

# Disability Awareness Training Newsletter

February 8 - International Epilepsy Day



## First Responders Disability Awareness Training

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Dear Samantha,

As we delve into 2016, the Niagara University First Responder Disability Awareness Training office is excited about the many opportunities on the horizon. While this newsletter will highlight some of them, there are several proposals and arrangements we will be sharing with you in the near future. Your input and support is greatly appreciated.

## Project Director Invited to Missouri to Introduce Disability Awareness Training

The State of Missouri has added a new regulation stating that law enforcement needs to be trained in "handling persons with mental health and cognitive impairment issues." [Read the Governor's statement about the new legislation here.](#)



Within a matter of weeks, an itinerary has been set that will call for NU FRDAT Project Director Dave Whalen to present to the statewide Victimization Task Force, the St. Louis Police Department, Kansas City Police Department, and Independence Fire Department, with a pending meeting at the Governor's office. In conjunction with the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council, meetings will be held with key first responders in an attempt to bring the program to Missouri.

NU's Law Enforcement Disability Awareness Training program is now an accredited program through the Missouri Department of Public Safety Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) program.

## Niagara University to Update New York State Police Officer Basic Course

Project Director Dave Whalen is working with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to revise the "Individuals with Disabilities" training section of the NYS Basic Course for Police Officers.



The basic course consists of 639 hours of training for new recruits, of which only 2 hours was committed to persons with disabilities. The State of New York has recognized that the comprehensive training Niagara University has been providing should be mandatory for all recruits. The Niagara University Law Enforcement Disability Awareness Training consists of 8 hours with 16 sections covering ALL disabilities relevant to law enforcement.

This has been the main objective of the NU FRDAT initiative and the disability community is appreciative that the State of New York will be the first state in the nation to require this training.

## NU FRDAT is Expanding! Master Trainers Selected to Address National Demand

[Network Learning Session: Accessible Means of Egress/Emergency Evacuation - Feb 11](#)

[People with Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System: Promising Legislation for Statewide Reforms - February 25](#)

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NU FRDAT is embarking on the next step towards expansion of the delivery of its training with the first orientation of Master Trainers.

These are first responders who have exemplified an in-depth understanding of the program and have an interest in training their peers across the country in proper response to people with disabilities. With the steady flow of inquiries for training, this step is necessary in providing the comprehensive training first responders need.

Orientation will be held on March 14-15 on campus.

## NU Partners with US Attorney & FBI to Host Law Enforcement Disability Awareness for Western NY

With the recent success of the training provided to the FBI Buffalo field office, the US Attorneys Office Law Enforcement Coordinator and the FBI have partnered with NU FRDAT to provide a one-day direct training to local law enforcement officers.

The training, funded by the Peter & Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation, will be held at Hilbert College on Tuesday, March 8. Interested parties can [register here](#).

## TRAINING & CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**February 15** - [Seneca Nation \(NY\) Fire/EMS Disability Awareness Training](#)

**March 8** - [Erie \(NY\) Law Enforcement Disability Awareness Training](#)

**March 14-15** - First Responder Master Trainer Orientation (invitation only)

**March 16-17** - Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Train the Trainer (closed)

**March 21-22** - [Erie \(NY\) 911 Dispatch Train the Trainer](#)

**April 27-29** - [IAED 2016 Navigator Conference \(Washington, DC\)](#)

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

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

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