



March 9 workshop on ADHD.

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

"Folks who claim high moral ground but are indifferent to kids are liars. I know that isn't a nice way to put it, and I wasn't raised to do that. I was raised to be a swan. Yet, as Marian Wright Edelman said, we have to be fleas in the fight against injustice. Enough committed fleas biting strategically can make even the biggest dog uncomfortable and transform even the biggest nation or state." —Susan Pace Hamill (law professor/author)

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U.S. Senate Passes Genetic Nondiscrimination Bill

(Courtesy of Justice for All)

From the Health Privacy Project, www.healthprivacy.org

Yesterday (2/17/05), the U.S. Senate unanimously passed the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2005, which establishes protections against genetic discrimination with respect to health insurance and employment. The bill, S.306, was introduced by Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine) and prohibits employers from using genetic information in employment decisions and insurance companies from denying coverage or basing premium rates on genetic information.

The legislation also prohibits a group health plan or an issuer of a health insurance group health plan from "requesting or requiring" an individual or family member to undergo a genetic test. In addition, S. 306 establishes privacy protections for genetic information held by employers, employment agencies, labor organizations, and others.

[Despite support from the Bush Administration, passage in the House of Representatives appears slim. Last year, a similar bill was passed in the Senate and died in the House.]

This legislation could mark a bold step in protecting patient privacy and encouraging full participation in health care. Advances in genetics could produce untold benefits for disease prevention, detection, and management, but without trust that their health information will remain confidential and will not be used against them, many patients will withhold participation from both individual testing and research initiatives.

Access the text of S.306 through this article link from Health Privacy.org http://www.healthprivacy.org/info-url_nocat2303/info-url_nocat_show.htm?doc_id=262369

HARKIN INTRODUCES BILL TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

Editor's Note: The MiCASSA legislation, S. 401, is currently with the Senate Finance Committee. At press time, no further action has been taken for S.401.

(Courtesy of Justice for All)

A Press Release From Senator Tom Harkin:

HARKIN INTRODUCES BILL TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

Legislation would increase access for people with disabilities and older Americans

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2005, Washington, D.C.-- Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) today announced that he introduced the Medicaid Community-Based Attendant Services and Supports Act of 2005 (MICASSA). The legislation, co-sponsored by Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), would increase access to community-based services and supports to Americans with disabilities and older Americans.

"I strongly believe that it is important to level the playing field and give eligible individuals equal access to community-based services and supports," Harkin said. "This vital legislation will open the door to full participation by people with disabilities in our neighborhoods, workplaces, our economy, and our American Dream."

Specifically, MICASSA gives individuals who are currently eligible for nursing home services and institutional facilities equal access to community-based attendant services and supports, and establishes a demonstration project to evaluate service coordination and cost sharing approaches for those eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare. The legislation also provides additional funding to states to help them reform their long-term care systems and increase the provision of home and community based services.

"This legislation is needed to truly bring people with disabilities into the mainstream of society and provide equal opportunity for employment and community activities," Harkin said.

The following Senators co-sponsored the Harkin-Specter legislation: Edward Kennedy (D-MA), John Kerry (D-MA), Joseph Biden (D-DE), Mark Dayton (D-MN), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Jon Corzine (D-NJ), Charles Schumer (D-NY), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), and Christopher Dodd (D-CT).

Visit Senator Harkin's website for related information at <http://harkin.senate.gov/news.cfm?id=232219>.

Request for Comments on Proposed Changes in Federal Regulations on Employment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

(From USA Jobs www.usajobs.opm.gov/ei-special_hiring.asp)

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management is proposing changes to regulations regarding appointments of persons with mental retardation and severe physical and psychiatric disabilities. These changes will provide agencies the authority to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether these individuals can receive an appointment based solely on medical documentation submitted by the applicant. You may submit comments, identified by RIN number (3206-AK58), by visiting <http://www.regulations.gov> or e-mailing employ@opm.gov (include "RIN 3206-AK58" in the subject line of your message).

Submission deadline: March 14, 2005.

More On SB 291

(From The Bozeman Chronicle, www.bozemandailychronicle.com)

Home school parents worry about proposed testing law

By WALT WILLIAMS, Chronicle Staff Writer

March 7, 2005

HELENA -- By the end of first grade, Kristin Schuster of Bozeman realized that her daughter, Sara, needed special attention. Sara, 9, has Down Syndrome. She was lagging behind her classmates in academics, and she found the other students in her special-needs classes too distracting. Sara needed one-on-one help, but her public school didn't have the resources to do that.

So, Schuster gave up her career as an insurance agent to home school her daughter. Sara has since made remarkable improvement, according to her proud mother.

"Sara is very intelligent," Schuster said in a telephone interview. "I think she has great potential if she has the right environment."

Now a state lawmaker is proposing a law that would prevent Schuster from home schooling Sara if her daughter doesn't test well. No parent with a developmentally disabled child would be able to pull their child out of school unless they first meet certain requirements.

Read more of this article from the Bozeman Daily Chronicle at

<http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/articles/2005/02/13/news/homeschooldisabled.txt>

Mobility International—Internships with International Exchange and International Development Organizations Are Available
Tokyo, Japan Exchange Application Deadline March 15, 2005

(Courtesy of MIUSA)



Mobility International USA (MIUSA), is an organization devoted to empowering people with disabilities around the world to achieve their human rights through international exchange and international development, and is proud to provide this Web page listing over 20 internship opportunities in international development and international exchange, including information about the sponsoring organization, internship duties, deadlines, financial aid information, and contact information. Check out the newest opportunities at <http://www.miusa.org/publications/tipsheets/internships/>.

More MIUSA News: Come with us to Japan!

MIUSA is leading a 16-day exchange program to Tokyo, Japan for young leaders with disabilities.

PROGRAM FEE:

\$850 per person, includes international airfare, lodging, meals and activities
Generous scholarships for program fee available to qualified applicants

TENTATIVE DATES:

July 31 - August 15, 2005

ELIGIBILITY

U.S. citizens, Age 18 - 24 as of July 30, 2005. People with disabilities, people from minority backgrounds, first-time international travelers, and people with low-incomes are encouraged to apply. **Application Deadline: March 15, 2005.** For more information, visit <http://www.miusa.org/exchange/>. To fill out a PDF application for the Tokyo trip, go to <http://www.miusa.org/exchange/Japan2005application.doc>. Applications can be submitted by email, please see the form for more information.

NBC Series "Autism: The Hidden Epidemic" Now Available on DVD

(From PACER.org)

Want a DVD copy of the recent NBC programs on Autism? NBC has arranged to offer these programs on DVD through the Autism Speaks website at www.autismspeaks.org. The DVD costs just a penny (since the NBC website system does not recognize "free" items) and shipping and handling is \$4.95. Delivery takes about 6-8 weeks.

To order a copy of the NBC series, email your name and shipping address to info@autismspeaks.org. **Due to the high volume of requests, you may get an error message saying the email was undeliverable because the recipient's mailbox is full. It is possible that you will need to re-send your request at a later date.

State-by State Listing of Potential Impacts From Federal Budget Cuts

(Courtesy of EveryChildMatters.org)

Want to know how the federal budget could affect programs for Montana children? Interested in educational activism on behalf of children across the U.S.? Visit Every Child Matters Educational Fund at www.everychildmatters.org and learn about the legislative trends that impact education, health care, and children's rights.

To read how the federal budget may affect Montana programs for children and families, go to http://www.everychildmatters.org/site/DocServer/2006_Cuts_-_Montana.pdf?docID=2950.

Little Acorn Journals Keep Track of Medical Information

(From www.thelittleacorn.net)

Little Acorn is devoted to helping parents, caregivers, and patients track their health information. The founder of Little Acorns, Erin Hopf, is the mother of two children. Her daughter has Cystic Fibrosis. In order to make sure that "answers to myriads of doctors, nurses, insurance companies, etc [were] 100% correct" Erin Hopf created a record journal that was specific to her daughter and to CF. Eventually Hopf broadened her business "to include journals for other diseases, as well as a health journal to track her son's health, since we know that children not born with life-threatening illnesses still manage to see the doctor often as well!"

According to Little Acorn, "these journals track and organize, doctors visits, height and weight, drug history, childcare, hospital stays, and much more. They are sold in sheets also so that you can purchase them and add as needed."

Check out the Little Acorn website at www.thelittleacorn.net.

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.

Disability Is Natural

(From www.disabilityisnatural.com)



The Disability is Natural website and newsletters rose from parent advocate, Partners in Policymaking graduate, and national presenter Kathie Snow's experiences as a parent of a child with cerebral palsy. In 2001, after ten years as a public speaker, Kathie wrote the *Disability is Natural* book, created a companion video and a line of products to promote new ways of thinking, and launched this website. In addition, her Disability is Natural Free Press Email newsletter includes articles on innovative change, strategies for inclusion, and other new ways of thinking!

Visit Disability is Natural online at www.disabilityisnatural.com.

Starkey Hearing Foundation

The Starkey Hearing Foundation received a lot of popular press late in 2004 following an episode of the popular ABC Network home improvement/feel-good series "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" when a fourteen year old boy was awarded a college scholarship from the charitable medical foundation and Hear Now affiliate.

Following a brief inquiry from PLUK staff, Starkey Hearing Foundation Executive Director Debbie Wright offered this email:

Our mission is to provide hearing aids to those persons around the world who cannot afford to buy them. We provide approximately 10,000 domestically and approximately 10,000 internationally per year. If you have someone who needs a hearing aid, please let us know and we'd be happy to help.

So the world may hear,

Debbie Wright
Executive Director
Starkey Hearing Foundation
866.354.3254
972.239.9637-fax

Interested? Learn more about the efforts of Starkey Hearing Foundation at www.sotheworldmayhear.org.

Information on Section 504 from Wrightslaw

Wrightslaw offers a variety of Section 504 resources on their website, including: the difference between Sect. 504 and IDEA, and examples of common 504 questions. Looking for more information? Wrightslaw is known for advocacy resources and a burgeoning list of disability-related case law, legal news, and free publications.

Check it out at <http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/sec504.index.htm>.

Camp Eureka Natural History Camp for Children with Visual Impairments

(Courtesy of the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind)

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.

Print a PDF Camp Eureka brochure at http://www.msdb.mt.gov/campbrochure_web.pdf

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, 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. To print an application, go to <http://www.pacer.org/stc/exiteApplication.pdf>. Applications are due on May 2, 2005.

Very Special Arts Choir Brings Emotion to Music

(Courtesy of the Missoulian)

By TYLER CHRISTENSEN for the *Missoulian*, March 10, 2005— Music—even technically perfect music—is best delivered with feeling.

The VSA Choir was formed eight years ago to give adults with special needs a way to express their musical abilities and to meet other people, said Alayne Dolson, the executive director of VSA Arts of Montana.

"I was looking at what was happening to young people that were just leaving their high school programs," Dolson said. "When they graduated, they were often wait-listed."

Rather than wait for a slot in another program to open, Dolson thought they could find another way to socialize once a week. She convinced Malcolm Lowe, well known for his involvement with Missoula Children's Theater, to direct the choir.

Thus, the VSA Choir was born. It now boasts 30 members, some of whom Dolson has known since she taught them as preschoolers.

"It's exciting to see them develop some social skills, some community awareness," said Dolson, who accompanies the choir on piano.

Group members are proud of their singing, Dolson said. They work together and form lasting friendships. They make it fun - like when some of the singers who work together at McDonald's changed the words of one song to "feed them all burgers and fries."

Mary Jane Belz, a music education specialist at the University of Montana, was invited to hear the choir for the first time six years ago.

"Well, I walked in and the first thing that happened was one of the singers rushed right in and hugged me," Belz recalled. "That's the spirit of the choir. It's just a loving group."

She made observing the group, which uses the University of Montana's Music Building for its Thursday night rehearsals, a requirement for the students in her music education classes.

Read the rest of this article at <http://www.missoulian.com/articles/2005/03/10/news/mtregional/news08.txt>

American School Board Journal—Special Report

(Courtesy of asbj.com)



The Medicated Child

The number of students who take medication at school continues to grow

By Kathleen Vail

Every year, the Los Angeles Unified School District doles out about 450,000 doses of medication to its students. Children are taking a variety of medicines -- anything from short-term antibiotics to insulin, psychotropic drugs, and medications to treat asthma, says Karen Maiorca, director of nursing services for L.A. Unified. In the district, the nation's second largest, 70,000 children have asthma and 1,600 have diabetes.

L.A. Unified is hardly alone among school districts in the heavy responsibilities it bears in handing out medicine to students. Schools all over the country -- in rural, suburban, and urban districts of all sizes -- are helping their students manage chronic and acute illnesses, both physical and mental.

About 13 million children in kindergarten through 12th grade take medication in any two-week time period, according to a study by Ann Marie McCarthy, an associate professor at the University of Iowa. Most common are AD/HD medications, followed by over-the-counter and asthma medications, respectively. In another study, looking at changes in medication in schools, McCarthy found that students were taking about 200 different kinds of medications in 2003, up from the 58 found in a late 1980s study.

Read the rest of this report at <http://www.asbj.com/specialreports/0305SpecialReports/S1.html>

Limiting Gene Therapy for Kids

(Courtesy of Wired News, www.wired.com/news/)

08:07 AM Mar. 05, 2005 PT, WASHINGTON -- Federal health advisers recommended Friday that gene therapy treatments for children with a severe immune deficiency be restricted to those who have no alternative.

The Food and Drug Administration convened the panel after a 3-year-old French boy became the third child to develop cancer after receiving gene therapy for treatment for X-linked severe combined immunodeficiency, or X-SCID.

The FDA had asked U.S. researchers doing similar work to put it on hold.

Doctors and scientists on the advisory panel said they didn't want to hold up the therapy for children who have already failed to respond to bone marrow transplants, an alternative treatment. But they noted that the number of such children—who under Friday's recommendation would still be able to have experimental gene therapy -- is very small.

Read more of this Associated Press article at <http://www.wired.com/news/medtech/0,1286,66806,00.html>.

NCWD for Youth Newsletter

(From NCWD for Youth)



The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability (NCWD) for Youth assists state and local workforce development systems to better serve youth with disabilities. The NCWD/Youth, created in late 2001, is composed of partners with expertise in disability, education, employment, and workforce development issues. Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), the NCWD/Youth is housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership

In addition to dozens of publications and resources, the NCWD Youth newsletter, the "Intersection" is available to help readers improve services for youth with disabilities. New subscribers can signup at http://www.ncwd-youth.info/intersection/signup_form.php. All comments and inquiries should be sent to intersection@ncwd-youth.info. The monthly newsletter is also available online at <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/intersection/index.html#content>

GW Micro Sponsors Video Description Service for New ABC Drama, "Blind Justice"

(Courtesy of GW Micro)

(FORT WAYNE, IN) - GW Micro, makers of the Window-Eyes screen reader, is proud to announce their sponsorship of the Video Description Service of "Blind Justice," a new drama on ABC television. The program first aired on March 8th, 2005.

Ron Eldard plays NYPD detective Jim Dunbar who is shot, and struck blind, while on duty. A year later, Jim is reinstated and working cases while battling expectations from his colleagues, his wife and himself.

"Blind Justice" is the newest network television series, and the first for ABC, to offer video description service. "Descriptive video" describes the alternate audio channel that plays narration that describes what is being shown on a television program or movie. It allows a person who is blind or visually impaired to hear an added voice describing actions and images that cannot be discerned by listening to the dialog and sound effects alone.

"We're very excited to partner with We See TV on this project," said Erik Deckers, Director of Sales and Marketing for GW Micro. "We think television is for everybody, and we think We See TV is visionary in their efforts to make it accessible to everyone. We're glad to be able to help with that in any way we can."

"Blind Justice" holds up a mirror to society's tendency to pigeonhole people before we even meet them. It deftly details the struggles Jim Dunbar carries with him as he strives to overcome the stigma and prejudice associated with this disability. And it does this without ever stereotyping the principals, especially avoiding the temptation to make Jim a hero without the flaws, doubts and imperfections of humanity.

Amber McLain, Vice President, Executive Director of Sales for We See TV, said, "GW Micro is the perfect partner for We See TV, since both companies strive to enable visually impaired persons to equally participate in a contemporary lifestyle. As a computer user who is blind, I rely on the effectiveness and stability of the Window Eyes screen reader both at home and at work. Now GW Micro is reaching out to the blind community in a new way by providing funding for described television. Adding audio description to 'Blind Justice' will give millions of blind viewers an equal opportunity to enjoy the program."

In an attempt to achieve the perfect balance of description versus the program's original audio, WeSeeTV realizes that many in the audience want more details, more description, and more information. To that end, WeSeeTV offers enhanced descriptions of sets, characters and any other pertinent information on its website, www.weseetv.com. All visitors to the We See TV website are also encouraged to participate in an online survey. This will help WeSeeTV and GW Micro understand viewers' thoughts of description in general and the show in particular. The survey will launch on Tuesday the 8th.

We See TV has also partnered with Close Caption Service, which provides a written transcription of the audio portion of television programs for viewers who are hard of hearing, to help make "Blind Justice" accessible to more viewers.

For more information, contact Erik Deckers, Director of Sales and Marketing, at erik@gwmicro.com or Amber McLain, Vice President, Executive Director of Sales, at amber@ambermclain.com.

Solutions Marketing Group—Insights into American Industry, Access to the Corporate Mindset

(From Solutions Marketing Group)

The Solutions Marketing Group (SMG) is "a marketing consulting firm which designs innovative strategies for businesses to target the untapped market of 54 million consumers with disabilities." SMG offers an email newsletter and website to help readers monitor a variety of topics concerning people with disabilities and American industry, including: Profiles in Excellence, Accessibility, Employment, Customer Service, Marketing and Announcements.

Developed in 1998 by founder and president, Carmen Jones, SMG has become a leader in marketing and offers a strong voice for consumers with disabilities and the companies who seek their business.

To sign up for the SMG Newsletter visit <http://www.disability-marketing.com/newsletter/>.

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.

Access for All: How Distance Education Addresses Learning Needs

(From PBS Campus Previews, http://www.pbs.org/campus/006_News/006-00.html)

By Candace Kramer

Access for All: How Distance Education Addresses Learning Needs

It's not hard to understand why online distance learning — providing the ability to participate in education anytime and anywhere — is popular. Online education allows people from all walks of life, from stay-at-home moms to busy employees, to conveniently connect to learning options.

Online education makes it possible for small, dispersed groups to make contact in one virtual space, as is the case when rural high school students enroll in virtual classes whose class size their local school district could not support. The students may not move around, but they are far from each other and the classroom. Online education also makes it possible for those who travel often to maintain their studies. Both corporate 'road warriors' and migrant workers can continue their educations while they move from place to place.

Online learning also provides access to those for whom a peripatetic lifestyle or vast distance is not the issue, and for whom learning can be a struggle. According to the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, an estimated 48.9 million people — nearly one in five — have a disability. This article introduces the complex issues confronted by those with learning disabilities and offers information and resources for further exploration in overcoming learning barriers through online means.

Read the rest of Candace Kramer's February 4th column at http://www.pbs.org/campus/006_News/006-feb-04.html.

REFERENCE POINTS: Resources in Spanish

"LOS PASOS HACIA EL ÉXITO: CÓMO COMUNICARSE CON LA ESCUELA DE SU HIJO"

The Spanish version of "Steps to Success: Communicating with Your Child's School" has been Developed by CADRE and its partner NICHCY. This resource offers specific communication skills that may be helpful to parents as they develop and maintain partnerships with their child's school. To access the Spanish version of the document go to

<http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/successesp.cfm>. The English version can be found at <http://www.directionservice.org/pdf/Steps%20to%20Success1.4pg.pdf>.

"QUE NINGÚN NIÑO SE QUEDE ATRÁS: UNA GUÍA PARA LOS PADRES"

"No Child Left Behind: A Parents Guide" is now available on the web in Spanish. It summarizes NCLB, answers questions about the law, and tells what it means for parents. Both the Spanish and the English version can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/espanol/parents/academic/involve/nclbguide/>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFERS RESOURCES IN SPANISH

The U.S. Department of Education has updated the link on its home page for Spanish speakers. The site provides a range of educational related information and can be accessed in Spanish through the home page by clicking "Recursos en español" or by going to <http://www.ed.gov/espanol/bienvenidos/es>.

NEW WEB RESOURCES FOR LATINO PARENTS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND ADVOCATES

The Education Trust has recently unveiled a website for the Latino community, in both Spanish and English, which features reports and resources for parents, community leaders, and advocates. To view the website, go to <http://spanish.edtrust.org>.

HISPANIC HEALTH WEB SITE

The National Alliance for Hispanic Health has developed a Web site containing fact sheets, in English and Spanish, covering health topics of special concern to Hispanic Americans. You can also find news, actions to take, scholarship information, and other resources on the site. <http://www.hispanichealth.org/healthfacts.lasso>.

ASA LAUNCHES SPANISH SECTION ON ITS WEBSITE

The Autism Society of America (ASA) announces the launch of a Spanish-language section on its Web site. For more information go to <http://www.autism-ociety.org/site/PageServer> and click on "En Espanol."

SchwabLearning.org ANNOUNCES REVISION OF SPANISH WEB SITE

SchwabLearning recently announced the revision of their Spanish mini Web site. Over 20 key articles have been translated into Spanish. For more information go to <http://www.schwablearning.org/espanol/index.asp>.

AUTISM FACT SHEETS

Fact Sheets addressing medical research on Autism are available from National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in English and Spanish. The Spanish Fact Sheets can be found by scrolling down the page. <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubskey.cfm?from=autism>.

REACHING LATINOS WITH DISABILITIES

Eight steps for both asset building programs and disability organizations to reach Latinos with disabilities, at <http://www.wid.org/publications/?page=equity&sub=200406&topic=tm>.

"MY FUTURE MY PLAN" VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

The curriculum, "My Future My Plan" is designed to motivate and guide students with disabilities and their families as they begin early transition planning for life after high school. The curriculum package is available in both Spanish and English, for more information, go to <http://www.ncset.org/publications/mfmp.asp>.

Free Online Publications from WestEd

WestEd, a longstanding nonprofit, research, development, and service firm that has worked for years "to promote excellence, achieve equity, and improve learning for children, youth, and adults" offers free publications and other resources on their website. Take a peek at dozens of listings at <http://www.wested.org/cs/we/query/q/1379>. Learn more about WestEd's 35+ years of educational service and read about the agency's newest efforts at <http://www.wested.org>.

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: 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::

Region V CSPD Transition Fair—Missoula, March 15, 2005

Transition Fair
Tuesday March 15, 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Sentinel High School, Missoula
Cost: Free
Register on-site or online at <http://www.cspd.net>. CEUs are available.

Planning for what happens after high school starts NOW!

Information will be available on

Employment—Voc Rehab, WORC Center, Job Service, Montana Works, HRDC, JOBS

Developmental Disabilities—DD Case management, MDSC, ORI, Ravalli Services, CDC

Post Secondary—University of MT Disability Services, Job Corp

Resources—Mental Health, Summit Independent Living, PLUK, Casey Foundation, People First, YMCA, Mt Line, MonTech

Creative Scenarios—Emphasize individualized planning and outcomes, collaboration between agencies and schools, community based, consumer controlled resources and parent involvement

Financial Considerations—Guardianships and alternatives, Medicaid, PASS, Financial planning (Trusts, PASS plans, Self-Sufficiency Trust)

PASSPORT to Health Summit—Helena, April 26, 2005



As the PASSPORT to Health program enters its twelfth year of successfully managing the delivery of health care to Montana's Medicaid clients, the DPHHS Managed Care Bureau is planning provider summits to solicit your feedback about the program and identify suggestions for change. A primary goal of these events is to look at the program in a truly comprehensive way; all ideas are open for consideration.

One-day facilitated summits are planned for locations across the state.

Helena on Tuesday, April 26 at the First Presbyterian Church (535 Ewing) from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9:30 AM, and lunch will be provided.

Summits are also planned for:

Havre during the week of May 10

Billings during the week of May 17

Kalispell the week of June 7

A cross-section of PASSPORT stakeholders will be invited, including: PASSPORT providers, specialists and other non-PCPs, representatives from billing companies, hospitals, FQHCs, RHCs, the tribal health community, and client advocates.

If you have ideas and would like to participate in one of the summits, contact PASSPORT Program Officer Niki Scoffield at (406) 444-4148 or niscoffield@mt.gov.

For more information on the PASSPORT to Health Program, visit the DPHHS website at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hpsd/medicaid/medrecip/pdf/passporthandbook.pdf>

Registration Deadline: March 18 for 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, 2005, 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.

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.

Region I CSPD

"Child Abuse and Neglect," Glasgow, Cottonwood Inn, April 22-23, 2005

"Child Abuse and Neglect," Glasgow, Cottonwood Inn, April 22-23, 2005

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.

Montana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference, April 13-15, 2005, 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>.

Fourth Annual Native American Brain Injury Conference, April 26-27, 2005, 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/mctdregister>. 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, 2005 (Missoula), April 27-28, 2005 (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, 2005, 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, 2005, 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.

Family Learning Weekend for the Visually Impaired, Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind June 10-12, 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, 2005, 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

**Northern Rockies Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired (NRAER)
Conference October 19-21, 2005—Bozeman**

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::

Closing The Gap Forum Announcements

Closing The Gap Forums is a discussion board exploring the many ways that technology is being used to enhance the lives of people with special needs. Please feel free to participate in the discussions listed below and share this valuable resource with friends and colleagues. There is no fee to participate. Visit: <http://www.closingthegap.com/forums> and check out the "Featured Discussions"

Activities and Camp for Families

Begins: March 20, 2005

Moderators: Jill E. Senner, PhD, CCC-SLP; Lesly Levitas, OTR/L; Pam Harris

Participants in this discussion will learn about camp and how naturalistic summer recreation activities can provide rich communication opportunities for AAC users.

Using Technology With Children With Cerebral Visual Impairment

Begins: March 25, 2005

Moderators: Roger Bates, Information Director, Inclusive Technology Ltd/Inclusive TLC; Kay Wrench, Team Leader, Oldham Education Authority

A chance to share expertise and experiences on working with CVI children.

Check out the "Closing The Gap Forums" <http://www.closingthegap.com/forums>.

Individual Supports to Increase Access to an Inclusive College Experience for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (Online Training Module)

The purpose of this online training module is to provide guidance on developing an Individual Support Model (ISM) to increase access to inclusive college experiences and to improve chances for the success of students with intellectual disabilities. An ISM approach provides students with individualized services and supports (e.g., educational coach, tutor, technology, natural supports) in college courses, certificate programs, internships, and/or degree programs. Offered by the On-Campus Outreach project at the University of Maryland; funded by the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs. Learn more at http://www.education.umd.edu/oco/training/oco_training_modules/IndividualSupports/start.html.

FCTD Hosts Online Discussion of AT and Early Childhood, Beginning March 3, 2005

This month national expert Susan Mistrett, Director of the Let's Play! Projects, and parent advocate Lisa Johnson, join us to discuss disabled children and the variety of uses for AT enrichment. This month's discussion expert, Sue Mistrett, has many years of experience helping early childhood programs capitalize on "low tech" tools and strategies that support development and promote play in children's lives. In this discussion, Sue will be sharing her ideas and strategies in the use of assistive technologies for young children with disabilities. The discussion also offers a unique parent perspective from Lisa Larson, who's young son Trey, has been successful with a wide range of assistive technology.

Post your experiences, questions and comments. Learn from the experts! We look forward to "seeing" you online! Join in the forum at <http://www.fctd.info/webboard/index.php>.

PACER Presents A Free IBM Web Adaptation Technology Workshop, March 16, 2005

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, 2005

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)

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, 2005, 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 2005, 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, 2005, 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, 2005, 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, 2005, 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>.

National ADA Symposium, May 17-19, 2005, Overland Park, KS

(From Monday Morning in Washington, DC)

The National ADA Symposium is the most comprehensive and effective event available on the Americans with Disabilities Act and disability related issues. It is designed to meet the specific needs and interests of professionals who are involved in interpreting and implementing the American with Disabilities Act's guidelines and regulations. Experts directly involved in interpreting, regulating and implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act provide the training. The Symposium brings together presenters from the key agencies involved with the ADA including the U.S. Dept. of Justice, the EEOC, Dept. of Education, Dept. of Labor and the U.S. Access Board. These presenters provide dynamic training that participants can put to use in their professions.

For more information, including online registration, go to <http://www.adaupdate.org/Symposium.html>.

"Making Connections, Strengthening Communities" 14th Annual Community Technology Conference June 17-19, 2005, Cleveland, OH

(Courtesy of CTCNet.org)

The Community Technology Center Network's major event is "the largest national gathering of community technology organizations, programs, and experts." The goal for the 2005 conference is to "to chart the progression of the community technology movement from a small grassroots effort, focused on technology access, to a growing national and international field of practice harnessing technology to meet human and social needs." According to CTCNet, the Annual Conference "is a gathering of our member organizations, leaders in the field, and others in related fields interested in creating equitable participation in information technology. CTCNet members receive a discounted registration rate and repeatedly cite this conference as one of the most important services CTCNet offers."

Register before May 17th to take advantage of early-bird discounts. For registration rates and more information, visit www.ctcnet.org/conf/2005. Online registration may be available soon. Registration concerns or other questions? Email Stephen Quinn, CTCNet Member Services Coordinator, at squinn@ctcnet.org.

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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- ❖ Please be aware that some links provided are *time sensitive*. Contact us if you have difficulty accessing any of the information.
- ❖ View an *archive* of all Weekly eNews at <http://www.pluk.org/eNews.htm>
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Statement on accessibility:** Today, we endeavor to be conscious of the need for making all electronic information accessible, as we are aware of physical accessibility issues in our community. For design guidelines visit <http://ncam.wgbh.org/cdrom/guideline/>.
- ❖ **Privacy Policy:** We do not sell, rent, or lend the e-mail addresses of our subscribers.