



**2012 Don and Rosemary Vial Awards
for Digital Inclusion:
Outstanding Performance by an
Organization Nominee**



Over the last six years, the World Institute on Disability (WID) has assisted more than fifty community service technology organizations in becoming more accessible to and able to serve people with disabilities. These intervention strategies provide people with disabilities from traditionally underserved backgrounds the opportunity to access information and communication technologies and Internet connectivity to build a better educational, employment and financial future for themselves and their families.

Recognizing that access to technology is disproportionately empowering to people with disabilities, WID has partnered with CETF to provide numerous seminars, trainings and technical assistance modeling programmatic best practices for disability inclusion in closing the Digital Divide. WID has also communicated these “best practices” models at Whitehouse convening’s, community forums and national radio interviews.

For more than 25 years, the WID has been internationally recognized as a leading public policy center organized by and for people with disabilities. WID strengthens the disability movement through research, training, advocacy and public education to help people with disabilities in California and throughout the world enjoy increased opportunities to live independently and build a better economic future for themselves and their families. WID’s work in California to close the Digital Divide has included concentrated efforts in programmatic and physical access, disability outreach and recruitment and retention of employees with disabilities.

WID staff has worked one-on-one with organizations, in addition to conducting trainings and consultations on many aspects of Digital Inclusion, outreach and cultural competency for persons with disabilities. These efforts have been geared toward promoting this opportunity to expand upon an underserved population with potential for increased programmatic participation. Increasing participation within this market base is not only good business but expanding Digital Inclusion improves the quality of life for many in the disability community.

In the same spirit of Don and Rosemary Vial, the World Institute on Disability, formed and run by and for persons with disabilities, promotes long-term systems change to eliminate barriers to full social integration and increase employment, economic security, and health care for persons with disabilities. WID recognizes the growing importance of technology in all aspects of independent living and has an understanding of inequities within this Digital Divide. WID’s work to bridge the Digital Divide has shown a unique enthusiasm to increase market awareness of this untapped consumer base and promote independence.