

## *Classroom Assistance: Learning Disabilities*

### **What is a Learning Disability?**

A Learning Disability (LD) is a distinct gap between a person's level of expected achievement and what he/she actually is achieving. A LD can range from mild to severe and affect the brain's ability to receive, process, store, respond to, and communicate information. A LD is actually a group of neurological disorders, not a single disorder and sometimes people have more than one learning disability.

Source: The National Center for Learning Disabilities, Inc. © 2011

### **Suggested Best Practices for Students with Learning Disabilities**

- ✓ Allow students to tape record lectures and directions for assignments.
- ✓ Have students connect with a classmate to back up their own lecture notes.
- ✓ Supply the students with outlines of your lecture and/or copies of overheads.
- ✓ Avoid putting too much information on a single page of handouts or overheads. This may be confusing for students.
- ✓ Allow students to show what they have learned using different approaches.
- ✓ Encourage students to rewrite their lecture notes.
- ✓ Provide students with sample test questions and acceptable answers.
- ✓ Allow students to have extended time for testing in a quiet place.
- ✓ Encourage the use of word processing equipment that will help LD students compose, edit, and spell more accurately.
- ✓ Give all assignments and course expectations in written and verbal form.
- ✓ Use demonstrations and “hands-on” experiences as appropriate.
- ✓ Allow additional time for overheads or board work to be copied.