

The Olmstead Commission's goal is to move North Dakota towards greater integration and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

Trauma-Informed Care in Everyday Practice: Supporting Children and Adults with Mental Health Needs

March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12pm

Powerful Tools For Caregivers

Tuesdays March 3<sup>rd</sup> through April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm

Mind Matters Conference

March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

NDCEC Conference Advancing Disability Inclusion in Our Schools

March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

Symposium on Aging, Adults, and Disabilities

April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

### NEXT

#### OLMSTEAD MEETING:

Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>  
1-3pm in the Fort Totten  
Room at the Capitol

Discussion Topics:  
Rural Health Transformation  
Program and Goal #4-  
Housing

Join meeting [here](#).



Inside Bismarck State College, a groundbreaking workforce initiative is using immersive technology to expand career opportunities for North Dakotans with disabilities. XR for VR, funded by a \$9.9 million Disability Innovation Fund grant, leverages extended reality to connect individuals with in-demand manufacturing careers across the state.

At the heart of the project is the XR for VR Immersive Reality Room (shown below), where participants can explore manufacturing careers, practice job tasks, and build confidence in a safe, accessible, and supportive environment. Using virtual and augmented reality, individuals can experience real-world job settings without physical or logistical barriers, helping them better understand career pathways and workplace expectations.

The program also features an assistive technology library in partnership with ND Assistive and hands-on modules that demonstrate how advanced and adaptive technologies can support individuals with disabilities in manufacturing roles. By showcasing practical solutions already used in modern manufacturing, XR for VR helps employers see the value of inclusive workplaces while empowering participants to develop job-ready skills.

XR for VR is facilitating meaningful connections between North Dakota manufacturers and an often-overlooked talent pool of skilled, motivated individuals with disabilities. The initiative supports participants in achieving Competitive Integrated Employment while helping manufacturers address workforce needs, creating a win-win for individuals, employers, and the state's economy.

You can attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony and take part in an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Immersive Reality Room on Monday, March 9, from 1-2 pm at the BSC National Energy Center of Excellence, located at 1200 Schafer Street in Bismarck.

Check out their website [here](#).



XR for VR Staff in the XR for VR Immersive Reality Room  
Bruce Klootwyk, Jr, Loretta Benedict, Shannon Coulter, Mansi Pagare, and Don Winter

## LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

Sign up to receive Olmstead news and updates. Visit our website and social media for more information and resources.



*Stephanie Bouche*  
Olmstead Coordinator  
WWW.OLMSTEAD.ND.GOV

