



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES

PRESS RELEASE



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DDS STAFFERS SELECTED FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND PRESTIGIOUS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Washington, DC— Erin Leveton, Program Manager of the DC Department on Disability Services State Office of Policy, Planning & Innovation has been invited to participate in the **Professional Fellows Program of Hands Along the Nile Developmental Services (HANDS)**. HANDS seeks to develop partnerships between Americans and Egyptians to increase intercultural understanding and to support Egyptians in their efforts to enhance the quality of life for all people in their land. Leveton will travel to Egypt February 9 – 21 to work with mid-level professionals and emerging leaders to increase their knowledge about the field of disability advocacy and identify strategies the country can use to foster full participation of people with disabilities in their society. The fellowship project is funded through the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and HANDS.

DDS Program Manager **Mark Agosto** has been accepted to the **Georgetown University Leadership Academy for Cultural Diversity and Cultural and Linguistic Competence**. The Leadership Academy is an intensive course of study comprised of three months of preparatory activities and leadership coaching for up to one year. It also includes a four-day learning experience in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Agosto manages the work DC Support Link, a coordinated system of key government agencies designed to make it accessing long-term services and supports easier for District residents. The Cultural and Linguistic Competence Leadership Institute equips participants to respond effectively to the growing cultural diversity among people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the United States.

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