

# DDI Conference Makes an Impact

Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) hosted its Second Annual Conference – *Impacting Lives: Medical and Behavioral Advances in Autism and Developmental Disabilities* – on Friday, April 28 at the Hyatt Regency Wind Watch Hotel. Once again, renowned presenters, drawn from throughout the country, were convened to review and discuss treatment options and new insights.

This year's conference included keynote addresses by Dr. Phil Strain of the University of Colorado and New York State Senator John Flanagan. The event was attended by over 200 participants including educators, parents, psychologists, speech language pathologists, social workers, school nurses, learning consultants, and virtually all other medical professionals involved in the support of children and



DDI's Associate Executive Director John Lessard, Senator John Flanagan and Keynote Speaker Dr. Phil Strain of the University of Colorado.



One of the conference vendors, Jill Bullock, founder of Jewelry Designs, is the mother of three children, two of whom were diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and whose lives have been significantly helped by DDI. Expressing her passion for bringing awareness to Autism and a will to empower parents, she has created a unique line of jewelry called the Ray of Hope Collection, specifically dedicated to raising Autism Awareness. For details visit [www.jillbullockdesigns.com](http://www.jillbullockdesigns.com). When ordering, be sure to enter "DDI" in the "Special Notes" section of the order form and 20% of the sale will be donated to the Developmental Disabilities Institute.

adults with disabilities. Developmental Disabilities Institute remains committed to providing the highest standards of training and support for families and support professionals. The *Impacting Lives* conference served to increase the accessibility of specialized therapeutic and educational services and provided a truly worthwhile educational opportunity to share and exchange critical information.

"The Conference was a huge success. It brought together clinicians, special educators, direct care professionals and families in a single forum. The speakers

conveyed valuable information for each of these participants to use in their own settings where they are supporting people with autism or developmental disabilities," stated John Lessard, Associate Executive Director of DDI. "Senator John Flanagan's presence and his words of encouragement served to reinforce the importance of the work being performed in this field and how essential it is to remind our elected officials about their roles in supporting the needs of families and provider agencies everywhere."