



Inclusive Recreation Resource Center eNewsletter

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Inclusion U - Online and On Demand

Our award winning training, Inclusion U, will soon be available to anyone anywhere anytime. Inclusion U was a day long face-to-face training. It will now be available in an online and on demand format. Inclusion U provides the training to become a Certified Inclusivity Assessor (CIA). The training teaches foundations of inclusion and how to use the Inclusivity Assessment Tool.



This fall, four universities and colleges, as well as staff of the IRRC, are participating in Phase One of the pilot for Inclusion U Online. The four schools are: SUNY Cortland, Ithaca College, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, and Tompkins Cortland Community College. In the spring, Phase Two of the pilot will include key staff from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, as well as students from four additional colleges and universities. Following the pilot, and with assistance from the NYS DDPC, Dr. Anderson will work with a professional company to finalize Inclusion U Online. Once available to the public, it will provide an effective and convenient way to learn about inclusion, become a Certified Inclusivity Assessor, and earn continuing education units. It will also help the IRRC build the online recreation database, with trained assessors around the U.S. and maybe even the world!

Highlights from 2013

Adirondack Accessibility Assessment and Awareness Project



Working with Adirondack North Country Association and the New York Department of Transportation, the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center is helping to make the beautiful Adirondack Park more accessible to visitors with disabilities and their families. This project will conduct inclusivity assessments of up to 200 recreation resource sites and interpretive facilities in the Adirondacks, in cooperation with the

Adirondack North Country Association. Results of the assessments will be shared with potential visitors to the Adirondacks on the Inclusive Recreation Center's online recreation database, and on the Adirondack North Country Association's website. Using the tools and processes created by the Inclusive Recreation

**Mission of the
Inclusive
Recreation
Resource Center**

*Helping ALL people
play wherever they
choose!*



*Learn about the
exciting work the
Inclusive Recreation
Resource Center is
doing with the **Belize
Zoo** in Central
America..... Follow
these footprints to
learn more!*



Resource Center, the project will also create recommendations to raise awareness and accommodate the needs of visitors of all abilities. Site reports and a digital *Public Awareness Guide*/print marketing materials will be used to improve conditions for travelers touring historic, cultural, other resource sites, and visitor centers along the Adirondack Trail, Central Adirondack Trail, and Olympic Scenic Byways. The work is taking place through September 2014 with funding from the Adirondack North Country Scenic Byways: Accessibility Assessment and Public Awareness Guide grant project award. Deanna Moore, CTRS and Ben Banker, CTRS, are the two IRRC staff in the Adirondacks completing the assessments.



A New Initiative with the NYS DDPC: Technology Upgrade and Conducting Accessibility Assessments at State-Operated Recreation Sites

The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) has selected Dr. Lynn Anderson and SUNY Cortland to implement a two-year project to assess state operated recreation sites and to develop upgraded online tools, including an upgraded online recreation database, online Inclusion U training, and improved web tools for assessing access to NYS recreation sites.

The Inclusive Recreation Resource Center (IRRC) will collaborate with the DDPC, the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in providing training and completing assessments. Over the course of two years, 400 state parks and DEC sites will be assessed and entered into the online recreation database. The assessments will be "educational" in that IRRC staff will work with state park and DEC employees to mentor them in completing Inclusivity Assessments. Any Certified Inclusivity Assessors within the geographic region will be invited to be mentored in the assessment process as well. The IRRC is looking forward to working more closely with the NYS OPRHP and the NYS DEC, who have been wonderful partners since we started our work in 2007.

In particular, we will be collaborating with Debbie Keville at OPRHP and Carole Fraser at DEC.

Another important part of this project is to move the online resources of the IRRC to a new level of excellence. Dr. Anderson will be working with a professional firm to develop more robust systems for collecting and entering data from the Inclusivity Assessment Tool, the online database, and Inclusion U Online. In the second year of the project, we will be developing mobile apps so that the resources of the IRRC are available to anyone anywhere anytime on any platform!



The Belize Zoo Transformation Project Update

For the 2013 Spring Break, the REC 429/529 class went to Belize. They did not go to party, they did not go for the sun or the sand - instead they went for service. Twelve students, all Certified Inclusivity Assessors, and their fearless leader, Vicki Wilkins, traveled to The Best Little Zoon in the World for an experience of a lifetime.

A partnership between the Inclusive recreation Resource Center and The Belize Zoo is what sparked the idea of making the zoo accessible to all. The students helped them to rise to the challenge. Starting at the end of the Fall '12 semester, REC 429/529 students started fundraising to reach a goal of \$4,000. This money was to purchase materials needed to make The Belize Zoo accessible to all. Through accessible pathways, restrooms, and an accessible parking lot. Through the support of the Cortland community, the SUNY Cortland Campus, and the hard work of the students, \$4,430 was raised for the materials to make the zoo accessible! With their goal surpassed, the students boarded cars, planes, and buses and made the trip to Belize.

On March 9th, 12 students and their fearless leader landed in Belize. The Belize Zoo employees met them at the airport. Allowing one day of acclimatization, which they spent at the Mayan ruins, Xunantunich, and one day of play, snorkeling off Caye Caulker, the students spent the majority of their time building an accessible pathway and parking lot. This work intensive process involved digging deep holes through packed pebbles and stones, setting rebar, mixing, hauling, and packing cement, painting signs, and a variety of other labor-intensive jobs. After four exhaustive days of physical labor, the task was finally complete. Eighty feet of pathway was laid from an accessible parking lot to the entrance of the zoo. An accessible restroom was also designated and painted. While putting on the finishing touches of the project, the REC 429/529 class got to meet with the man who inspired the zoo's transformation as well as the founder of the zoo, Sharon Matola in celebration of all their hard work.

After many farewells and hugs goodbye, the REC 429/529 class returned to New York. For many of them, this was their first time traveling out of the country - it was one of the greatest experiences of their lives so far. In one week, they influenced a country and helped to spread inclusion for all.

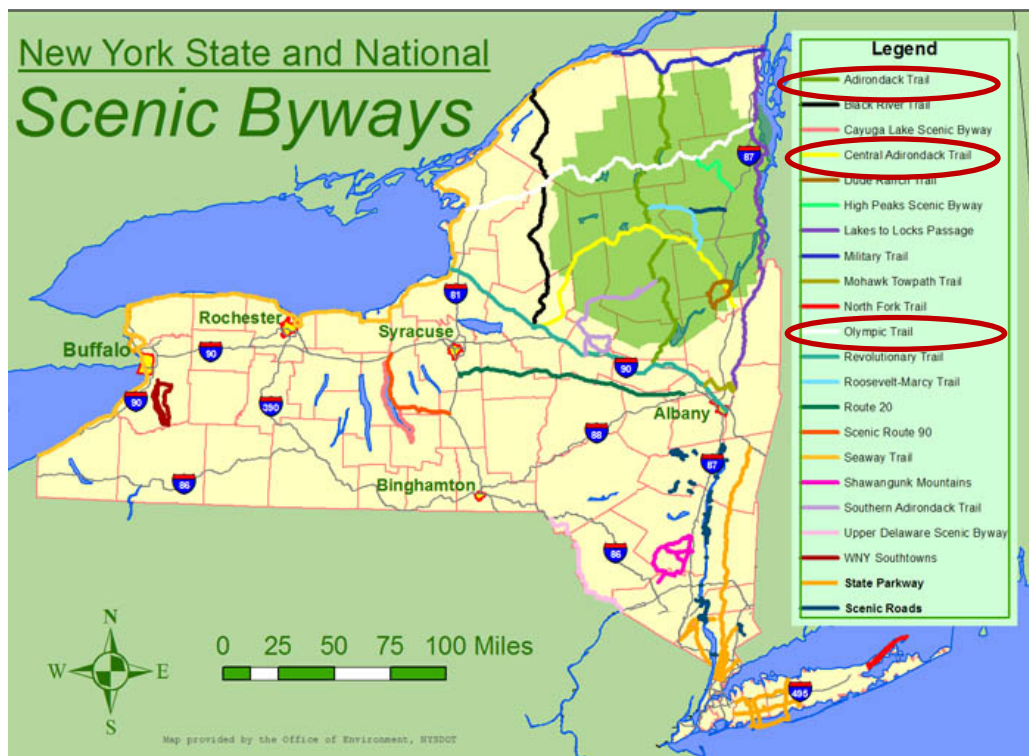
Help Us Raise the Funds for the Belize Zoo Transformation Project

On Monday, 11/11/13, at the Applebee's on 856 State Route 13 in Cortland (from 11 am to closing), we are holding an event! Sarah Olear has vouchers for people interested in attending. You simply get a voucher from Sarah and then go to Applebee's on the 11th. 10% of your check will go to The Belize Zoo! If you are interested, you can email Sarah at InclusiveRec@cortland.edu and she can email a voucher for you to print (or you can come pick one up from Sarah).

We will be doing the same thing at Friendly's on Feb. 13th, 2014 at the 170 Clinton Avenue location (near the entrance to I-81). Contact Sarah for a voucher!



Assessing the Scenic Byways!



The Belize Zoo Transformation Project!





**Inclusive
Recreation
Resource Center**

Address
PO Box 2000
SUNY Cortland
Cortland, NY
13045

Phone
607-753-4833

Fax
607-753-5982

Email
InclusiveRec@cortland.edu

We're on the Web!
www.InclusiveRec.org

**We're on Facebook,
too!**
www.facebook.com/InclusiveRec

Like Us on Facebook

If you haven't already done so, please go to our Facebook page and "like" the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center. Also, please feel free to share news and updates about inclusion and recreation in your part of the world! We are at:

www.facebook.com/InclusiveRec



Meet Our Staff

Dr. Lynn Anderson, CTRS, CPRP is the director of the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center and a Distinguished Service Professor at SUNY Cortland. She can be reached at lynn.anderson@cortland.edu.

Dr. Vicki Wilkins is Center faculty and a Professor at SUNY Cortland. She can be reached at vicki.wilkins@cortland.edu.

Deanna Moore, CTRS, is an assessment specialist, primarily working on the Adirondack Accessibility Project. Deanna is a recent graduate from SUNY Cortland's Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Studies Department with a Bachelor's Degree in Therapeutic Recreation.

Ben Banker, CTRS, is an assessment specialist, primarily working on the Adirondack Accessibility Project. Ben is a recent graduate from SUNY Cortland's Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Studies Department with a Bachelor's Degree in Therapeutic Recreation. Ben will be leaving the Center at the end of the month to begin a full-time TR position with Crested Butte Adapted Sports Program in Colorado. We thank Ben for his hard work on behalf of inclusion in the ADK.

Sarah Olear, who is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Therapeutic Recreation in SUNY Cortland's Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department, is an Americorps member with the Center [Learn more about Americorps](#).

Mary Kelly, who is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Therapeutic Recreation in SUNY Cortland's Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department, is completing a practicum with the Center.

Deanna, Ben, Sarah, and Mary can all be reached at:

InclusiveRec@cortland.edu

