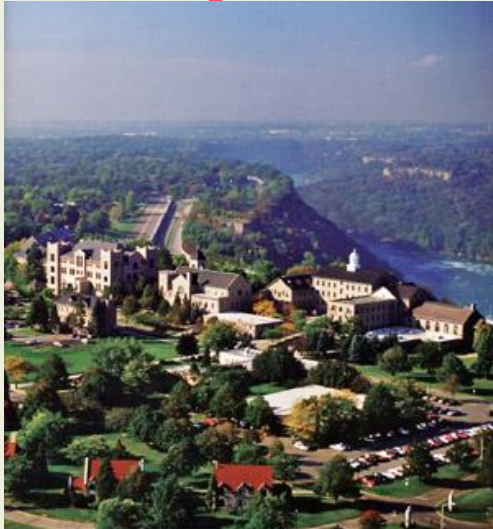


# First Responders-Disability Awareness Training Newsletter

## Updates



Niagara University (NU) has begun discussion on how to make the **First Responders Disability Awareness Training (FR-DAT)** program an established component within the structure of the university. This will ensure that the program is available to you for years to come and will allow for the development of disability specific training, on-line training, applications, research, and outreach to other states.

**Janine Hunt-Jackson, Ph.D.**, has been hired in the NU FR-DAT office. She brings years of disability advocacy and awareness training experience to the program. This will also allow for more progress to be made in several topic areas.



NU FR-DAT has submitted the training to NYS DOH EMS for **CME accreditation**. In anticipation of the program being approved, we look forward to establishing the training within EMS networks.

## Pilot Sessions Complete!

First Responders Disability Awareness Training (FR DAT) has concluded the pilot sessions, conducted around the state to garner interest in the program, receive feedback from first responders on the content, and of course train on proper disability response in all situations in which first responders are involved. The results were very positive! 19 sessions were conducted from Suffolk County to Erie County and many points in between. There were 471 attendees, of which 390 turned in evaluations. 99% recommended the program while 91% saw it as above average/excellent in practical usefulness, 96% rated the program content above average/excellent and 97% indicated it was above average/excellent in overall quality. The end of the pilot sessions does not mean that training is shut down. We will provide training at select locations and conferences after review of your request.

## Train the Trainer



We are now beginning the process of developing the Train the Trainer curriculum, which will be rolled out in late summer/early fall. For law

enforcement, this will come out of DCJS. Niagara will be meeting with DOH EMS in March to discuss how to best present it for EMS. OFPC has invited the project coordinator to the State Fire Instructor (SFI) trainings to introduce to SFIs. The first session on February 22nd was very well received.

## FR-DAT Gets the Green Light from DCJS!

## Quick Links

While there was a setback in the development of the website, we are certain it will be better than ever once we get all the necessary information to the developer. Look for an improved site in the coming months ([www.fr-dat.com](http://www.fr-dat.com)).

**For more information or questions contact us at:**

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**Michael Stoddard, Assistant to the Coordinator**

**Matthew Johnson, Research Assistant**

NU FR DAT completed review of DCJS Persons with Disabilities section with the help of subject matter experts. NU has submitted the updated revisions to DCJS for approval by the Municipal Police Training Council. We are confident this will enhance the knowledge recruits will need to best understand how to respond to individuals who are blind, deaf, have autism or Alzheimer's disease.



## Outreach & Assistance

### Future Funding

See a grant, foundation, or donation that matches the goals of FR-DAT? Let us know and we'll find ways to partner with you to benefit both our program and yours. Currently, there exists funding for **municipal fire departments** from the Dennis Leary foundation that is a perfect match with our program. Please contact us if you have an interest in moving forward on this.

### ADA Coordinators

Do you know who your area's ADA Coordinator is? NU FR-DAT is in the process of compiling a list of **ALL** ADA Coordinators in NYS. Please assist us in doing this by sending us the information for the ADA Coordinator in your area or who we can contact to find out. Not sure what an ADA Coordinator is or does? Check out this link for more information. [Click here](#)


### Conferences & Training Opportunities

NU FR-DAT is always looking for training opportunities and conferences to become a part of across the three disciplines. If you know of an upcoming opportunity please forward us any information. Also, we would be happy to send information regarding our training program to anyone attending or hosting trainings to help spread the word.

### Town Hall Training (THT)

Town Hall Training is an innovative program





for municipal employees, disability advocates, and individuals interested in ensuring that their town or city responds to the needs of people with disabilities in a proactive manner. Some key points are the development of committees on disabilities, the role of the ADA Coordinator, accessibility/inclusivity in municipalities, and specific department roles and responsibilities with an emphasis on police and fire departments. For more information contact our office or visit our website.