



Institute on Disabilities
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Co-President Jean Searle
Co-President James Conroy
Pennhurst Memorial & Preservation Alliance
61 Cassatt Avenue
Berwyn, PA 19132

July 30, 2009

Dear Co-Presidents Searle & Conroy:

Thank you and the members of your board for visiting the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University on Monday, July 27, to share your thoughts and plans for preserving Pennhurst as a memorial to the thousands of people who were incarcerated there.

We are keenly aware of and fully appreciate the symbolic importance of preserving the history of Pennhurst and, more importantly honoring the survival and dignity of people with disabilities who fought a daily battle for human rights. Discussions I had with Institute management staff following your visit reinforce my belief that projects such as yours are a vital part in the process of advancing disability studies into the academic curriculum for future generations.

We share your commitment to the concept of memorializing and preserving this important part of Pennsylvania history. We eagerly look forward to the opportunity to become more fully involved as your plans develop. An important part of the work of the Institute on Disabilities is to seek a more inclusive society and we are delighted that your vision for the reuse of Pennhurst projects it as "a place of inclusion, open to all, designed to elicit reflection and growth towards a better future."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Mitchell', written in a cursive style.

David Mitchell, Ph.D.
Executive Director