

# First Responders-Disability Awareness Training Newsletter

Second Edition

November 2011

## Making Strides in Buffalo!



Both the Buffalo Fire Department and the Buffalo Police Department are the second and third largest departments in NYS, respectively. They have both stated that Niagara University's First Responders Disability Awareness Training will be a **MANDATED** part of their training in the future! Thank you for your continuing support!

### Year Two

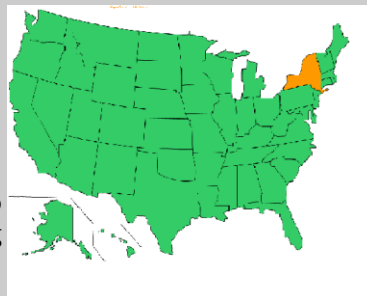
We are contemplating more training in the pilot fashion throughout the state. Our year end objective is to begin to train EMT instructors, fire instructors, law enforcement academy instructors, and

### FR DAT- The Grant, One Year In

Niagara University's First Responders Disability Awareness Training grant is officially entering its second year this month. The project coordinator presented to the full council of the NYS DDPC in late October and was met with positive remarks and much support for what has been accomplished. A lot of that is attributed to the role First Responders, their associations and councils, and the state offices have played in understanding the worth of the program and supporting it. That said, we have a long way to go. We look forward to working with you in year 2!

### News & Notes

We will be the first state in the country to have a coordinated, comprehensive disability awareness training program for First Responders, and others are taking note. Alabama has recently made contact as to how to start this program up. A representative from Northern Ireland will be in the Albany area for a week to learn more about the programs NYS law enforcement utilizes in how to best respond when interacting with individuals with disabilities. NU FR-DAT will be spending some time with them. We will also be sending out surveys to emergency managers and law enforcement academy directors to better understand what you are providing on this topic and what you feel you need more of to enhance your training.



The NU FR-DAT office recently received funding to provide training to individuals invested in ensuring their municipality is understanding how to respond to their citizens with disabilities. Our Town Hall Training (THT) Program covers many areas the municipality is responsible for, one of which is law enforcement and emergency management

### Pilot rollout sessions

We have been presenting the training throughout various

department training coordinators in the curriculum so as to lay the roots down for the regions to begin to provide this internally.

## FR-DAT Website

While still a soft launch we are comfortable in directing First Responders to begin to access our website for all information relative to your needs in best responding to individuals with disabilities.

Our site includes extensive information on disabilities, a link to a site that shows sign language, a quasi-application from Texas A&M that can be downloaded now, our calendar of events, and other resources and information to assist you in gathering information and materials. Please go to [www.fr-dat.com](http://www.fr-dat.com) to learn more.

Join Our Mailing List!

### CONTACT US:

Timon Hall, 121  
PO Box 1941  
Niagara University, NY 14109-1941  
[frdat@niagara.edu](mailto:frdat@niagara.edu)  
716-286-7355

EMS councils, county fire training centers, and law enforcement academies. The intent is to introduce the program, garner interest and support, solicit input into the end product, identify potential trainers and, of course, provide training on how to best respond to people with disabilities. As the winter months roll in, we will be pulling back on the statewide tour and concentrating on the development of the train the trainer curriculum. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving a training session in pilot format or for your instructors.



## Evaluation Summary and Comments

- 93% have rated the program "excellent" when asked about it's usefulness for first responders
- 98% would recommend this to someone else
- "Gave a better understanding of people with disabilities and how to deal with them in a law enforcement capacity"
- "ALL 911 dispatchers should sit through this training"
- "Points out how prevelant it is and what to be aware of"
- "Alot of times disabilities aren't readily recognizable by first responders. I feel this class will help me better understand the situation and prepare first responders better"
- "Information that many (first responders) are unaware of. Useful techniques and surprising statistics!"
- "(The presentation tells us) what we can expect and what is expected of us"
- "Touched on multiple topics, many ideas on how to approach individuals."
- "Thanks for a great program, disability awareness resource manual is an excellent source of information."
- "It also made me aware of communication and to be calm when interacting with people with disabilities."