OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS

- The year was highlighted by the celebration of 40 years of commitment to providing services for students with disabilities
  - Collaborated with Marketing and Communications to have a new logo created in celebration of 40 years of service for students with disabilities
  - Hosted a week-long celebration of OSD culminating in an event honoring Dr. Hugo and Alicia Keim for their generous donation of $500,000 from the Chair Scholar Foundation for scholarship for individuals with severe physical disabilities
- Collaboration with the Veteran’s Success Center to provide accommodations and services for veterans and their dependents
- Completed the planning for the launch of a pilot program for students with autism to begin in fall 2015. Boro Autism Support Initiative for Success (BASIS) will be coordinated with existing resources and staff to provide students on the autism spectrum with the opportunity to develop academic, communication and social skills to assist with their success at Edinboro and in the workplace
  - Edinboro was selected as one of four PASSHE institutions to provide support and services for students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and will work with Dr. Jane Thierfeld Brown, nationally recognized authority on ASD, in the development of programs and services
  - The OSD will collaborate with PASSHE, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) to launch ASD services and initiatives for northwestern PA
- The program’s Occupational Therapist and the Social Worker collaborated with Voices for Independence, a local center for independent living, to work on emergency planning for individuals with disabilities, and to work to provide accessible exam rooms and other medical facilities for individuals with disabilities
- Students and staff participated in a variety of awareness events, including Light it Up Blue for Autism Awareness in April. The Baron-Forness Library was lit blue, along with other buildings throughout the world to raise awareness. Other events and programs included working with faculty and students in classroom and co-curricular activities regarding disability
- Staff participated in continuing education opportunities related to their professional fields. Among the topics were assistive communication, transition for students with disabilities (including ASD), ethical issues in supervision of counseling students, and competitive employment
- Edinboro was highlighted in Campus Safety magazine for its efforts in universal design

COORDINATIVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

- OSD provided internship locations for two Masters in Social Work students, supervised by the MSW, and the interns assisted in providing programs and services for students with disabilities
- Provided internship site for graduate Occupational Therapy students from University of Pittsburgh and Gannon University, and Occupational Therapy Assistant Students from Mercyhurst North East
- A practicum student from the Masters in Counseling program completed a practicum experience with the Occupational Therapist

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- In March, students had an opportunity to meet and speak with Josh Blue, nationally known comedian with cerebral palsy and Last Comic Standing contestant, during a conference “Living Well with Disability” held at Edinboro by the Erie Homes for Children and Adults
- Student recipients of the Charlotte Newcombe Scholarship had an opportunity to meet with the foundation President, Dr. Thomas Wilfrid, to share the importance of scholarships for students and to express personal appreciation
- Student participants in Adaptive Intramural and Recreational Sports (AIRS) enjoyed many activities, among them were their favorite bowling, snow tubing, and evening recreational programs
- Students engaged in outreach to local schools to share information about transition to higher education for individuals with disabilities
Delta Alpha Pi, honor society for individuals with disabilities, inducted ten new members into the chapter at its spring ceremony.