



Billings Mayor, Chuck Tooley, presenting the Billings Disabilities Coalition award winners.

Welcome to PLUK's electronic newsletter!

We are proud to present news of interest for Montana families of children with special needs, and for the professionals and educators who serve them; however, it does not constitute an endorsement.

"When I hear somebody sigh, "Life is hard," I am always tempted to ask, "Compared to what?"" –Sydney J. Harris

Highlights:

PLUK eNews March 6, 2005 1
Fourth Annual Native American Brain Injury Conference, April 26-27, Billings 2
Angel Flight Inc. 2
Supreme Court to Hear Maryland Special-Ed Case 2
Education News Parents Can Use: Next broadcast, March 15, 2005 3
Blind Users Can Now Surf the Web Over the Phone, Thanks to New Technology Partnership 3
EDUCAUSE Releases First Web Exclusive Book 3
Camp Eureka Natural History Camp for Children with Visual Impairments 3
2005 EXITE Camp 4
Region III CSPD Transition Requirements and Practices, March 9, Cancelled Rescheduled for April 7, 2005 4
Wrightslaw College Information Flyer 4
Abuse and Neglect of Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Problem of National Significance .. 4
Disability News and Views Radio Show, WXRL 1300 AM, Sundays 3-4 pm MST 4
"Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes" 4
Free Publications from PACER 5
Seeking the Biological Basis of Dyslexia 5
Montana Center on Disabilities—Transition Newsflash 5
Easter Seals and PAAS Easter Egg Dyes Team Up, E-Cards "Spread Some Springtime" 5
Sign Site Online Sign-Writing Resources 6
Microsoft Press Offers New Resource Guide—Accessible Technology: A Guide for Educators 6
PLUK trainings and activities planned for Winter/Spring 2005:: 6
Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana:: 7
ADHD Overview and Medical Intervention, March 9, Billings 7
Talk Around the Clock Workshop, April 1-2, Bozeman 7
Self-Employment Part, April 4, Teleconference, (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings, Lewistown) ... 7
Montana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference, April 13-15, Billings 7
Region I CSPD "Child Abuse and Neglect," Glasgow, Cottonwood Inn, April 22-23 7
Fourth Annual Native American Brain Injury Conference, April 26-27, Billings 7
Step Up to Writing- A Key to Academic Success, April 25-26 (Missoula), April 27-28 (Kalispell) 8
Session 3: Getting Students Past the "Gatekeeper" Courses in Math-Creating Success in Pre-Algebra and Algebra, May 5, Missoula 8
Self-Employment Part 2, May 6, Teleconference, (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings, Lewistown). 8
June 10-11-12: A Family Learning Weekend for the Visually Impaired, hosted by the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind—MDSB, Great Falls 8
Walk F.A.R. for NAAR Autism Walk – June 12, Great Falls 8
October 19-20-21: The Northern Rockies Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired (NRAER) Conference—Bozeman, Montana, at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. 9
Online Training/Workshops/Events:: 9
FCTD Hosts Online Discussion of AT and Early Childhood, Beginning March 3 9

<i>Education News Parents Can Use: Next broadcast, March 15, 2005</i>	9
<i>PACER Presents A Free IBM Web Adaptation Technology Workshop, March 16</i>	9
<i>METNET Free Interactive Trainings: Self Employment</i>	10
Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana:.....	10
<i>People on the Move Sessions, Next Deadline May 27</i>	10
<i>Association for Positive Behavioral Support (APBS) Second International Conference on Positive Behavioral Support, March 10-12, Tampa, FL</i>	10
<i>Abuse of Children & Adults with Disabilities, March 14-16, Riverside, CA</i>	10
<i>Pervasive Developmental and Learning Disabilities Conference, March 17-18, Miami FL</i>	11
<i>Disability Research Institute 2005 Symposium -- SSA Disability Programs: Comprehensive Work Opportunity Initiative--April 5, National Press Club, Washington, DC</i>	11
<i>2005 CEC Convention and Expo, April 6-9, Baltimore MD</i>	11
<i>2005 ADA Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion, and Disability Conference, April 11 - 13, Ohio State University</i>	11
<i>Making Sense—Autism and Sensory Processing Conference, April 15, Denver CO</i>	12
<i>Autism One Conference, May 26-29, Chicago IL</i>	12
Selected Sources:	13
PLUK eNews is published by:	13

Fourth Annual Native American Brain Injury Conference, April 26-27, Billings

The Fourth Annual Native American Brain Injury Conference, scheduled for April 26-27 in Billings, will feature nationally-recognized speakers and an evening concert with singer-songwriter Jack Gladstone.

Registration fees vary (\$55-\$105). Pre-register by April 8, 2005 for the best rates. Register online at <http://www.msubillings.edu/mtcdregister>. Questions? Call Ian Elliot at 1-888-866-3822, or Nell Eby at 406-655-7636 for more information

Angel Flight Inc.



(Courtesy of Angel Flight, Inc.)

Angel Flight, Inc. was created by a group of pilots who believe in the benefit of volunteering. We strive to keep all aspects of the organization volunteer-based. Angel Flight is a non-profit charitable organization of pilots, volunteers, and friends. Angel Flight will arrange free air transportation for any legitimate, charitable, medically related need. This service is available to individuals, and health care organizations.

Angel Flight will arrange transportation of those people who are financially distressed, or who are in a time-critical, non-emergency situation due to their medical condition. Angel Flight primarily serves patients needing transportation to or from the heartland region. Angel Flight is a member of the Air Care Alliance, a group of organizations providing similar services throughout the United States. By coordinating with other organizations, Angel Flight can arrange transportation for patients on longer flights to other parts of the country outside of the Heartland region. Angel Flight has also flown blood products for the Oklahoma Blood Institute and Red Cross in emergencies.

Our Patients are usually traveling for surgery, chemotherapy, dialysis, and other treatments. A typical flight may carry patients requiring treatment at M.D. Anderson in Houston or the Shriners Hospital in Galveston, TX. Angel Flight is financially supported primarily by our pilots who fly the missions (by donating the use of their airplanes and operating expenses) and by contributions from individuals, service clubs, social and religious groups and corporations. We receive no financial aid from any government entity. There is never a fee of any kind, either to the patient or the health care provider for an Angel Flight. The volunteer pilots pay the costs.

Learn more about Angel Flight at <http://www.angelflight.com> and visit the Air Care Alliance website, <http://www.aircareall.org>, for more information about medical flights for people in need.

Supreme Court to Hear Maryland Special-Ed Case

(From The Washington Post)

Schools Must Prove Adherence to Disabilities Law, Couple's Suit Asserts

By Tim Craig and Miranda S. Spivack, Washington Post Staff Writers--Wednesday, February 23, 2005—The Supreme Court agreed yesterday to hear the case of a Montgomery County couple who contend that school officials, if challenged, must prove they are meeting their legal obligations to special education students. The justices will try to decide whether lower courts should place the burden of proof on schools or the plaintiff -- presumably the parents -- when a party sues under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The law requires that public schools grant every disabled child a "free appropriate special education" tailored to the child's specific needs.

Read the rest of this Washington Post article at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Education News Parents Can Use: Next broadcast, March 15, 2005

A television series about ways to ensure children's educational success

<http://www.ed.gov/news/av/video/edtv/index.html>

Education News Parents Can Use focuses on schools, learning and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. On the third Tuesday of each month during the school year, Education News airs live via satellite, offering parents and anyone else with an interest in education vital information about getting involved in children's learning.

- Arts Education: Improving Students' Academic Performance
Tuesday, March 15, 2005 — 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm ET
- Early Childhood Development: What Parents Need to Know
Tuesday, April 19, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET
- Science Education: Preparing Students for the Global Economy
Tuesday, May 17, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET
- Service Learning: Creating Community & Developing Citizens
Tuesday, June 21, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET

If you have any comments or questions, feel free to send a message to Education.TV@ed.gov or call at 1-800-USA-LEARN.

Blind Users Can Now Surf the Web Over the Phone, Thanks to New Technology Partnership

(From Tech Soup)

By Sarah Hawkins, San Jose Business News—Mar. 3, 2005--Often, blind and partially sighted users view Web pages using a screen reader -- a device that reads aloud the text from a Web site from left-to-right and top-to-bottom, just as you would read a page. To get an idea of what a blind user experiences when using the Web, imagine a person reading you a description of what is happening on the screen or under your cursor.

San Francisco Based LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired is doing something about this problem by partnering with InternetSpeech to create a custom Voice Internet application.

"Lighthouse users will be able to access the Lighthouse Web site, and the online store via a telephone," said Dean Hudson, AIS coordinator for Lighthouse. "This means they don't have to own a computer, or have computer skills to utilize this service, which is the case with many of our clients."

This custom service is based on InternetSpeech's netECHO, a technology enabling users to talk and listen to the Internet using any phone, without a computer. Using netECHO, users can search and surf the Web, and access e-mail using a voice/audio browser. Unlike traditional voice portals that provide limited features like news, weather, stock quotes, and horoscopes, netECHO provides content from any Web site in real-time.

Read more from this Tech Soup article, at http://www.techsoup.org/news/news_article.cfm?newsid=1701&rss=1.

EDUCAUSE Releases First Web Exclusive Book

EDUCAUSE has published its first Web-only book, "Educating the Net Generation," edited by Diana Oblinger, vice president of EDUCAUSE and director of the National Learning Infrastructure Initiative, and James Oblinger, chancellor of North Carolina State University. The e-book is available in PDF and HTML formats, with Web-only resources (further reading, video, podcasts, and useful links) listed on its home page. A file of the complete book is available for download and printing, at <http://www.educause.edu/books/educatingthenetgen/5989>.

Camp Eureka Natural History Camp for Children with Visual Impairments

Children 8-12 years old who are blind or have severe visual impairments are invited to explore Montana's wetlands and forests under the guidance of expert educators and naturalists who are specially trained to work with children who have visual impairments.

Sponsored by the Montana Conservation Science Institute in Missoula, Camp Eureka is a summer camp in the Teller Wildlife Refuge, where children with visual impairments can explore nature with safe, interactive activities and plenty of time for play, story telling, music and games. Camp Director, Beth Underwood is an environmental education (EE) specialist for the Montana Conservation Science Institute and has designed and directed EE programs for two national wildlife refuges in western Montana. She was twice recognized as state environmental educator of the year. As an educator with visual impairment, she has a special appreciation for the power of the natural world to foster confidence and curiosity in children with visual impairment.

This year the camp is scheduled for June 20-23, 2005. Registration is \$100 and the \$25 deposit is applied to the registration cost. For more information, contact Beth Underwood at underhogg@montana.com.

2005 EXITE Camp

The EXITE (Exploring Interests in Technology and Engineering) Camp, hosted by IBM, will be held at PACER Center July 21, 25, 27, 29, August 2, and 4. The camp is a free opportunity open to any middle school girl with a disability.

To learn more about the camp or to acquire an application, visit <http://www.pacer.org/stc/exite.htm> or call 952-838-9000. An information session for parents will be held on Monday, March 7, 2005 and Monday, April 18, 2005 from 7 to 8 p.m. at PACER. Applications are due on May 2, 2005.

Region III CSPD Transition Requirements and Practices, March 9, Cancelled Rescheduled for April 7, 2005

The Transition Requirements and Practices workshop has been cancelled. The workshop has been rescheduled for April 7, 2005. Identical sessions will be offered from 8:30-11:30 or 1:00-4:00 so you can attend one or the other. Please sign in to <http://www.cspd.net> to register for this rescheduled session.

Wrightslaw College Information Flyer

Wrightslaw offers a multitude of free publications including a PDF crammed with links dedicated to college students with disabilities. Students can review the ins and outs of college preparation, check out their rights and responsibilities, and access tips for college success. Download the flyer at <http://www.wrightslaw.com/flyers/college.504.pdf>.

Abuse and Neglect of Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Problem of National Significance

The Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University announces the new Web course, Abuse and Neglect of Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Problem of National Significance. Registration begins February 1, 2005. Funded by the ADD as a Project of National Significance, the course was written for health and other professionals and students serving people with developmental disabilities (see flyer at <http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/maltreatment/flyer.pdf>). For Annotated Outline and Sample Module, go to: <http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/maltreatment/>.

Contact Peggy O'Neill at 804-827-0194, <mailto:poneill@vcu.edu>.

Disability News and Views Radio Show, WXRL 1300 AM, Sundays 3-4 pm MST

Excerpted from www.disabilitynewsradio.com.

ATTENTION PARENTS:

Does your child take a special school bus to and from school each day? Do you know if your child is being treated with care, respect and dignity by the adults on the bus? Notice any sudden changes in behavior?

Yesterday, a friend of mine's story aired on Ch. 2 (NBC) about her son, Andy, who is autistic. He began to manifest severe behavior problems in school, AFTER his ride to school on the small school bus (Laidlaw). The mother knew that something was happening to her son, but was unable to prove it, until she took matters in her own hands with a tape recorder. This report will shock many parents, especially parents of children with disabilities, who trust that the staff that are employed by the bus company not only transport their child safely to school each day, but treat each child with respect and dignity. Isn't that what we teach our children to do? Be respectful and kind to others-especially adults!

This investigation shows the horrific verbal abuse by the bus driver and aide toward Andy from one day with a tape recorder on the school bus (can you imagine how often this happened?) This report shows how one parent was able to get answers she needed to help her son and subsequent action that was taken (aide and bus driver were fired)!!

Now we need your help to make changes in NYS for all buses that transport children with special needs to have cameras and audio to ensure the safety mentally and physically of all children. You will be outraged, angry and shocked by what you hear and see on the Ch. 2 news story.

To view the news video from WGRZ-TV Buffalo, go to

http://www.wgrz.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=26350%20 and click on "Video."

To listen to Monica Moshenko's follow-up show from February 20, 2005, visit

http://www.disabilitynewsradio.com/past_shows.htm

"Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes"

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes seeks nominations for its 2005 awards. The Barron Prize honors young people ages 8 to 18, who have shown leadership and courage in public service to people and our planet. Each year, ten national winners each receive \$2,000 to support their service work or higher education. Nomination deadline is April 30. For more information and to nominate, visit: <http://www.barronprize.org/>.

Free Publications from PACER

Click on <http://www.fape.org/pubs/index.htm> to download these free publications and many others from PACER Center.

- A History of the Families and Advocates Partnership for Education Project (FAPE)
- Assistive Technology for Infants and Toddlers (FAPE-12)
- Evaluation: What Does it Mean for Your Child? (PHP -C2)
- Facts-on-Hand IEP Goals and Objectives (FAPE-41)
- Facts-on-Hand Informed Parent Consent for Pre-School and School-Aged Children with Disabilities (FAPE-23)
- Facts-on-Hand Prior Written Notice (FAPE-24)
- Facts-on-Hand Related Services (FAPE-33)
- Facts-on-Hand Transportation (FAPE-35)
- Functional Behavioral Assessment and Positive Interventions: What Parents Need to Know (PHP-C79)
- How Will I Know If My Child is Making Progress? (PHP-C78)
- Planning Your Child 's Individualized Education Program (IEP): Some Suggestions to Consider (FAPE-25)
- Promising Practices Fluency: Helping Your Child Read and Understand (FAPE-37)
- Promising Practices Helping Your Child with Mnemonics (FAPE-36)
- Promising Practices Teaching Students to Self-Manage Their Behavior (FAPE-20)
- Research Brief Regional Intervention Program (FAPE-17)
- Research Brief: School Wide Behavior Programs (FAPE-22)
- Research Brief Students ' Perceptions of Instruction in Inclusion Classrooms: Implications for Students with Learning Disabilities (FAPE-26)
- School Accommodations and Modifications (FAPE-27)
- Special Education Evaluation (FAPE-8)
- Special Education Re-Evaluation (FAPE-9)
- Simple, Inexpensive Devices Can Assist in Communication (PHP-C72)
- Understanding the Special Education Process (FAPE-10)

Seeking the Biological Basis of Dyslexia

(From Science Daily.com)

Neuroscientists in the USC College of Letters, Arts and Sciences are adding fuel to the debate over dyslexia.

Most researchers agree that the reading disability stems from an inability to link specific sounds to written letters and words. But any consensus quickly breaks down when scientists discuss the underlying biological causes that lead to those difficulties.

In work presented at a meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, Zhong-Lin Lu, Frank Manis and Anne Sperling showed that dyslexic children have a harder time than non-dyslexics filtering out a signal from background "noise" during tests of visual perception.

The team, which also includes the University of Wisconsin's Mark Seidenberg, speculates that the deficit may affect the whole brain.

To read more from this Science Daily article, go to <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/01/050111122005.htm>. To read the original press release from the University of Southern California, visit <http://www.usc.edu/uscnews/stories/10885.html>.

Montana Center on Disabilities—Transition Newsflash

The March 2005 issue of MCD's Transition Newsflash features Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center Program Specialist Dr. Ed O'Leary, Ed.D, and his article "Overview, Comments and Recommended Action for Transition Services: P.L. 108-446, Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004." Access the newest Transition Newsflash at <http://www.msubillings.edu/transition/NewsflashMar05.pdf>.

Easter Seals and PAAS Easter Egg Dyes Team Up, E-Cards "Spread Some Springtime"

(Courtesy of Easter Seals)

For more than 70 years, the Easter Seals seal has been an American -- and springtime -- tradition! This year's free e-cards, which feature the original lily artwork from the 2005 seals, are perfect to send for Easter or Mother's Day -- or just to brighten any day! Remember, there's no limit to how many e-cards you can send, and you can personalize them with your own message. Help spread some springtime -- and the word that Easter Seals provides services that make a difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities. View and send the cards from http://www.easterseals.com/site/Ecard?ecard_id=1021.

Send an e-card and then vote on the Web site of our sponsor, PAAS® Easter Egg Dyes, for the winning design for their 125th anniversary Easter egg. You'll be registered for a chance to win great prizes for the Easter season.

Sign Site Online Sign-Writing Resources



SignWriting.org offers online sign-written dictionaries, a database of signs and symbols that users can download, and a sign-dictionary library as well as links to other Sutton Movement Writing and Shorthand resources. The website explores the uses of sign-writing in daily life and offers a variety of services as well as a product catalog. Learn more at <http://signwriting.org>.

Microsoft Press Offers New Resource Guide—Accessible Technology: A Guide for Educators

(Courtesy of Microsoft.com)

The 47-page guide from Microsoft Press provides information about Accessible Technology initiatives and resources that are available to educators to ensure that all students have equal access to electronic information.

This guide includes:

- A discussion on the importance of Accessible Technology
- Case studies that describe groundbreaking, Accessible Technology initiatives
- Information about accessibility features and assistive technology products that will help individuals with specific disabilities

To order copies of this or other booklets for educators, please call 1-800-MSPRESS, select option 3, and request code DN06. This guide is 0-7356-2012-1, Accessible Technology: A Guide for Educators. Ask about discounts for purchases of 10 or more booklets.

You can also download the guide from Microsoft.com at http://download.microsoft.com/download/7/d/b/7db02f2c-2446-44a3-b22d-66f530f254a2/Accessible_Technology.doc

PLUK trainings and activities planned for Winter/Spring 2005::

PLUK associate boards around the state are sponsoring a number of trainings and activities this coming year. Mark your calendar if you are interested in participating.

Go to <http://www.pluk.org/training> for more detailed information and registration.

March 2005

Title: Bullying: an Introduction to What we can do

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Where: Interactive video conference airing statewide from Kalispell

Presenters: Stephanie Luehr

Title: ADHD: Where We Stand Today

Date: March 9, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: Kalispell

Presenter: Stephanie Luehr

Title: Transition Services for Special Education Students in the Public School

Date: March 19, 2005, 11-12:15pm

Location: Mary Alice Fortin Center room A, or by phone.

Who Should Attend: Anyone interested in learning more about the transition process

Presenters: Sandy Taylor and Bobbie Thurston

Call the PLUK office at 1-800-222-7585 or 255-0540, or email Sandy at staylor@pluk.org or Bobbie at bthurston@pluk.org to register.

Upcoming Trainings on Transition:

September 22, 2005 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

October 21, 2005 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

November 1, 2005 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm

Title: Staying Cool When Our Buttons are Pushed: Part 2

Date: March 21, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: Kalispell, The SUMMIT

Presenter: Doug Cochran-Roberts

Other Community Activities

- May 13, 2005, Kids at Heart Gala with a performance by the *Mid Life Chryslers*, Sheraton-Billings, call Dennis Moore at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540
Sponsored by the Billings Associate Board.

Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana::

ADHD Overview and Medical Intervention, March 9, Billings

Presented by: Dr. Laurie Nicholson, The Children's Clinic

March 9, 2005, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, Madison Room, Holiday Inn Grand Montana

Region III CSPD and the Eastern Yellowstone Special Services Cooperative invite you to an informative luncheon featuring Dr. Laurie Nicholson. Dr. Nicholson will be presenting on ADHD and the implications of medical intervention. The luncheon will provide information appropriate for school counselors, social workers, psychologists, administrators, teachers, and mental health providers. The lunch treat luncheon will cost approximately eight dollars. Please attempt to be seated by 11:30. Register online at <http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister>.

Talk Around the Clock Workshop, April 1-2, Bozeman

This training is targeted toward professionals working with young children with a hearing loss. If anyone has questions, they can e-mail Sherilyn Renner, Deaf Educator, Bozeman Public Schools at srenner@bozeman.k12.mt.us.

There is a graduate credit available from Montana State University-Billings (SPED 493-401) for \$100. To receive the credit, individuals must write a lesson plan for a case study and implement it (this can be a "team" effort). There are also 7.75 non-sponsored CEUs available from the MT Board of Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

When: Friday, April 1, 6:30PM—8:30PM (Part 1) Saturday, April 2, 9:00AM—4:00PM (Part 2)

Where: Bozeman, Wingate Inn

Presenter: Karen Rossi, national speaker, the executive director for the Omaha Speech and Hearing Center and the author of several books.

Workshop Cost: \$25.00

Registration Deadline: March 18, 2005

The Agenda and Registration Form are available at the following link
<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/speced/talkaroundclock.pdf>.

Self-Employment Part, April 4, Teleconference, (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings, Lewistown)

4/4/05 1:00-4:00 PM, METNET: "Self-Employment Part 1," Overview of self-employment as an option for people with disabilities; case studies, (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings, Lewistown)

For information, contact Kim Brown, Transition Project Coordinator at 406/243-4852 or brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu.

Montana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference, April 13-15, Billings

The 2005 Montana CEC Conference focuses on "diverse abilities" and presents variety of topics suited to diverse audiences including parents, professionals, and students. Registration rates vary (\$45-\$125) and CEUs are pending.

Early-Bird Registration Discount Deadline: March 25, 2005

Print a copy of the registration form at <http://www.mtcec.org/registration.htm>.

For more information, visit the Montana CEC website at <http://www.mtcec.org/conference.htm>.

Region I CSPD "Child Abuse and Neglect," Glasgow, Cottonwood Inn, April 22-23

April 22 - 6:00 - 8:00

April 23 - 8:00 - 4:00

Cost - \$20.00, includes lunch on the 23rd. This training is an 8-hour approved training for participants on the Practitioner Registry and for Day Care Provider Renewals and CEU's.

For more information or to register contact: Jody King at 406-228-9431 or 1-800-659-3673.

Fourth Annual Native American Brain Injury Conference, April 26-27, Billings

The Fourth Annual Native American Brain Injury Conference, scheduled for April 26-27 in Billings, will feature nationally-recognized speakers and an evening concert with singer-songwriter Jack Gladstone.

Registration fees vary (\$55-\$105). Pre-register by April 8, 2005 for the best rates. Register online at <http://www.msubillings.edu/mtcdregister>. Questions? Call Ian Elliot at 1-888-866-3822, or Nell Eby at 406-655-7636 for more information

Step Up to Writing- A Key to Academic Success, April 25-26 (Missoula), April 27-28 (Kalispell)

Step Up to Writing is a writing program that makes a dramatic difference in student success. This two-day workshop is designed for teachers who want to help struggling students learn to communicate in an organized and effective manner. Participants will leave the workshop with a wealth of strategies that motivate students as they significantly increase their academic success.

The trainer, Neilia Solberg, B.A., is a Step Up to Writing consultant for Sopris West Educational Services. Included in her years of teaching are elementary school and staff development in the language arts and content reading. Recent experience in Academic Achievement plans across the curriculum and grade levels as well as expanded responsibilities in coordinating instruction development.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Session 3: Getting Students Past the "Gatekeeper" Courses in Math-Creating Success in Pre-Algebra and Algebra, May 5, Missoula

Effective instruction, especially at the middle school level, is a critical component for laying the foundation for higher-level mathematics. This one-day workshop focuses on the "big picture" concepts and those topics necessary for algebra success. By tackling the important topics and modeling the "big picture" concepts for students, teachers and students can "tear down" these roadblocks to algebra success.

To register, or for further information, please go to <http://www.cspd.net>

Self-Employment Part 2, May 6, Teleconference, (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings, Lewistown)

5/6/05 1:00-4:00 PM, METNET: "Self-Employment Part 2," Assessing business feasibility and developing business plans, (Missoula, Glendive, Glasgow, Miles City, Billings, Lewistown)

For information, contact Kim Brown, Transition Project Coordinator at 406/243-4852 or brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu.

June 10-11-12: A Family Learning Weekend for the Visually Impaired, hosted by the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind—MDSB, Great Falls

A FREE three-day weekend in Great Falls at MSDB is designed specifically for families with children who are visually impaired. This weekend is packed with ideas. A nationally renowned keynote speaker, Judith Lesner from the National Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired (NAPVI), will be speaking to families about the importance of parent advocacy. She will present with her son, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, who will be addressing the current issues in the education of the blind. Both Judith and Jacob are experienced will be working with our parents to design a Montana chapter of NAPVI. For more information, please contact MSDB at 1-800-882-6732 or Barb Rolf, Outreach Vision Consultant at (406) 251-5674.

Walk F.A.R. for NAAR Autism Walk – June 12, Great Falls

To date, NAAR has committed \$21.1 million to fund 211 autism research projects and fellowships worldwide - more than any other non-governmental organization. NAAR has been able to make these investments, in large part, through the success of Walk F.A.R. for NAAR, the signature fundraising and autism awareness event of NAAR. Each year, walks throughout the USA, Canada and England attract thousands of walkers and raise millions for research.

Great Falls Walk (<http://www.autismwalk.org/greatfalls>)

Location: Gibson Park

Distance: 2.5km

Check-In: Noon

Start Time: 1:00pm

Refreshments: Treats for All to Enjoy

Parking: Free Parking

Walkers should bring their donations and Walker Sponsor Forms with them before the start of the Walk. The Great Falls, Montana Walk will take place rain or shine! In case of bad weather, please come to the Walk site to turn in your money and receive your Walk T-Shirt.

Help spread the word about the Montana Walk F.A.R. for NAAR event. Download the event flyer at http://www.autismwalk.org/site/DocServer/Great_Falls_Walk_Flyer_FINAL.pdf?docID=705. Want to build a Walk F.A.R. team, check out http://www.autismwalk.org/site/PageServer?pagename=fundraising_tips.

Find out more about the Walk F.A.R. for NAAR Events at
<http://www.autismwalk.org/site/PageServer?pagename=homepage>.

Interested? Want to Learn More?

Penny Martin—Local Volunteer Leadership—406.771.3998 or j.martin@bresnan.net

Scott R. Moore—Pacific Northwest Regional Director

National Alliance for Autism Research - 1370 Stewart Street – Seattle WA 98109

206.464.5182 smoore@naar.org <http://www.autismwalk.org> or <http://www.naar.org>

October 19-20-21: The Northern Rockies Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired (NRAER) Conference—Bozeman, Montana, at the Holiday Inn Convention Center.

This conference is designed for professionals in the field of visual impairment, but welcomes those who may have an interest in working with the blind. A full schedule is planned. Keynote speakers will include those from the Helen Keller Institute and Eagle Mount-Bozeman to name a few. The conference will provide an opportunity for hands-on experiences with technology for the blind. Classroom teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals, parents and other interested individuals are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Barb Rolf, Outreach Vision Consultant for the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, at (406) 251-5674.

Online Training/Workshops/Events::

FCTD Hosts Online Discussion of AT and Early Childhood, Beginning March 3

This month's FCTD on-line discussion is a sharing of ideas and strategies on using assistive technology to further the potential of young children with disabilities. The guest speakers are; Sue Mistrett, Director of the Let's Play Project out of the University of Buffalo, Sue will share the latest research, strategies, and tools on the topic; and Lisa Johnson, a parent of a young son with disabilities will share her experience of successful integration of assistive technology in her son's classroom and the professional/parent teaming involved. Please join the discussion beginning March 3, 2005 by logging on to www.fctd.info to learn and share ideas!

Education News Parents Can Use: Next broadcast, March 15, 2005

A television series about ways to ensure children's educational success

<http://www.ed.gov/news/av/video/edtv/index.html>

Education News Parents Can Use focuses on schools, learning and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. On the third Tuesday of each month during the school year, Education News airs live via satellite, offering parents and anyone else with an interest in education vital information about getting involved in children's learning.

- Arts Education: Improving Students' Academic Performance
Tuesday, March 15, 2005 — 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm ET
- Early Childhood Development: What Parents Need to Know
Tuesday, April 19, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET
- Science Education: Preparing Students for the Global Economy
Tuesday, May 17, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET
- Service Learning: Creating Community & Developing Citizens
Tuesday, June 21, 2005 — 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET

If you have any comments or questions, feel free to send a message to Education.TV@ed.gov or call at 1-800-USA-LEARN.

PACER Presents A Free IBM Web Adaptation Technology Workshop, March 16

This free online workshop offers a demonstration of Web software that dynamically manipulates web content to make websites more accessible to individuals with disabilities. Key features include: speak Web page text, enlarging content, tailoring font, etc. The software tool was developed by IBM and is being piloted by PACER STC. Participants will be able to download the software free. Phone and Internet connection are required for full participation. Call in to connect and then view the demonstration online. Advance registration is required.

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

From: 2:00 - 3:00 pm Eastern, 1:00 pm Central, 12:00 pm Mountain, 11:00 am Pacific, 10:00 am Alaska, 9:00 am Hawaii

Participating organizations will receive:

- IBM Web Adaptation Technology software for users
- Training and on-going technical support from PACER Center

ATA Resource Centers nationwide and individuals can participate in this pilot project. The first participating organization that registers 25 users gets a free computer from IBM. To register visit PACER at <http://www.pacer.org/forms/workshops.asp?grant=STC&workshop=IBM%20Web%20Adaptation%20Technology-3/16/2005&id=1> or call 952-838-9000.

For more information about specific features of this software, visit <http://www.webadapt.org>.

If you are unable to attend the workshop but would still like information on this software, contact Katrina or Stephanie (PACER Simon Technology Center) at stc@pacer.org.

METNET Free Interactive Trainings: Self Employment

Self-Employment Part 1 April 4th, 2005, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Self-Employment Part 2 May 6th, 2005, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM

This is a two-part series with nationally-renowned self-employment consultant Cary Griffin. During the sessions, Cary will describe how to make self-employment work for people with disabilities. Topics include:

- Using person-centered planning processes
- Generating business ideas
- Connecting to other resources
- Conducting Benefits Analyses
- Writing business plans and evaluating them for feasibility
- Marketing

MET NET will broadcast to these locations simultaneously:

Missoula: University of Montana Gallagher Building, Room 104, Corner of Arthur and Eddy

Glendive: Glendive Medical Center, 202 Prospect Drive

Glasgow: Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital, 621 Third Street South

Miles City: Miles Community College, 2715 Dickenson, room 106

Billings: Montana State University – Billings, Downtown at 214 N. Broadway, first floor conference center

Lewistown: Central Montana Medical Center, Conference Room #1, 408 Wendell Ave.

Register online at www.cspd.net. There is no cost to attendees and OPI Renewal Credits are available. **Please register by March 24, 2005.**

If you have questions, please contact Kim Brown at brown@ruralinstitute.umt.edu, or Ellen Condon at condon@ruralinstitute.umt.edu.

Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

People on the Move Sessions, Next Deadline May 27

The People On The Move program consists of two days of instruction for travel trainers, teachers, job coaches, bus operators, transportation coordinators, independent living specialists and others who assist people with disabilities in their use of public and private transportation so that they can go to school, jobs and other community destinations.

If you missed the March 2 deadline for Ann Arbor, there are other dates and cities; each is followed by the application deadline:

June 8-9, 2005: Salt Lake City, Utah (May 27)

September 7-8, 2005: Boston, Mass. (Aug. 3)

November 14-15, 2005: New Orleans, La. (Oct. 3)

Association for Positive Behavioral Support (APBS) Second International Conference on Positive Behavioral Support, March 10-12, Tampa, FL

Sponsored by the University of South Florida and the OSEP Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, the 2005 conference focuses on "The Expanding World of PBS: Science, Values, and Vision."

Costs vary from \$40 per workshop (APBS Member half-day) to \$100 per workshop (Non-member full-day). CEUs and BCBA Type 2 credits are available.

Register online at www.apbs.org.

Abuse of Children & Adults with Disabilities, March 14-16, Riverside, CA

Hosted by Arc Riverside, the Only Ongoing Conference on abuse and other crimes against children, adults and seniors with disabilities brings you up-to-date and provides basic information for those new to the field.

Who should attend? Anyone responding to crimes, abuse, children and adults with disabilities, law enforcement, victim's services, protective services, advocacy services, health care, mental health, sexual assault response, domestic violence, family violence, among others. Meet the top national experts in the field!!!

The full conference cost for early bird registration (before March 10th) is \$265 - after March 10th and on-site is \$340. Attending for one day is \$170. CEUs are also available.

Register online at <http://www.disability-abuse.com/cando/conf>

Pervasive Developmental and Learning Disabilities Conference, March 17-18, Miami FL

The University of Miami School of Education and the Center for Research in Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) announce the first annual international Pervasive Developmental and Learning Disabilities Conference. The conference will take place March 17-18, 2005 at the Learning Center at the University of Miami. Email jmesler@miami.edu for registration information.

Disability Research Institute 2005 Symposium -- SSA Disability Programs: Comprehensive Work Opportunity Initiative--April 5, National Press Club, Washington, DC

The Disability Research Institute (DRI) 2005 Symposium will bring together nationally recognized disability scholars to discuss key policy questions affecting Social Security disability programs and policies as related to DRI research. This interactive discussion will include designated time for audience participation. Detailed information on DRI research projects will be made available throughout the day and researchers will be available to discuss their work during the scheduled poster session. The Symposium will include four interactive sessions that will address the following key policy questions:

- What are your reactions to the currently identified barriers to return to work in the Comprehensive Work Opportunity Initiative? What other barriers are there (if any) that need to be addressed and what recommendations would you make to SSA regarding strategies that should be employed to decrease or eliminate those barriers?
- How can SSA modify or restructure the disability determination process to facilitate return to work simultaneously with determination of eligibility of benefits?
- What are the most important issues for SSA to address to integrate and coordinate the long-term process of transitioning youth with disabilities to work? What are the educational, career planning, assistive technologies and other transition issues that need to be addressed in order to help youth with disabilities maximize their economic self-sufficiency?
- What are the critical research and policy questions that need to be addressed in order to maximize the impact of research outcomes and policy recommendations on fully integrating persons with disabilities in the workforce and society at large?

Access <http://www.dri.uiuc.edu/symposium2005.asp> for more information, including registration. There is no charge to attend the Symposium; however, registration is required due to limited space.

2005 CEC Convention and Expo, April 6-9, Baltimore MD

The "largest and most exciting professional development event devoted to special and gifted education" the CEC Convention and Expo offers pre-convention workshops, more than 700 program sessions, the world's top exhibit show for professionals who work with exceptional students, the CEC Career Connections (with school district representatives from throughout the U.S.), and a variety of special events—including the CEC Teacher of the Year luncheon and the Yes I Can! Awards Gala. Convention registration varies (\$50-\$525), group discounts and CEUs are available.

Register by phone 1-888-232-7733, TTY 1-866-915-5000, fax 1-703-264-9494, or online at <http://www.cec.sped.org>.

2005 ADA Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion, and Disability Conference, April 11 - 13, Ohio State University

April 11th Pre-conference seminar presented by ADA-OHIO

Demystifying the Interplay of the ADA, FMLA & Workers Compensation

April 12th and 13th Multiple Perspectives on Access Inclusion & Disability

The Fifth Annual Multiple Perspectives conference will provide opportunities to share practical information on best practices, explore current research, and develop collaborations. The conference will continue its tradition of bringing together a diverse audience (individuals & employers, students & educators, advocates & policy makers, consumers & service agencies) to reflect on the many dimensions of disability. This year's theme, sameness, difference and equity, is summed up by the comments below:

In her opinion in *Tennessee v. Lane* Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said "Including individuals with disabilities among people who count in composing 'We the People,' Congress understood in shaping the ADA, that it would sometimes require not blindfolded equality, but responsiveness to difference; not indifference, but accommodation."

In an article discussing accommodations for college students with disabilities Paul Grossman, attorney for the Office For Civil Rights, described the accommodation mandate in disability law as an opportunity for rewarding self-examination. "No other set of laws so entreats academia to take its own temperature, examine its traditions, and thoughtfully deliberate about which of its standards are essential and which are merely unexamined habits." Grossman's observation is as true for the workplace and wider society as it is for education.

For more information, contact: ada-osu@osu.edu or ADA Coordinator's Office, 614-292-6207 (V); 614-688-8605 (tty).
<http://ada.osu.edu/conferences/2005.htm>

Making Sense—Autism and Sensory Processing Conference, April 15, Denver CO

Discussing medical, intervention, educational, and research issues related to autism and sensory processing. This conference offers dozens of choices for attendees and features keynote speaker Dr. Morton Ann Gernsbacher, PhD, "internationally recognized researcher, and mother of a sensational child with autism and severe dyspraxia. For 20 years, Gernsbacher has investigated the cognitive processes and mechanisms that underlie language comprehension. She is a central figure in the field of psycholinguistics and cognitive psychology."

Registration rates vary (\$150-\$175). Register online at https://www.blacktie-colorado.com/online_sales/kidfoundation.cfm or download a registration form at <http://www.kidfoundation.org/conference/conference.reg.pdf>.

Autism One Conference, May 26-29, Chicago IL

As always, Autism One 2005 features four major tracks to help parents and professionals make the most informed choices and decisions, they are: Biomedical Treatments; Behavior / Communication / Education Therapies; Complementary/Alternative Treatments; Government/Legal/Personal Issues. Each track offers three days of presentations focusing on particular treatments, research, and/or issues of that field. All presentations are open on a walk-in basis—conference registration covers them all.

Learn about the most effective treatments and therapies; how to obtain services and how to deal effectively with schools. Learn what to expect in future for the fields of medicine, education, government, and law.

Registration rates: \$99-\$295

Register online at <https://www.exporeg.com/autismone/>. Questions or registration concerns, email Registration@AutismOne.org. For more information, visit <http://autismone.org/homepage.cfm>.

Selected Sources::

1. *Monday Morning in Washington, DC*, <http://www.inclusionresearch.org>
2. *Rocky Mountain DBTAC*, <http://www.adainformation.org>
3. *PEN Weekly NewsBlast* <http://www.publiceducation.org>
4. *Health and Disability Training Calendar* <http://mtdh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/training.htm>
5. *The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar*
<http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm>
6. *Technology for Nonprofits*: <http://www.techsoup.org>

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- ❖ *Mission Statement:* Parent's Let's Unite for Kids unites parents, professionals, families and friends of children with special needs to support one another, and share information for the benefit of their children.
- ❖ *Vision Statement:* Given information and support, individuals with disabilities and their families will feel empowered to advocate for themselves and participate fully in educational and community opportunities.
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