

# Disability Awareness Training Newsletter

Mental Health Awareness Month



**First Responders Disability Awareness Training**  
 P.O. Box 1941  
 Timon Hall 121 & 105B  
 Niagara University, NY  
 14109-1941

Phone: 716-286-7355  
 Email: [frdat@niagara.edu](mailto:frdat@niagara.edu)  
 Website: [frdat.niagara.edu](http://frdat.niagara.edu)

Like us on Facebook 

## [DONATE NOW!!](#)

### Recent News

[Cop Saves Suicidal Woman From Jumping Off Bridge](#)

[Web accessibility rules coming in 2018](#)

[Ways to Be an Ally for Someone Who Has a Mental Illness](#)

[A Badge & Open Ears](#)

### New Resources

[Mental Health](#)

[First Aid](#)

[Marlee Matlin on Deaf and Police Interaction](#)

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. See the related article and resource we've posted on the left and access our website for more information. Please also learn more about the national, state, and regional associations that provide support and services.

## Project Director Named Disability Advocate of the Year by Deaf Access Services



*Project Director Dave Whalen, Gala Co-Chair & Board Member Christina Manning, Gala Co-Chair & Board President Michael Cross, and DAS Executive Director Sharon Hanson.*

Project Director Dave Whalen was named **Advocate of the Year for 2016** by [Western New York Deaf Access Services \(DAS\)](#). Whalen received the award at the DAS Spring Gala on April 15.

"We recognize and appreciate your kindness and generous support of our organization and the people we serve," wrote board president Michael Cross in a congratulatory letter. Through the NU FRDAT program, DAS and Dave have developed over 200 ASL signs for first responders, created the Deaf/Hard of Hearing curriculum in the Disability Awareness Training program, and recently created an informational video on the value of video remote interpreting when first responders are interacting with people who use ASL.

## NENA Signs Agreement with NU FRDAT

**National Emergency Numbers Association (NENA)** and NU FRDAT signed an agreement that establishes a collaborative relationship between the two entities. NENA now recognizes NU FRDAT's **911 Dispatch Disability Awareness Training** curriculum's value and necessity. The program will be promoted in their catalog and become a part of their national training registry.



NU FRDAT will also be present at the **NENA 2016 Conference & Expo** in Indianapolis in June. Project Director Dave Whalen will be introducing the 911 Dispatch program to workshop attendants.

[First Responder Video Remote Interpreting](#)

### **Related Events**

[FEMA Promising Practice: Disability Inclusion in Planning & Hawaii Personal Preparedness - May 12](#)

[Suicide Prevention, Intervention & Postvention - May 20-21](#)

[BIANYS Professional Symposium - June 8](#)

### **QUICK LINKS**

[Incidents Map](#)

[Request Training](#)

[Report an Occurrence](#)

[Join Our Trainer Network](#)

[Become a FRDAT Ambassador](#)

## **New York State Justice Center Signs Agreement with NU FRDAT**

NU FRDAT and the **New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs** have entered into a three year working agreement that enhances the law enforcement disability awareness training in the state of New York. The purpose of the relationship is to support the Justice Center's ability to conduct regular law enforcement trainings for local departments and officers.



It also calls for the NU FRDAT Project Director to provide insight and expertise to the Justice Center on matters relative to proper response to victims with developmental disabilities. This would include personnel training and more enhanced curriculum development, such as investigator interviewing.

## **NU FRDAT and Deaf Access Services Produce Video Remote Interpreting PSA**



*Video Remote Interpreting*

NU FRDAT and DAS collaborated on a public service announcement for the use of video remote interpreting (VRI) by first responders. The video was presented at DAS' Spring Gala in April. It features DAS employees and first responders from the Niagara County Sheriff's Office and Upper Mountain Fire Company.

## **NU FRDAT Social Work Intern Receives National Award**

Ms. Emily Palermo, a senior social work intern at the NU FRDAT office, recently received the **Student of the Year** award from the **National Association of Social Workers New York State Western Division**. The award recognizes her work with the Buffalo school district addressing absentee rates.



Emily's role with the NU FRDAT office was to research and assist in developing the Healthcare Disability Awareness Training curriculum, which debuted in April at the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

## **TRAINING & CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**May 10-11 - [Albany \(NY\) Fire/EMS Train the Trainer](#)**



**May 21** - [Fire, Home & Car Safety for Families \(Cheektowaga, NY\)](#)

**May 26** - [DD Awareness Day \(Niagara Falls, NY\)](#)

**June 11-16** - [NENA 2016 Conference & Expo \(Indianapolis, IN\)](#)

**July 10-13** - [NYSACP 2016 Training Conference \(Buffalo, NY\)](#)

**July 27-29** - [NYS Probation Officer Conference \(Niagara Falls, NY\)](#)