**2019 Online KT Conference:**

**Innovative KT Strategies That Work**

*NIDILRR Update and Perspectives on KT*

Kristi Hill and Pimjai Sudsawad

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>> KATHLEEN MURPHY: Okay. I think we can get started. To launch the Conference, we'll hear from two of our KTDRR leaders, the first, Kristi Hill, the interim Director and Pimjai Sudsawad, the program coordinator. I wanted to mention that Pimjai Sudsawad is part of the Conference team and works with us all year to plan the Conference, we appreciate all of the insight she gives to us throughout the year and for her support. Kristi, are you ready to go?

>> KRISTI HILL: I am.

On behalf of the ACL Administrator, Lance Robertson and the NIDILRR team, I’d like to thank for your interest in and commitment to Knowledge Translation. We are really enthusiastic here at NIDILRR about the broad and diverse participation in the Conference this year. While NIDILRR continues to evolve programmatically and organizationally, our mission remains constant, to generate new knowledge and to promote its effective use. As the mission is unchanged, so is NIDILRR's unwavering commitment to fostering and promoting the tenants of Knowledge Translation across our portfolio.

The research and related work that NIDILRR's sponsors falls into three outcome domain areas: Employment, health and function and community living, and participation with the latter being the ultimate outcome for stakeholders in both disabilities and the aging communities. Knowledge Translation is a substantive part of our portfolio and it is intertwined nature with other activities making it nearly indistinguishable. From our perspective, that's just as it should be.

Knowledge Translation is at the core of the NIDILRR work undertaken every single day. It is simply understood that Knowledge Translation is critical to our work, it is crosscutting in nature and focus and foundation to the accomplishment of the NIDILRR mission. NIDILRR, Knowledge Translation, it is particularly important as we continue to more operationalize our integration within the community. NIDILRR brings core research capacity and competency to ACL, which has long been an organization whose focus is primarily on service delivery and advocacy. NIDILRR's focus on Knowledge Translation has been remarkably complementary to ACL's ongoing work to improve the lives of older adults and People with Disabilities.

When we consider Knowledge Translation at NIDILRR, we do so in terms of increasing understanding of strategies and practices that will lead to successful KT and research context. Also increasing the adoption and use of relevant research findings and increasing the capacity of our stakeholders to plan and engage in Knowledge Translation activities. To those interests, NIDILRR continues to make substantial investments in Knowledge Translation activities. NIDILRR's work in the area of Knowledge Translation has been innovative, has been rigorous and impactful over the years. It has moved the field and it has spurred the development of research‑based tools and also helped to define and refine strategies and approaches that have served to drive increased use of evidence‑based findings that are generated in our research portfolio.

During this year's Conference, you will hear about this work and also about the methods developed to measure the impact of our Knowledge Translation outcomes. So, I'm really excited about your participation and I look forward to a truly informative collection of presentations and robust information exchange that will come as part of this year's Conference. I want to take a quick moment again to welcome you all and to thank the team that's worked so hard to put this Conference together, including Pimjai Sudsawad, our in‑house expert at NIDILRR who has guided our thinking and led our efforts around Knowledge Translation for many years. On behalf ‑‑ her work on behalf of NIDILRR and our Knowledge Translation stakeholders in the community, it has been stellar. So, with that, I will turn it over to my colleague, Dr. Pimjai Sudsawad.

>> PIMJAI SUDSAWAD: Thank you very much, Kristi.

I would like to thank everyone for the continuing interest and also attendance of this annual KT Conference. I'm pleased to see that the interest continues to grow, and the discussion continues to be lively and informative throughout the Conferences in the past, and as we continue our endeavor in Knowledge Translation and making progress along the way, I think it is important and useful for us to have a forum such as this where everyone can exchange their ideas and learn from each other without the limitation of physical travel, and anyone can participate from anywhere around the world. I think it is an exciting part of this Conference as well as the content.

I am looking forward to learning along with you with new information for the Knowledge Translation in the next three Conference days. With that, I would like to warmly welcome you to the KT Conference of 2019.

I'll turn it over to Donna. Thank you.