



PLUK & CSHS staff and Tim Harris of OPI at training March 9 & 10.

**PLUK eNews for the week of March 15-19, 2004
Volume 2 Issue 36**

Welcome to the weekly PLUK eNews!

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

"No other skill taught in school and learned by school children is more important than reading. It is the gateway to all other knowledge. Teaching students to read by the end of third grade is the single most important task assigned to elementary schools." - American Federation of Teachers

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##

New Issue of Quality Matters Available online

<http://www.pluk.org/QMSpr04.pdf>

This Spring 2004 issue features an article on Violence and Brain Injuries by Nell Eby and Dr. Mary Car. The paper issue should be mailed out within a week.

##

Improving Access in Your Community: Start to Finish, March 22, Butte

A workshop presented by: Dot Nary, M.A., Training Director, Research and Training Center on Independent Living, The University of Kansas

Monday, March 22, 2004, 10:30am-3pm, Butte Plaza Mall, 3100 Harrison, Butte, MT
(Look for the Can Do Festival banner in the mall)

Sponsored by Rural Institute, University of Montana & Silver Bow Developmental Disability Council

Improving accessibility of buildings, businesses, and other sites in your community is an ongoing process with great rewards!

This workshop will include:

- Understanding how increased access benefits the entire community;
- Learning how to evaluate and measure access;
- Practice how to persuade others to support and invest in access.

Participants will leave the training with a better understanding of their important role in community change, as well as the skills to facilitate these changes.

Lunch will be provided free of charge to all who RSVP by Thursday, March 18th. Please email cowan@ruralinstitute.umt.edu or call 406.243.2447 with questions or to RSVP.

##

Tuition Support Available for Graduate Study!!

The University of Montana-Missoula and Montana State University-Billings are involved in a federally funded collaborative program that offers tuition reimbursement for teachers interested in taking a 7-course sequence of graduate courses in special education. The courses focus on the needs of students with low-incidence disabilities.

Previous students have included special education teachers who have an entire caseload of students with low-incidence disabilities, resource room teachers who occasionally have a student with severe disabilities on their caseload, general education teachers who have special education students in the regular classroom for portions of the day, family support specialists who work with students who have low-incidence disabilities, special education school-based administrators, and related services personnel who provide speech, OT, or PT services to students with low-incidence disabilities.

This course of study begins with a two-week intensive two-course summer session in Missoula. The remainder of the courses are delivered online through video conferencing and online assignments to accommodate teachers across the state. The courses in this

sequence can be rolled into a master's program at either the University of Montana or Montana State University-Billings.

For more information and applications for tuition assistance:

- Check the project Web site at: <http://www.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/class>
- Contact Dr. Gail McGregor at the University of Montana: (800)732-0323 or (406) 243-2348 or e-mail at mcgregor@ruralinstitute.umt.edu
- Contact Dr. Linda Christensen at Montana State University-Billings: (406) 657-2081 or e-mail at lchristensen@msubillings.edu

##

Reading Literacy/Math Competency: Assessment & Prevention of Learning Disabilities, June 13-15, Billings

<http://www.pluk.org/masp04.pdf>

The Montana Association of School Psychologists' Summer Institute 2004 will be held at the Mansfield Health Education Center in Billings on June 13-15, 2004. Download the brochure at the link above for information on the presenters, agenda, credit, and registration.

##

Immediate Action Needed to Protect Medicaid and other Federal Disability Programs

Please Let Your Senators Know Where You Stand On These Issues

On Monday, March 8th the U.S. Senate began a weeklong debate on the fiscal year 2005 Budget Resolution, which contains several harmful and potentially devastating provisions for people with disabilities. If enacted, as reported out by the Senate Budget Committee, this Budget Resolution would:

- Cut Medicaid by \$11 billion over 5 years;
- Cut \$113 billion over five years in domestic discretionary programs outside of homeland security, affecting all domestic spending, including critical programs for persons with disabilities (i.e. IDEA, vocational rehabilitation, housing, family support, assistive technology, child care, all DD programs, transportation);

In addition, the Senate Budget Resolution contains no reserve funds for the Bush Administration's New Freedom Initiative proposals (i.e. "Money Follows the Person, community direct care worker demonstration and respite service demonstration projects), and the Family Opportunity Act. This means that under Senate rules, funding these programs this year will require 60 votes -- nearly impossible in this political climate.

For your Senator's contact information please see

<http://www.unitedspinal.org/advocacy/> or call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121

##

"Introduction To Bike Racing" Camp To Be Offered May 15-22 To Riders With Disabilities

(Colorado Springs, Colorado) - The U.S. Association of Blind Athletes, in conjunction with Disabled Sports USA and The National Disability Sports Alliance is hosting the 2004 U.S. Disabled Cycling "Introduction To Bike Racing" Camp May 15-22 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Cyclists with physical disabilities ages 17 and older are invited to the Training Center to learn bike handling skills, safe riding techniques and road racing skills. There will also be some instruction in velodrome (track) riding and racing. Athletes eligible for participation include: blind and visually impaired cyclists who race on tandem bikes with a sighted partner, cyclists with cerebral palsy or head injury who use both standard bikes and tricycles, and amputees cyclists who ride single bikes.

"We're looking for riders who want to get to the next level," said Pam Fernandes, Camp Coordinator and Paralympic cyclist. "We also hope to identify athletes to compete for the United States in future international races and Paralympic Games."

For more information or to request an application, contact Pam Fernandes at pamala@quik.com or call (781) 449-9563. Interested riders may also visit USABA's Web site <http://www.usaba.org> for more information.

##

US/Japan Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Disability Exchange Program

MIUSA is currently accepting applications from young adults with and without disabilities for an eighteen-day cultural exchange program to Japan. US citizens, ages 18-24, are eligible to apply. Deadline: March 15, 2004.

The focus of US/Japan Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Disability Exchange Program is "Leadership through international volunteerism and cultural exchange." Participants will take part in workshops on disability rights and leadership, explore Tokyo and the surrounding area, participate in a 4-day volunteer service project, and experience Japanese customs, food and culture with members of the local community. American Sign Language interpretation and materials in alternative formats will be provided. Individuals from cultural minority backgrounds and inexperienced international travelers are encouraged to apply.

For more information visit <http://www.miusa.org/exchange/upcomingexchanges.htm>

##

Bookshare.org Partners with Indiana University to Provide Electronic Textbooks

We're very excited to announce that Indiana University, one of the nation's leading alternative text production facilities serving students with disabilities, has partnered with Bookshare.org to make college textbooks available to students with disabilities nationwide.

Indiana University will contribute all textbooks scanned in its production facility to the growing Bookshare.org library, the largest contribution of education-specific materials to Bookshare.org to date. The arrangement also provides Indiana University students with qualifying disabilities access to the Bookshare.org collection (now numbering over 16,000).

Indiana joins a number of schools nationwide in the effort to maximize the educational impact of Bookshare.org by sharing the textbooks they have scanned for their students.

The scale and history of Indiana's book-scanning operation which has produced more than 1,800 books to date promises to make Bookshare.org a key resource for students at post-secondary institutions.

For more information visit <http://www.bookshare.org>

##

Closing the Gap Technology Forums

<http://www.closingthegap.com/forums>

- *What They Know vs. What They Can Write: Bridging the Gap*
This forum will be a venue for discussing the specific barriers that keep students from expressing themselves and retelling their knowledge through writing and the strategies that can be used to bridge that gap.
- *Mounting Devices to Wheelchairs: An Overview*
Join now to discuss the importance of and techniques for mounting Augmentative communication and/or technology equipment to wheelchairs.
- *Create for Literacy: Tools and Strategies to Help Children Become Readers and Writers*
This discussion will explore a variety of strategies using software such as BuildAbility, My Own BookShelf, and IntelliPics Studio to help children actively and creatively engage in literacy experiences.

##

Wheelchair Lift Van for Sale

1995 Chevy with automatic and loaded with features, 152,000 miles, asking \$8,000. Call 827-3522 for more information.

##

March Disabilities Awareness Activities in Butte

Silver Bow County Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. is spearheading a March Developmental Disabilities Awareness Campaign - which we are calling the "Can Do Festival!" There is great cross agency collaboration and involvement, so much we are going under the name of Butte Developmental Disabilities Coalition.

This festival was originally designed as a film festival and has grown to be a combination of many wonderful independent events. If anyone would like to be apart of the festivities or want to help, please contact Todd Hoar at 723-4061, 490-7406 or sbddc@bigskyhsd.com

Please remember that all of these events are free of charge. There will be concessions to purchase at the films and play!

Thank you to all who have helped put this together and for those of you who plan on attending!

Download the schedule of activities at: <http://www.pluk.org/March04.pdf>

##

Free Medication Resources

Many drug manufacturers have what's called Patient Assistance Programs. These programs are designed to help those who can't afford their medicines obtain them at no cost or low cost. The following web sites provide free information and application forms:

<http://www.needymeds.com>

<http://www.rxassist.org>

http://www.rxhope.com/pap_selectdrug.asp

<http://www.helpingpatients.org/>

##

Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana::

PLUK Empowerment Series March 16, Billings

March 16, 2004, 6-8:00pm: Jonathan and Nancy Whitmer will speak on muscular dystrophy. Jonathan will share his experiences growing up with muscular dystrophy and Nancy will share what it was like for her to raise a child with a disability. The basic message they would like to give for their presentation is that with determination and perseverance anything is possible.

All sessions are two hours long and go from 6 to 8pm. If there is a subject that is of high interest to anyone, we can offer teleconferencing in different areas of the state upon request. Anyone is welcome to attend. However, registration for each session is required—to register please email bthurston@pluk.org, or call the PLUK office.

##

Community Lifespan Respite Training, March 16, Billings

Community Lifespan Respite is a collaborative inter-agency program administered through STEP to provide respite (short, temporary care) to children and adults with disabilities, healthcare concerns, special needs and to those at risk of abuse and neglect.

The primary purpose of respite is to provide relief from demands of ongoing care, thereby reducing stress, preventing abuse and neglect and enhancing family preservation and support.

The goal of CLR is to ensure all families have access to some form of respite service. CLR does not provide the respite itself or employ providers, but is a point of contact and resource for families in need.

CLR has three major components:

- Information, referral and education for families
- Provider recruitment, screening and monthly trainings
- Financial assistance information and other resources available

CLR provides trainings that are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from Noon — 1pm, at the STEP office at 1501 14h St. West, Suite 210. For those attending the trainings we provide a light lunch. We try to offer a wide variety of topics for the trainings. The trainings are free and all we ask is that you RSVP so we are prepared with the correct number of materials and right amount of food. The upcoming trainings that are scheduled are:

- March 16, 2004— Nancy Meyers from STEP on Communication
- April 20, 2004— PT in Motion on Lifting and Transfers
- May 18, 2004 — Sue Bailey from YCCOA on Aging Sensitivity
- June 15, 2004— Nancy Meyers from STEP on Safety and Universal Precautions

For further information please contact, Tami Haan, Lifespan Respite Coordinator at 248-2055.

##

Improving Access in Your Community: Start to Finish, March 22, Butte

A workshop presented by: Dot Nary, M.A., Training Director, Research and Training Center on Independent Living, The University of Kansas

Monday, March 22, 2004, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Butte Plaza Mall, 3100 Harrison, Butte, MT (Look for the Can Do Festival banner in the mall)

Sponsored by Rural Institute, University of Montana & Silver Bow Developmental Disability Council

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- Learning how to evaluate and measure access;
- Practice how to persuade others to support and invest in access.

Participants will leave the training with a better understanding of their important role in community change, as well as the skills to facilitate these changes.

Lunch will be provided free of charge to all who RSVP by Thursday, March 18th. Please email ericaparker@ruralinstitute.umt.edu or call 406.243.2447 with questions or to RSVP.

##

Advanced Phonics, March 22, - Havre
Advanced Phonics, March 23, - Great Falls

RANDALL KLEIN, PRESENTER

To register contact Tana Parman @ 265.4356 ext 322, cspdregion2@havre.k12.mt.us, PO Box 7791, Havre, MT 59501, (fax) 265.8460, or visit us on the web at <http://www.havre.k12.mt.us/cspdregion2>.

##

Parent Support Group, March 24, Billings

March 24, April 28, May 26

Parent support group to be held the 4th Wednesday of each month from 6-7pm at the PLUK office This group is for parents or caregivers of children with special needs who would like to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe environment with others.

For information, contact Bobbie at 255-0540 or bthurston@pluk.org

##

Disability Issues and the Legislative Process, March 24, Billings

1:00-3:00pm, MSU-Billings Education & Human Services Room 122

Registration deadline is March 17. Call 657-2312 for more information.

The Montana Center on Disabilities and Disability Services Coalition are presenting this forum featuring Jani McCall, Gary Branae HD17, Roy Brown HD14, John Bohlinger SD7 and Kim Gillan HD11.

##

Improving Access in Your Community: Start to Finish, March 22, Butte

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Lunch will be provided free of charge to all who RSVP by Thursday, March 18th. Please email cowan@ruralinstitute.umt.edu or call 406.243.2447 with questions or to RSVP.

##

2004 Montana CEC Conference on Diverse Abilities, March 31-April 2, Billings

Visit <http://www.mtcec.org> for details and registration.

"Supporting the Practitioner"

" March 31-April 2, 2004 " Holiday Inn Grand " Billings "

PLAN TO ATTEND! Special and general educators, family members, and students:

- Early childhood, elementary, middle school, and secondary educators;
- Special education related service providers and childcare providers;
- Administrators and paraeducators;
- Parents, students, and all others concerned with topics and issues in the field of special education.

Pre-Conference Workshops: Wednesday, March 31

Conference Sessions: Thursday-Friday, April 1-2

For registration materials e-mail debbieannahanna@hotmail.com or go to <http://www.mtcec.org>.



##

ADHD: Services & Interventions, PLUK ITV Training, April 13, 2004.

<http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm>

Topic: ADHD: Services & Interventions

Speakers: panel from Kalispell, MT

When: Tuesday, April 13, 2004, 6:00-8:00pm MST

Session Description: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD, is a neurological disorder that affects up to 5% of school-aged children and adolescents. Children with ADHD may exhibit developmentally inappropriate attention skills, impulsivity, hyperactivity, and poor school performance. If undiagnosed and untreated, ADHD can negatively impact a child's ability to effectively learn at home and school, as well as to develop healthy relationships with family, peers, and adults.

Current Sites:

Billings: Granite Tower, 222 N 32nd St Ste 300, 690-2518

Browning: Blackfoot Community College US-2 & US-89, 338-5441

Great Falls: VisionNet Classroom, 1211 NW Bypass, 727-5994

Helena: Hustad Center, 1084 Helena Ave, 727-5994

Kalispell: (instructor site) Byte Savvy, 309 S Main, 257-5050

Missoula: Blackfoot Telephone Co-op, 1221 N Russell, 721-2121

Streaming Sites:

Miles City: Holy Rosary Health Center Community Room #1, 951-1357

How to participate:

- Register by calling 800-222-7585 or visit <http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm>
- Attend one of the sites listed above.
- View the session "live" over the internet from any computer (see links on the web site).

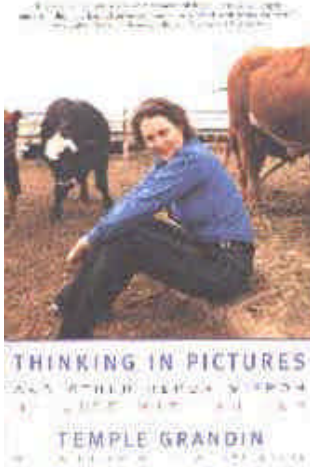
All sessions are videotaped and available through the TRIC/PLUK Library and on a web archive. For information on current active sites, registrations, and all sessions, visit the web site: <http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm> or call the PLUK office at 800-222-7585.

Future Session topics:

- April 13, 2004: "ADHD: Services and Interventions", panel from around Montana
- May 11, 2004: "Fragile-X"

##

Thinking in Pictures: A look inside AUTISM, Dr Temple Grandin, April 14, Billings



Dr. Temple Grandin is a gifted animal scientist who is also autistic. Dr. Grandin is perhaps one of the most noted high-functioning individuals with autism in the world. Grandin is an active speaker around the world on autism and the author of two books, *Emergence: Labeled Autistic* and *Thinking in Pictures*. Grandin thinks, feels, and experiences the world in ways incomprehensible to most people. She has helped thousands of parents and professionals understand how to help individuals with autism/PDD/Asperger's.

This seminar will serve as a valuable source of inspiration and understanding for parents, professional counselors, teachers and others working with children diagnosed with autism/Asperger's.

Seminar Fee: \$39-individual or \$50-couple/family

<http://www.msubillings.edu/cot/SpringFever2004/scheduleApril14.htm>

##

Families & Learning Conference, April 14-16, Helena

The 2004 Families and Learning Conference is geared for learning opportunities and professional development experiences for all parents and professionals involved in school/family/community partnerships and family literacy programs across Montana.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.montanapirc.org/linksfromhome/familiesandlearning.htm>.

##

Reactive Attachment Disorder, April 16-17, Malta

by Nancy Thomas

Contact: Brenda Rummel at 406-654-5236

##

Instructional Alignment, April 16-17, Glendive

by Lisa Carter

Glendive DCC

Contact: Bruce Clausen at 406-377-5265

##

Click of Reading Comprehension, April 19, 2004, Missoula



Part 3 of a three-part series designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading. Sessions can be taken individually, but it is recommended they be taken as a series.

Administrators, general educators, special educators, paraeducators, parents, agency personnel, and others interested in meeting the needs of all kids are invited to participate.

Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: <http://www.cspd.net> or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##

Click of Reading Comprehension, April 20, 2004, Kalispell



Part 3 of a three-part series designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading. Sessions can be taken individually, but it is recommended they be taken as a series.

Administrators, general educators, special educators, paraeducators, parents, agency personnel, and others interested in meeting the needs of all kids are invited to participate.

Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: <http://www.cspd.net> or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##

PLUK Empowerment Series, April 20, Billings

April 20, 2004, 6-8:00pm: Vance Thurston will speak regarding his experience growing up with dyslexia, the instructional strategies he learned to work around the challenges he faced as an individual with dyslexia, his mom's perspective as a parent, and some of the resources available to assist dyslexic individuals.

All sessions are two hours long and go from 6 to 8pm. If there is a subject that is of high interest to anyone, we can offer teleconferencing in different areas of the state upon request. Anyone is welcome to attend. However, registration for each session is required—to register please email bthurston@pluk.org, or call the PLUK office at 255-0540.

##

Montana Association of Gifted and Talented Education- 24th Annual Spring Conference "Guiding Today's Explorers" April 22-24, Helena

Differentiated instruction supports the needs of diverse learners including those highly capable students. The Montana AGATE conference focuses on differentiated instruction strategies that can be utilized in every classroom.

Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: <http://www.cspd.net> or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##

Positive Discipline, April 23-24, Glasgow

Contact: Jody at 1-800-659-3673

##

Sign Language Training in Bozeman April 23-25



Skillshops in Signing Exact English and Educational Interpreting sponsored by the S.E.E. Center for the Advancement of Deaf Children. April 23, 24 & 25 Friday, Saturday and Sunday Begins Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon.

Visit <http://www.seecenter.org> for more information and to register. Click on 'skillshops' and scroll down to weekend skill shops for details. Cost is \$150.00.

These Skillshops are designed for individuals interested in learning S.E.E. and to help those already using S.E.E. to improve their expressive and receptive signing skills. Intensive work is done in groups from beginner to advanced levels. Each group is limited to approximately 15 participants. Sessions are geared for adult level, not appropriate for children under 16 years of age. Participants at full week summer sessions, for an additional fee, can take a skill evaluation and receive a certificate indicating proficiency level. Those evaluated also receive detailed follow-up covering sign production, fluency, fingerspelling, expressiveness, and speech readability.

The Signing Exact English Skillshops are for teachers, aides, parents and others who want to learn as well as those who use Signing Exact English and wish to improve their vocabulary, fluency, and expressiveness. Participants review S.E.E. vocabulary and do extensive work on additional signs, visual features of sign language, song and story telling techniques. Recent research findings are covered.

##

A Focus on Self Advocacy, April 27, Missoula

Panel of middle school and high school students, parents, educators, and agency folks will share strategies for promoting self-advocacy skills. Location: TBA

Hosted by IDEA PTA, as a part of their Positive Parent-Professional Partnerships. All programs are free. Business meeting held from 6:45-7:15pm, program follows 7:15-9:15pm. Contact Nancy Marks MCPS Special Ed Coordinator, 728-2400 ext 5036, nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us. Childcare vouchers are available. OPI renewals are also available.

To receive information about IDEA PTA events, programs and other items of interest, contact Mary Hall at hoythomes@montana.com.

##

PLUK Empowerment Series, May 18, Billings

May 18, 2004, 6-8:00pm: CP panel. A wide variety of Adults with Cerebral Palsy will speak regarding their experiences and what resources have assisted them as they transitioned into adulthood.

All sessions are two hours long and go from 6 to 8pm. If there is a subject that is of high interest to anyone, we can offer teleconferencing in different areas of the state upon request. Anyone is welcome to attend. However, registration for each session is required— to register please email bthurston@pluk.org, or call the PLUK office.

##

Facing Autism, June 7, Miles City

Facing Autism, June 8, Glendive

Facing Autism, June 9, Wolf Point

by Lynne Hamilton

Contact : Helen Murphy at 406/485-2321 or email: dmurphy@midrivers.com

##

Reading Literacy/Math Competency: Assessment & Prevention of Learning Disabilities, June 13-15, Billings

<http://www.pluk.org/masp04.pdf>

The Montana Association of School Psychologists' Summer Institute 2004 will be held at the Mansfield Health Education Center in Billings on June 13-15, 2004. Download the brochure at the link above for information on the presenters, agenda, credit, and registration.

##

Montana Behavior Institute, June 14-18, Bozeman

Contact: <http://www.montana.edu/cs/mbi>

##

S'Cool Moves, August 9-11, Miles City

by Debi Heiberger-Wilson, Miles City at MCC

Contact: Helen Murphy 406/485-2321 or email: dmurphy@midrivers.com

##

Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

MARCH 17 - 20, 2004 "EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES/PRACTICE BASED EVIDENCE" NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DUALY DIAGNOSED CONGRESS

This fifth International Congress will be held at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston, MA. For more information, go to <http://www.thenadd.org>

##

All-day Webcast: Technology And Persons With Disabilities, March 18

Announcing a special all-day Webcast from the CSUN (California State University Northridge) Technology and Persons with Disabilities Annual

Conference on Thursday, March 18 from 8 AM Pacific till 5 PM Pacific.

For more information and to register for this special free Web conference go to <http://easi.cc/clinic.htm> and go to the CSUN broadcast link.

##

Annual PacRim Conference: The 20th Annual Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities, "Promises to Keep, Futures to Seek", Honolulu Hawaii March 29-30, 2004

Since the first Pacific Rim (Pac Rim) Conference in 1985, the scope and size of this premier event has grown to include participants from the U.S. Mainland, Alaska, Pacific Islands Nations, Japan, Australia, the Philippines and numerous other countries. Persons with disabilities, family members, researchers, and service providers join policy-makers and nationally recognized speakers in the field of disabilities to participate in Pac Rim 2004 to learn from each other and to share resources for communities to fully accept and support

persons with disabilities. This year's theme, "Promises to Keep, Futures to Seek", reflects on the promises and goals made and the opportunities created for persons with disabilities. Pac Rim 2004 strand topics include Lifelong Inclusion in Education and Community; Technology Across the Ages; Parent Partnerships and Family Supports; Employment and Adult Services; and Body, Mind and Spirit. Learn more about strand topics. <http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu>

##

Catch the Technology Wave Conference, April 1-2, Memphis TN

April 1 - 2, 2004 - Catch the Technology Wave Conference: At the Memphis Marriott Downtown, TN. Objectives: 1. Identify technology barriers and solutions ; 2. Describe applications of tele-health in training and services for children and individuals with disabilities and their families; 3. Discuss research results and implications for practice, and 4. Describe innovations in how educational technology can be used in teaching and learning in higher education and continuing education. Co-sponsored by the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Colleges of Medicine and Nursing & the Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD); Mid-Tennessee Interdisciplinary Instruction in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Training Project at Vanderbilt Center for Child Development (LEND); and Partners for Inclusive Communities at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UCEDD). For more information, please contact Elizabeth Bishop at ebishop@utmem.edu or (901) 448-3127 or visit the site at: http://www.utmem.edu/bcdd/catch_wave_program.html. Mat McCollough, Project Specialist and Coordinator, National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP), Association of University Centers on Disabilities, 1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 920, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (P): 301-588-8252 ext. 214.

##

APRIL 13, 2004 "SCHOOL-BASED STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS' DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-DETERMINATION SKILLS IN THE CONTEXT OF LEADERSHIP AND STANDARDS-BASED REFORM"

This Capacity Building Institute is sponsored by NCSET and will be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans, LA. For more information go to <http://www.ncset.org/events/default.asp>

This institute is being held in conjunction with the Council for Exceptional Children 2004 Convention and Expo. The purpose of this institute is to share practical strategies and plans for increasing student self-determination. Special education teachers, state and district transition coordinators, researchers, general educators, family members, and other interested stakeholders are invited to attend this event. Online registration is available.

##

2004 CEC Convention and Expo, April 14-17, New Orleans

Choose from more than 600 workshops, lectures, demonstrations, mini-workshops, panels and poster sessions:

- Find out how NCLB and the new IDEA will affect you
- Learn strategies for success with autism, discipline, and other challenges
- Hear the latest information on transition, technology, and more
- Get guidance on meeting the needs of diverse learners
- Browse innovative educational tools at the Expo
- Visit the Career Center and find a job
- Attend the Teacher of the Year and Yes I Can! Award ceremonies

<http://www.cec.sped.org>

##

Northwest Council for Computer Education 2004 Conference, April 14-17, Spokane

We have tried to provide a variety of activities that will give you a look at what's new in educational technology...and have some fun in the process! You will find carefully structured sessions for different interests and different knowledge levels, and I hope that you will find new techniques and strategies that you can take back to your classroom to implement and share.

This year you will find over 130 sessions, 50 workshops, and a variety of student sessions and presentations that show the practical integration of technology in the classroom. You will also have the opportunity to view a variety of DigiTalkie presentations submitted by students from around our region and to talk to students about their classroom projects.

<http://www.ncce.org>

##

APRIL 28 - MAY 1, 2004 "USING BRAIN RESEARCH TO IMPROVE CHILD LEARNING, ADHD, MOOD, MEMORY AND HEALTH" CONFERENCE

This "Learning and the Brain" conference will be held at the Harvard University Faculty Club and Hyatt Regency Cambridge, MA. For more information go to <http://www.edupr.com>

##

YAI International Conference on Developmental and Learning Disabilities, May 3-7, New York

For information, call 212/273-6193 or email awittenberg@yai.org. Beginning in March, information will be online at <http://www.yai.org/pid.cfm>.

##

National ADA Symposium, May 11-13, 2004, Kansas City, Missouri

Featuring Dateline NBC correspondent, John Hockenberry as Keynote speaker.

Hockenberry received an emmy for his Dateline reporting and is the author of Moving Violations: War Zones, Wheelchairs and Declarations of Independence, that describes his experiences as a wheelchair user and foreign news correspondent in the Middle East.

Visit <http://www.adaproject.org/> for more information.

##

PECS Training, May 20-21, Boise ID

Boise, Idaho, May 20 & 21, 2004: Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) 2-Day Workshop, Presented by Donna Banzhof, M.Ed. & Christine Cavarretta, BCBA
\$375 professional tuition
\$235 parent tuition

Includes 2nd Edition PECS Manual and handout packet for note taking

Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc., the developer of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), is sponsoring a dynamic talk that focuses on enhancing the education and communication skills for individuals with autism and other related disabilities. Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc. is proud to announce the arrival of:

- The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) 2-Day Workshop

We are confident that special educators, administrators, speech language pathologists, parents and anyone who works with individuals with autism and other disabilities will leave our workshop with fresh ideas and practical new strategies to enhance their students' communication and learning environments.

As a special offer, mention Sarah Moore on your registration form and receive a \$30.00 discount off the two-day workshop.

For registration information, visit us online at <http://www.pecs.com> or call 888-732-7462. For general information, contact Sarah Moore at smoore@pecs.com or call 302-368-2515.

##

BETTER HEARING 2004, May 22, 2004, Denver CO

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc., (SHHH) is hosting the Better Hearing Colorado 2004 Conference on May 22, 2004 at the Doubletree Hotel, 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This conference will include equipment exhibits and speakers on a wide range of topics of interest to people with hearing loss, their families, and professionals in the hearing healthcare field. The organizing committee, Sharon Campbell, Robert Knox and Debbie Mohny, invites interested volunteers to help with the many tasks to be done to make this conference a success, and to attend the conference. Any companies, organizations or individuals who might be interested in contributing financially or items for a silent auction are very welcome! Please contact Sharon Campbell at 42 Tulane Street, Pueblo, CO 81005, 719-561-0648, SLCCOM@hotmail.com for more information, to volunteer, or with suggestions for the conference. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at this first annual conference.

##

Autism One Conference, May27-30, Chicago

Autism One 2004, the most comprehensive conference on autism ever assembled, will be held May 27 - 30, 2004, in Chicago. It is a conference for parents and professionals discussing the care, treatment, and recovery of children with autism. For more information please visit our web site at <http://AutismOne.org>.

##

Intermountain Special Study Institute, June 7-10, Idaho

Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, will hold its Intermountain Special Study Institute on Deafness, June 7-10, in Pocatello, Idaho. This institute is an excellent opportunity for teaching and related services personnel to share knowledge, as well as to learn effective teaching strategies from recognized professionals in the field of deafness. The Office of Public Instruction will again be providing a limited number of stipends to pay for the registration fees of teachers of the deaf, regular education teachers and speech-language pathologists who are providing services to students who are deaf or hearing impaired in the public schools in Montana. Renewal units, as well as ASHA CEUs will be available to participants. Personnel who wish to apply for a stipend should contact Marilyn Pearson at mpearson@state.mt.us.

Go to <http://www.isu.edu/issi> for more information on the institute.

##

Access For All: Building, Funding and Improving Community Transportation, June 14-15

June 14-15, 2004 - Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA

Access For All is being sponsored by the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) and the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability. This two-day conference, which will focus on building, funding and improving community transportation, will provide information on what you can do to further expand transportation services in your community. Special emphasis will be placed on expanding transportation options for persons with disabilities.

This conference is being held in conjunction with the annual Community Transportation Association EXPO, June 13-18. For more information on the EXPO, access: <http://www.ctaa.org/expo/>. During the Access For All conference:

- Share ways to develop federal, state and local investment to increase accessible transportation services.
- Hear from colleagues who have developed models for community-based transportation planning.
- Learn ways to elevate the issue of transportation on a broad range of community agendas.
- Further hone your leadership skills for building effective transportation partnerships.
- Take home resources that will support you in expanding transportation in your community.

For registration, agenda and available scholarships, visit:

<http://www.ctaa.org/expo/2004/accessforall.asp>.

##

JUNE 20 - 22, 2004 "BYE-BYE BULLIES: UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN IN 2004"

This anti-bullying conference will be held at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts in Anchorage AK. For more information and to get on the conference mailing list please call or e-mail John Hoover (320-308-4091) (jhhoover@stcloudstate.edu). Please include surface and electronic mailing addresses.

##

RESNA 27th Annual Conference, June 18-22, Florida

Join us at the Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando, Florida to attend RESNA's 27th International Conference on Technology & Disability: Research, Design, Practice & Policy, the premier conference for people interested in technology and disability.

For more information, go to

<http://www.resna.org/Conference/2004Conference/Conference2004.php>

##

JULY 24 - 27, 2004 "LEARNING, LIVING, LEADING: YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES CONTINUING THE LEGACY" 2004 NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

This conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.nyln.org/apply/2004conference.html>

##

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) in Anaheim, CA, June 25-29, 2004

This biennial event offers attendees five days of unique learning experiences featuring the latest information on hearing loss, education and early intervention models, and hearing technology.

- Discover new ideas and gain skills at more than 100 short courses, concurrent educational sessions, and poster presentations on deafness and spoken language.
- Meet new and old friends at the world's largest gathering of parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing, adults with hearing loss, and education and medical professionals.
- Explore the AG Bell Exhibit Hall and attend product demonstrations with a wide range of industry representatives.
- Join the fun at Special Events such as the Association Banquet, Association Luncheon, Family Dance, and AG Bell Night at Disney.

Attendees who register by March 25 will receive the early registration rate of \$225.00 for members, \$325.00 for nonmembers.

<http://www.agbell.org/>

##

Closing the Gap, October 21-23, Minneapolis MN

Pre-conference sessions October 19-20

Closing The Gap's Annual Conference has an international reputation as a leading source for information on innovative applications of computer technology for persons with disabilities. The 2004 Conference builds on a tradition of providing a comprehensive examination of the most current uses of technology by persons with disabilities and the professionals who work with them.

Topics will cover a broad spectrum of technology as it is being applied to all disabilities and age groups in education, rehabilitation, vocation, and independent living. People with disabilities, special educators, rehabilitation professionals, administrators, service/care providers, personnel managers, government officials, and hardware/software developers will share their experiences and insights at what has become known as the most significant networking experience of the year -- the annual Closing The Gap Conference.

<http://www.closingthegap.com/conf/>

##

TASH Conference 2004, November 18-20, Reno NV

The TASH conference is one of the largest and most progressive international conferences to focus on model, innovative, and effective strategies for achieving full inclusion of people with disabilities. This invigorating conference brings together some of the best hearts and minds in the disability movement with several hundred presenters and features over 450 breakout sessions, exhibits, roundtable discussions, poster sessions and much more, jam-packed with info. It provides a forum for individuals with disabilities, families, researchers, administrators, educators, scholars, and others to create dialogue and action for social and systems reform. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a conference with over 2500 other people from around the world (15 nations last time) which showcases national and local achievement and brings a global perspective to the community on issues of importance in the lives of people with disabilities and their families. For renewing the spirit, lifting the heart, and challenging the mind:

For more information and call for papers: <http://www.tash.org/>

Some of the more than 40 topics at the TASH Conference will focus on the following themes:

- Building Partnerships & Relationships, Communication
- Inclusive Education Across the Lifespan
- Transition, Community Living & Employment
- Diversity, Values, Equality, Advocacy & Ethics
- Quality of Life

##

How you can help!::

Get your Albertson Community Partners card!



PLUK has joined Albertsons' Community Partners Card Program. This program is designed to help non-profit organizations raise funds needed for their programs. A percentage of your grocery total will be donated to PLUK. All that is needed is to show your Community Partners card each time you make a purchase at Albertsons. It does not cost you anything.

If you are interested in assisting PLUK in raising funds this way, please contact Bernice at 255-0540 to get a Community Partners card.

##

Selected Sources::

1. *Monday Morning in Washington, DC*, <http://www.inclusionresearch.org>
2. *Rocky Mountain DBTAC*, <http://www.adainformation.org>
3. *Transition Newsflash*, Montana Center on Disabilities, <http://www.msubillings.edu/transition>
4. *PEN Weekly NewsBlast* <http://www.publiceducation.org>
5. *Reference Points: Transition updates from the TATRA Project*, <http://www.pacer.org/tatra/tatra.htm>
6. *The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar* <http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm>
7. *Rural Policy Matters*, <http://www.ruraledu.org/rpm/rpm.htm>
8. *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.

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/>.

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