



## **Partners in Policymaking's™ 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

### **A Letter of Tribute From The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities**

Greetings to The Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and to the Partners in Policymaking™ program founders, Colleen Wieck and Ed Skarnulis:

On behalf of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities, we send hearty congratulations on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Partners in Policymaking™. In doing so, we commend your vision, wisdom, and commitment to building social capital across the country and abroad through Partners in Policymaking™. You have promulgated an outstanding leadership and disability advocacy training program that the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities has extended to over 200 Partners in this state alone.

As a result of Partners training, North Carolina's graduates have developed partnerships based upon positive relationships with policy makers. They have achieved and exceeded the outcomes that are expected of participants in Partners training: 1) increased independence; 2) productivity; 3) integration; 4) inclusion; and 5) self-determination.

North Carolina's graduates have received training from national speakers, who provide a perspective that is up-to-date on state-of-the-art policy, practice and advocacy in such core areas as: education; housing; employment; assistive technology; and state and federal legislation. They have returned to their local communities and demonstrated leadership for the benefit of individuals, families and the community as a whole.

The best way to predict the future is to create it. Partners in Policymaking™ has helped North Carolinians affected by intellectual and other developmental disabilities to become active participants in the creation of bright futures. The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities continues to realize return on investment in our graduates and to find this outstanding strategy for advancing systems change.

Warmly,

Holly Riddle, J.D., M.Ed.  
Executive Director