

# HEATH Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center Newsletter

National Clearinghouse on Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Disabilities  
Spring Edition 2012



The HSC Foundation

## HEATH Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center



THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON DC

Since 2000, the **HEATH Resource Center** has served as a national clearinghouse on postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities, managed by **The George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Resources**. Now, **The HSC Foundation** has partnered with the *George Washington University* to expand the content of this resource and to designate it as the official site of The HSC Foundation's **National Youth Transitions Center**.  
<http://www.hscfoundation.org/aboutus/publications/NYTCbrochure.pdf>

## Resources for Helping Youth Transition to Employment & Independent Living

The transition from adolescence to adulthood is challenging for almost every young person. This is particularly true for young people with disabilities. Yet, it is in those crucial transition age years - during secondary school, throughout postsecondary education, and as one enters the world of work - that a young person's future can be determined.

As all youth prepare for and participate in postsecondary education and employment, they need to develop various skills, acquire knowledge, and access different opportunities and supports that will pave their way to success. In addition to the things that all youth need, youth with disabilities need some additional opportunities, supports, and services specific to their disability. In 2001, the [National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability](#)

[for Youth \(NCWD/Youth\)](#) was created to assist professionals working with youth as well families to provide what transition age youth need for success.

NCWD/Youth is a national technical assistance center supported by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP).

NCWD/Youth's mission is to ensure that transition age youth are provided full access to high quality services in integrated settings to gain education, employment, and independent living. NCWD/Youth is comprised of partners with expertise in education, youth development, disability, employment, workforce development, and family issues - all critical components of youth transition. Housed at the [Institute for Educational Leadership \(IEL\)](#)'s Center for Workforce Development, the NCWD/Youth partners include: [Boston University School of Education](#); [The Institute for Community Integration, University of Minnesota \(ICI\)](#); [The National Association of Workforce Development Professionals \(NAWDP\)](#); and [The PACER Center](#).

NCWD/Youth and its website, [www.ncwd-youth.info](http://www.ncwd-youth.info), provide a wealth of resources for individuals and organizations concerned with preparing youth for transition to adulthood. While NCWD/Youth has a primary of focus on the workforce development system, its resources are also useful for and sometimes targeted to secondary education, postsecondary education, youth development, and disability services professionals. In addition, NCWD/Youth offers resources specifically for young people, families, and policy makers.

### **Resources for Professionals**

The [Guideposts for Success](#) is a national youth transition framework that NCWD/Youth developed following an extensive literature review of research, demonstration projects, and effective practices. The Guideposts are an important starting point for identifying and understanding all the things that all youth, including youth with disabilities and other disconnected youth, need for successful transition to adulthood. The five Guideposts are: [School-based preparatory experiences](#); [Career preparation and work-based learning](#); [Youth development and leadership](#); [Connecting activities](#); and [Family involvement and supports](#).

Building upon the Guideposts for Success framework, NCWD/Youth has developed additional Guideposts and resources specific to various youth populations including [youth with mental health needs](#), [youth with learning](#)

[disabilities, youth involved in the juvenile justice system](#), and [youth in foster care](#). For example, NCWD/Youth's resources specific to working with youth with learning disabilities include:

- [Charting the Course: Supporting the Career Development of Youth with Learning Disabilities](#), Guide
- [Helping Youth with Learning Disabilities Chart the Course: A Guide for Youth Service Professionals](#), InfoBrief
- [Learning How to Learn: Successful Transition Models for Educators Working with Youth with Learning Disabilities](#), InfoBrief
- [Using Universal Design for Learning: Successful Transition Models for Educators Working with Youth with Learning Disabilities](#), InfoBrief

Recognizing that youth service professionals throughout the workforce development system, including those working in postsecondary education settings, play a critical role in connecting all youth to workforce preparation opportunities and support, NCWD/Youth developed the [Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Initiative](#). The professionals who work with transition age youth directly need both general and specialized knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs). Their competencies must keep pace with constant changes in youth demographics and the labor market. This includes acquiring competencies specific to serving youth with disabilities.

In response to this need for professional development, NCWD/Youth first identified the [competencies \(knowledge, skills, and abilities\) all youth service professionals need](#) and then developed corresponding training ([learn more about the KSA training modules](#)) and an [online study guide](#).

NCWD/Youth also aims to identify and disseminate promising practices for engaging youth in education, career preparation, and other critical developmental activities outlined in the *Guideposts for Success*. To accomplish this, NCWD/Youth profiles programs and organizations that meet the criteria for designation as ***Innovative Strategies***. So far, NCWD/Youth has profiled over 50 youth programs nationwide at the local and state level in order to share information on quality programs and practices. The [Innovative Strategies searchable database](#) on NCWD/Youth's website makes it easy for professionals to find practical examples of how to successfully engage and serve youth.

## Resources for Youth & Families

Whether it's at school, in college, at work, or in social situations, youth with disabilities need to learn whether, how, and when to disclose information about their disability. To assist youth in developing skills they need to make informed decisions about disability disclosure, NCWD/Youth developed the [\*411 on Disability Disclosure: A Workbook for Youth with Disabilities\*](#). Based on the premise that disclosure is a very personal decision, the Workbook helps young people think about and practice disclosing their disability. Because young people today increasingly share personal information on the Internet and through social media, NCWD/Youth created [\*Cyber Disclosure for Youth with Disabilities\*](#) as a supplement to the Workbook.

To assist family members and professionals working with youth with disabilities around issues of disability disclosure, NCWD/Youth also developed the [\*411 on Disability Disclosure: A Workbook for Families, Educators, Youth Service Professionals, and Adult Allies Who Care About Youth with Disabilities\*](#). This workbook helps caring adults to teach youth about their rights and responsibilities in disclosing their disability and about advantages and disadvantages of disclosure in various educational, employment, and social situations.

Another resource that NCWD/Youth developed specifically for youth is [\*Making the Move to Managing Your Own Personal Assistance Services \(PAS\): A Toolkit for Youth with Disabilities Transitioning to Adulthood\*](#). The Guide assists youth in strengthening some of the most fundamental skills for successfully managing their own Personal Assistance Services (PAS): effective communication, time-management, working with others, and establishing professional relationships.

Because families of transition age youth play an integral role in helping them prepare for adulthood, NCWD/Youth has developed various briefs specifically for families. The following briefs all provide guidance that families can use to assist youth in developing skills they need for success in employment and life:

- [\*Helping Youth Build Work Skills for Job Success: Tips for Parents and Families\*](#): This InfoBrief addresses the need for youth to acquire work skills and offers strategies parents and families can use to work with their youth to develop skills that lead to success on the job. This InfoBrief also includes

information on how to incorporate work skill development into school documents, such as the Individualized Education Program and the Summary of Performance.

- [Helping Youth Develop Soft Skills for Job Success: Tips for Parents and Families](#): This InfoBrief discusses the importance of soft skills - the every day, common sense skills that employers look for when hiring and that are necessary in all aspects of life. The Brief offers strategies parents and families can use to help their child develop soft skills for employment success. [A podcast series based on this brief is also available online.](#)
- [Tapping into the Power of Families: How Families of Youth with Disabilities Can Assist in Job Search and Retention](#): This InfoBrief explores the important role families and other caring adults play in the career planning, job search, and job retention of youth with disabilities.

These are just a few of the resources for families available on NCWD/Youth's website. More can be found at <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/topic/families>.

### **Connect to NCWD/Youth & Find More Resources**

NCWD/Youth encourages professionals working with transition age youth, families, and youth to connect with us to stay up-to-date on the latest resources, to pose questions and request assistance, and to share practical strategies, resources, and feedback related to youth in transition.

NCWD/Youth regularly publishes a blog, online at <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/blog/>, which features various resources, strategies, and information for professionals, families, and youth. The monthly newsletter, [Intersections](#), is another great way to keep current on the latest resources and news. You can also follow and connect with NCWD/Youth on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

For more information or questions, contact NCWD/Youth at [contact@ncwd-youth.info](mailto:contact@ncwd-youth.info) or Ph. (202) 822-8405 Ext. 145, Toll-free at 1-877-871-0744, or TTY Toll-free at 1-877-871-0665.

*Written by Mindy Larson, Senior Program Associate, National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth at the Institute for Educational Leadership's Center for Workforce Development. To contact the author, email [Larsonm@iel.org](mailto:Larsonm@iel.org) or call ph. (202) 822-8405 Ext. 169.*

## **We Connect Now: Reaching A Different Audience - By Gabriela McCall Delgado, Director, We Connect Now**

We Connect Now is a different voice in the disability community. We represent people with disabilities across the political spectrum. Our main concern is to advocate the rights for people with disabilities without compromising the independence of the community of people with disabilities.

Our organization developed to fill a need for a website that would give attention and focus on the concerns of college students with disabilities. When I was getting ready to go to college, I was surprised as to the absence of readily available sources of information to help me make the best choice with regards to which college is right for me and what resources are available. Due to that vacuum in finding useful and necessary information in one place, We Connect Now was born in 2008.

The We Connect Now website has its pages in both Spanish and English, as part of our outreach to Hispanics, our Disability Rights Campaign posters are also available in both Spanish and English. We have made an effort to reach out to African-Americans. Our Disability Rights Campaign has worked with campus connectors to distribute posters that have been displayed in Xavier University, a university with a historically African-American population, and at Sensory Kid's located in Jersey City, New Jersey which serves a large Hispanic and African-American population.

We reach out to people across the economic spectrum. A lot of people with disabilities live in poverty, so to not do outreach would be to ignore most people with disabilities. When creating our Disability Rights Campaign posters we decided that we would not charge people for them and would even pay for the shipping. We wanted to make sure that people with disabilities, regardless of their ability to pay, could participate in our campaign. We could have had an exception for people that couldn't pay, but many low-income people would not have applied for it.

We empower people to help themselves. We are a website that receives NO government funding. My great hope is that someday We Connect Now will not

be necessary, that students with disabilities will be fully included in their colleges and within society at large, will obtain their degrees based on their own hard work and merit, will not be pushed into separate and inferior programs on campuses and will have jobs when they finish.

Visit We Connect Now on the web at <http://weconnectnow.wordpress.com/>. You can like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/We-Connect-Now-National/136925609714725?sk=wall> and follow We Connect Now on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/WeConnectNow>.



## HEATH Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center (NYTC) Website Update!!

If you go to our HEATH NYTC website ([www.heath.gwu.edu](http://www.heath.gwu.edu)), you will discover that we have a new NYTC Partner Spotlight. Each month the HEATH NYTC website will highlight one of our partners from the National Youth Transitions Collaborative.

The February Spotlight belonged to the DC Metro Business Leadership Network. The DC Metro Business Leadership Network is an employer led non-profit that uses a business-to business model offering education, training programs and resources to change attitudes and address concerns of businesses so that they learn how to proactively include people with disabilities in the workforce, marketplace and supplier diversity. For more information about the DC Metro Business Leadership Network, please check out their website and social media sites. **Website:** <http://www.dcmetrobln.org/>

### **Social Media links:**

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/210659332290567?ap=1>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/dcmetrobln>

Linked In: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3050633&about=>

Please check out the **March Partner Spotlight** on our website ([www.heath.gwu.edu](http://www.heath.gwu.edu)) today!

## 2012 Youth Transitions Fellow

The HSC Foundation and The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) are now accepting applications for the 2012 Youth Transitions Fellow. This is a paid fellowship position at AAPD beginning April 2012, and continues for 12 months.

Under the supervision of AAPD's Director of Programs, the Youth Transitions Fellow will gain exposure to youth programs serving people with disabilities and will have the opportunity to facilitate collaboration among internship, fellowship, and apprenticeship programs based in the Greater Washington, DC area. For more information or apply, visit: <http://www.aapd.com/what-powers-us/work-at-aapd.html>. The deadline is March 5, 2012.

## New National Youth Transitions Center Facebook Page!

The National Youth Transitions Center officially has a Facebook page (at [www.facebook.com/thenytc](http://www.facebook.com/thenytc))! If you or your organization has a Facebook account, please "Like" the NYTC page. Other social media (twitter, youtube, etc.) for the National Youth Transitions Center will be available soon.

## HEATH Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center Social Media Sites!

The HEATH Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center has a Facebook page (at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Heath-Resource-Center>). We have a Twitter account (at <https://twitter.com/#!/heathcenter>). Please check out both of our social media sites for the latest updates, resources, and scholarship information for students with disabilities!! Please "Like" our Facebook page and "Follow" us on Twitter!!



# Transition Headliners!!

## **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA)**

*The 30th Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 2008.* Section 664(d) of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*, as reauthorized in 2004, requires that the Department of Education report annually on the progress made toward the provision of a free appropriate public education to all children with disabilities and the provision of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities. To read and download the report, go to:  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/osep/2008/parts-b-c/index.html>.

## **A Toolkit of Resources for Independent Living Specialists, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors & Teachers/Educators**

This toolkit is designed for those who assist young adults with disabilities in transition. The purpose of the toolkit is to enhance joint service delivery, expand local collaboration and teamwork, and provide a resource for transition planning. It was developed by educators, staff from Centers on Independent Living and Vocational Rehabilitation from Missouri.  
<http://www.mosilc.org/transitiontoolkit.pdf>

## **Career Clusters: Forecasting Demand for High School Through College Jobs, 2008-2018**

The Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce released a report entitled, "Career Clusters: Forecasting Demand for High School Through College Jobs, 2008-2018". The National Research Center for Career and Technical Education and the National Association of State Directors Career Technical Education Consortium collaborated with Georgetown University in producing this report. The report highlights the most promising careers (utilizing the 16 nationally recognized career clusters) that will enable youth to obtain a middle class income that matches to their educational background (high school diploma or less, certificate, associate's degree, and bachelor's or higher).  
<http://cew.georgetown.edu/clusters/>

## **New Self-Determination DCDD Fast Facts available**

The DCDD Publications Committee is in the process of developing new DCDD Fast Facts for practitioners. The Committee will be developing several Fast Facts over the next year based on NSTTAC's Evidence-Based Predictors of Post-School Success. There will be a Fast Fact created for each predictor and will include the following sections: (a) brief description of the predictor, (b) application for teachers, (d) application for administrators, (e) application for families, and (d) where to go for additional information. The Self-Determination Fast Fact is current available.  
[DCDD Fast Facts - Self-Determination](#)

### **ODEP's Skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success (New Curriculum!)**

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) is pleased announced the release of "Skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success," a collection of career development exercises and activities designed to help sharpen the communication and other "soft" skills of young workers, including those with disabilities. ODEP's curriculum, which covers communication, networking, enthusiasm and attitude, teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking and professionalism, is based on the results of a survey of prominent businesses to determine what they believe to be the most important competencies and skills for young workers. "Skills to Pay the Bills" was field-tested by youth service professionals and students across the country. Visit ODEP's website at <http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills> for more information and to download the curriculum in English or Spanish.

### **Ten Points for Veterans to Consider When Returning to Work with a Disability**

Cornell University Employment and Disability Institute and the Northeast ADA Center developed a fact sheet highlighting "Ten Points for Veterans to Consider When Returning to Work with a Disability". The fact sheet provides resources and information relating to adjusting to civilian life, work incentives & benefits, disability disclosure, and accommodations in the workplace. <http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/edi/dbtacnortheast/r-vets.cfm>

### **Self-Paced Modules from TransCen, Inc**

TranCen Inc., has developed transition modules that focus on the basics of transition services. The modules include information on the following topics: work-based experiences, youth empowerment, health & social linkages, family supports, and interagency collaboration. These modules were developed with the financial support the Johnson Scholarship Foundation.

[http://www.transcen.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=170&Itemid=98%200](http://www.transcen.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=170&Itemid=98%200)

### **Wisconsin Indicator 14 Rap Video**

The Wisconsin Indicator 14 Post High School Outcomes Survey project developed a music video to encourage students to complete the post high school outcomes survey. This is definitely a "must see" video on You Tube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eboomXDKvNBo>. For more information regarding Wisconsin I-14 project and their surveys go to:

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

### **Conference, Webinar, and Forum Opportunities!**

**March 1-2, 2012**

**Race, Ethnicity, and Disability: State of  
The Science Conference  
Arlington, VA**

The Race, Ethnicity, and Disability: State of The Science Conference, sponsored by NIDRR, will be held in Arlington, VA. The conference is intended for multidisciplinary rehabilitation professionals, including physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, rehabilitation

nurses, psychologists, rehabilitation case managers, rehabilitation counselors, disability specialists, other professionals serving the field of rehabilitation medicine, and researchers studying minorities with disabilities. The conference's purposes are to advance the science of disability research involving racial and ethnic minorities, build capacities of researchers, and foster networking and communication among researchers, students, clinicians, funders, journal editors, and consumers.

[http://www.rehabeducators.org/listserv/stat\\_e\\_of\\_science.pdf](http://www.rehabeducators.org/listserv/stat_e_of_science.pdf)

**March 6-7, 2012**  
**Autism Works National Conference 2012**  
**St. Louis, MO**

This is a national conference on employment sponsored by the University of Missouri Health System, the Autism Works National Conference.

**March 7, 2012**  
**2:00-3:30 p.m.**  
**Think College Webinar: Finding Jobs for Students with ID: Where Do You Start?**

When it comes to job development, the biggest question is often 'Where do I start?' Without strategies and structure, the process can seem very daunting. This webinar will give you a step-by-step process you can use to create opportunities for students by getting your foot in the door of the right businesses to make your job not only easier, but actually fun. The first step is getting to know the students. You will learn strategies for turning a variety of assessment and discovery options into skills for selling students to the perfect employer. Learn how to approach employers and get more than just your foot in the door. You will also learn strategies for discovering exactly what employers need, which will help you develop

the skills to customize positions and give you the information you need to comfortably negotiate with an employer.

**March 12-14, 2012**  
**National ADA Symposium**  
**Orlando, FL**

The AD Network sponsors the National Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Symposium. The updated 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and Title II Regulations become FULLY EFFECTIVE on March 15, 2012. This symposium is designed to provide the latest updates on the newest standards and regulations that will affect all businesses, local governments, and covered employers.

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

**March 17, 2012**  
**Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital (GSCNC) 4th Annual Keys to Leadership Conference**  
**Washington, DC**

The Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital (GSCNC) 4th annual Keys to Leadership Conference, "Unlocking the Leader in You!" is located at American University on Saturday, March 17, 2012 and is designed for middle and high school girls (ages 11-17). Attendees will have an amazing opportunity to explore, recognize and develop the leaders within themselves in an inclusive and safe environment that embraces every aspect of their individuality. Moreover, they will get to know other young leaders who have similar motivations and goals from all over the Washington, DC, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia metro area. This program is open to both girls who are and are NOT currently Girl Scouts. Participants will spend the day engaging in fun-filled activities and exciting workshops, and will learn from influential community leaders. Attendees

from previous conferences have had opportunities to meet industry executives, authors, artists and entrepreneurs.

This one-day program is being provided at the small cost of \$10 if paid on or before Friday, February 17 and general registration payments of \$15 will be accepted until Friday, March 9.

For more information about the program or to register online, please see [http://www.gscnc.org/Keys\\_to\\_Leadership.html](http://www.gscnc.org/Keys_to_Leadership.html) and mail it to:

GSCNC, Attn: Andraea LaVant  
4301 Connecticut Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Deadline for registration is **March 9, 2012**. Financial assistance is available. If applying for Financial Assistance, please contact GSCNC.

**March 18-21, 2012**  
**Building a Grad Nation Summit**  
**Washington, DC**

The Building a Grad Nation Summit is free and open to the public. The Grad Nation campaign has two specific goals: to increase the national graduation rate to 90% by 2020 with no school graduating less than 80%, and to regain America's standing as first in the world in college completion. The summit brings together community organizations, educators, local and state leaders, national nonprofit organizations, businesses, youth and others to share progress and catalyze additional action. America's Promise Alliance hosts the Summit in partnership with the Alliance for Excellent Education, Civic Enterprises and the Everyone Graduates Center at

Johns Hopkins University. Premier Sponsors for the Summit are Grad Nation Presenting Sponsor State Farm, AT&T, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Target. Signature Sponsors are Casey Family Programs, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Ford Foundation, Ford Motor Company, Lumina Foundation and Pearson Foundation.  
<http://www.americaspromise.org/Our-Work/Grad-Nation/Summit.aspx>

**March 24-26, 2012**  
**ASCD 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

The ASCD Annual Conference and Exhibit Show is a professional development event for education, where attendees can explore new ideas in education, examine developments in content areas or grade levels, stretch their professional development learning into new areas, and focus on issues of concern to examine in depth.  
<http://www.ascd.org/conferences/annual-conference/2012.aspx>

**March 26-27, 2012**  
**Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii**

If you are only able to attend one conference next year, choose PacRim 2012 in Waikiki, Hawaii at the beautiful [Hawaii Convention Center](#). Traditionally this conference is one of the most exciting for attendees and presenters—providing a unique balance of cultures, and issues of local, national and international importance. This year's conference will seek to better these efforts and provide you with a most unique and exceptional experience—we hope to be seeing you in Honolulu in March, 2012. Consider planning a vacation around the conference so as to get our stellar rates. Conference rates

are very reasonable and we have chosen the Hilton Hawaiian Village to be our main conference hotel.

<http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/>.

**April 11-14, 2012**  
**Council on Exceptional Children 2012**  
**Convention & Expo**  
**Denver, CO**

Registration is open! This conference provides hundreds of sessions and workshops. An Expo Hall is provided to showcase new resources & services for special educators. The keynote speaker is Sir Ken Robinson. This conference provides several opportunities for educators to share resources and network with researchers in the field!

<http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ConventionExpo/>

**April 11-14, 2012**  
**Our World Our Future National Service-Learning Conference**  
**Minneapolis, MN**

Registration is open for "Our World, Our Future," the 23rd Annual National Service-Learning Conference and Youthrive PeaceJam Leadership Conference. The conference will examine how youth passion, creativity and innovation can address world issues, a vision of a future where all young people - both with and without disabilities - can become effective and visible leaders in their schools, communities and the world.

<http://nslc.nylc.org/>

**April 12-13, 2012**  
**ILLOWA AHEAD Regional Conference**  
**Champaign, IL**

The ILLOWA Association on Higher Education and disability (AHEAD) Regional Conference will be held April 12-13, 2012, in

Champaign, IL. For more information contact [saddlerryanc@sau.edu](mailto:saddlerryanc@sau.edu)

**April 13-14, 2012**  
**FULL ACCESS Student Summit**  
**Application to attend conference due:**  
**March 26, 2012**  
**San Jose, CA**

Career Opportunities for Students for Students with Disabilities is hosting a FULL ACCESS Summit in San Jose, CA. This is a great opportunity to network with employers and learn how to be competitive in the economic marketplace. College students need to submit an application by Monday, March 26, 2012. If accepted, funding is provided to students once they arrive at the conference. Students are expected to pay for their own transportation to the conference. For further information, go to:

<http://www.cosdonline.org/students-san-jose> or contact Alan Muir at 865-974-7148 or email at [amuir@cosdonline.org](mailto:amuir@cosdonline.org).

**April 19, 2012**  
**Best Practice Strategies for Inclusion Employer Forum**  
**Bethesda, MD**

Join the DC Metro BLN to hear from renowned former US Department of Labor, Assistant Secretary, Office of Disability Employment Policy, The Honorable Neil Romano, as he shares Fortune 500 CEOs strategic implementation of disability as a diversity best practice. Senior executives from Marriott International, Ernst & Young, Diversity Staffing and Kaiser Permanente will provide their own best inclusion practices and how they are preparing

to respond to the OFCCP proposed changes to Section 503 of the Rehab. Act. These combined experts will demonstrate how important disability inclusion and a diversity strategy are to the bottom line and an innovative workforce.

3.0 HRCI Credits pending. **Early Bird Registration Only \$35 (Non-BLN Members \$75); After 2/13: \$45/\$90**

**April 26, 2012**  
**Health Care Transitions for Adolescence and Young Adults**  
**Washington, DC**

Health Care Transition for Adolescents and Young Adults is sponsored by the DC Chapters of the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians and American College of Physicians, Georgetown University School of Nursing and Health Studies, The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health and DC Department of Health. The objectives of the program includes:

- Learn about the core elements for implementing the new clinical report and algorithm developed jointly by the AAP/AAFP/ACP to improve health care transition for youth and families
- Learn about quality improvement strategies, tools, and resources used by pediatric, family medicine and internal medicine practices participating in the DC Transition Learning

- Collaborative and how to implement them in your practice
- Become familiar with local resources for transition support

For More Information:

HSCSN: Angel Pride

APride@hscsn.org

National Alliance: Peggy McManus

mmcmanus@thenationalalliance.org

**May 3-4, 2012**  
**Breakthrough Strategies to Teach and Counsel Troubled Youth**  
**Seattle, WA**

The "Breakthrough Strategies to Teach and Counsel Troubled Youth" workshop will look at 200 answers to turnaround problems like delinquency, violence, apathy, truancy, defiance, ADD, school failure, bad attitudes, and poor motivation, with a special focus on children with challenges and disabilities. The workshop is sponsored by Youth Change Workshops and is intended for teachers, youth workers, counselors, psychologists, court workers, social workers, justice workers, foster parents, and school administrators. (The workshop will also be presented October 11-12, 2012, in Portland, OR) <http://www.youthchg.com/live.html>

**Request for Proposals!**

**Due May 11, 2011**

**2012 Southwest Conference on Disability**

The 2012 Southwest Conference on Disability seeks proposals on the theme "Access For All: To Boldly Go Where Everybody Else Has Gone Before," with

emphasis on: Access To Health, Physical Access, Access To Employment, Access To Technology, and Access To Behavioral Health Through High-Quality Service Partnerships. The conference will be held October 9-12, 2012. Deadline for proposals: May 11, 2012.

<http://cdd.unm.edu/swconf>

**May 30-June 1, 2012  
2012 National Transition Conference:  
College and Careers for Youth with  
Disabilities  
Washington, DC**

The National Transition Conference: College and Careers for Youth with Disabilities will provide a forum for developing an action agenda, bring together partners in the transition community to exchange ideas and approaches, share knowledge gained from policy implementation, discuss transition practices and research findings, and promote the development of networks and relationships. It will bring together youth and young adults, family members/advocates/caregivers, educators, vocational rehabilitation professionals, employment and training professionals, researchers, state and federal officials, leaders in the transition community, disability service staff, student development personnel, and behavioral health professionals.

<http://www.transition2012.org/>

**Money, Money, Money!  
Who's Got the Money?**

**2012 Through The Looking Glass  
Scholarship: Announcement And**

## Application

Through the Looking Glass and its National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families are pleased to announce new scholarships specifically for high school seniors or college students who have parents with disabilities. A total of fifteen \$1000 scholarships will be given out Fall 2012. These scholarships are part of Through the Looking Glass' [National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families](#). There are separate eligibility requirements for high school seniors and for college students:

1. **High School Seniors.** To be eligible, a student must be a high school graduate (or graduating senior) by Summer 2012, planning to attend a two-year or four-year college in Fall 2012 in pursuit of an AA, BA or BS degree, and have at least one parent with a disability.

2. **College Students.** To be eligible, a student must be currently enrolled in a two-year or four-year college in Fall 2012 in pursuit of an AA, BA or BS degree, be 21 years of age or younger as of March 5, 2012, and have at least one parent with a disability.

All application materials must be postmarked by March 5, 2012. Individuals may submit only one application per award period.

*Selection criteria for all scholarships include academic performance, community activities and service, letter of recommendation and an essay describing the experience of growing up with a parent with a disability. Five of the fifteen scholarships will also consider financial hardship and academic potential in addition to the other selection criteria.*

Please go to our website:

<http://www.lookingglass.org> for more

information, including the application form, complete application directions and an FAQ page that answers many common questions as well as offers helpful suggestions.

### **Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE): Cliff Weiss Essay Award**

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is sponsoring an essay contest in memory of former ACTE Senior Director of Communications, Cliff Weiss (1951-2004). This year, students will be asked to respond to the question, "How do you feel CTE prepares individuals, including yourself, for a future career?" Concrete examples of the student's classroom, CTSO participation, and job training (if applicable) experiences as they relate to the student's career exploration and preparation should be included. The essay should be a maximum of 1,200 words. Maximum award: \$150 and publication in ACTE's *Techniques Magazine*. Eligibility: secondary or postsecondary students enrolled in at least one career and technical education course. Deadline: March 9, 2012.

<http://www.acteonline.org/essaycontest.aspx>

### **Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program**

Kohl's annually rewards young volunteers across the country for contributions to their communities. Maximum award: \$10,000. Eligibility: legal U.S. residents of a state in which a Kohl's store is located, between the ages of 6 and 18 and not yet a high

school graduate as of March 15, 2012. Deadline: March 15, 2012.

<http://www.kohlscorporation.com/CommunityRelations/scholarship/index.asp>

### **Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes**

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes honors young leaders who have focused on helping their communities and fellow beings and/or on protecting the health and sustainability of the environment. Maximum award: \$2,500. Eligibility: youth 8-18. Deadline: April 30, 2012.

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

### **Youth Service America Invites Young Change-Makers to Apply for Disney Friends for Change Grants**

A program of Youth Service America and Disney, the Disney Friends for Change Grants program offers young change-makers in the United States funding to help make a lasting, positive change in their communities and the world. The program seeks to support volunteer projects serving a wide range of needs that highlight the creativity and commitment of young people working to meet the needs of others and that demonstrate how "even small actions can add up to big changes." Youth between the ages of 5-18 in all fifty states and the District of Columbia are eligible to lead a project and apply for a \$1,000 grant to fund it. (Applicants younger than 13 years of age must have an older person submit the application on their behalf.) Deadline: April 29, 2012

<http://www.ysa.org/grants/disney-friends-change-grants>

## **AIAA Foundation: Grants for Excellence in Math, Science, Technology and Engineering**

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Foundation Classroom Grants encourage excellence in educating students about math, science, technology, and engineering. Eligibility: current AIAA Educator Associate or AIAA Professional members actively engaged as K-12 classroom educators. Maximum award: \$200. Deadline: rolling. <http://www.aiaa.org/content.cfm?pageid=244>

## **Possibilities: A Financial Resource for Parents of Children and Youth with Disabilities**

"Possibilities: A Financial Resource for Parents of Children with Disabilities," first published in 2004 by the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) and PACER, updates this financial planning guide to an online format, and includes more content relevant to parenting transition-age youth with disabilities. The guide offers tips and information on many financial issues and concerns of families raising children with disabilities from infancy to young adulthood. Topics include organizing financial records, managing money, preparing income taxes, health insurance options, dealing with debt, saving for college, preparing youth for adult employment, etc. <http://www.pacer.org/publications/possibilities/>

## **HEATH Resource Center Financial Aid Information 2009-2010**

While education beyond high school in the United States is optional, it has become a necessary investment in future employment and life satisfaction for many people. Most, however, cannot afford to make this investment without some outside monetary assistance. Over the years, public and private sources of money have been developed specifically to meet this need. As increasing, but limited, amounts of money have become available, a standardized method of determining eligibility has evolved to promote equitable distribution of student financial aid. [www.heath.gwu.edu](http://www.heath.gwu.edu)

## **Disability.Gov Grants & Funding in Education: Federal Student Aid Grant Programs**

The federal government provides grant funds for students attending colleges, career schools and universities. Grants are not loans and do not have to be repaid. Information about scholarships is also available. Enter the word disability in the search to find scholarships that are specifically for students with disabilities, or you can just search for a field of study or major such as music, law enforcement, biology, social work, etc. For more information visit [https://www.disability.gov/education/financial\\_aid\\_%26\\_scholarships/grants](https://www.disability.gov/education/financial_aid_%26_scholarships/grants).

## **School Grants, College Scholarships, Financial Aid and More**

This website provides essential information to obtain school grants to make education affordable. It highlights different types of grants, their sources and how to apply for them. It is designed to be user friendly for everyone.

<http://www.schoolgrantsblog.com/>

## **2012-2013 Guide to Federal Student Aid**

This guide for students provides information on the federal aid programs available for students planning to attend college. For information specifically for students with intellectual disabilities go to page 6. You'll find more information about federal student aid programs at [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov). For information about scholarships please visit [https://www.disability.gov/education/financial\\_aid\\_%26\\_scholarships/scholarships](https://www.disability.gov/education/financial_aid_%26_scholarships/scholarships).

## **Disaboom Scholarship Directory**

Disaboom recently launched a scholarship directory for students with disabilities, listing over 125 scholarships. <http://www.disaboom.com/scholarships>

## **Federal Student Aid Grant Program Fact Sheet**

Disability.Gov has created a fact sheet that provides an overview of the major federal student aid grant programs. The federal government provides grant funds for students attending colleges, including career colleges and universities. Grants, unlike loans, do not have to be repaid. (A Spanish version is at: <http://tinyurl.com/yz2zheg>.) Available in pdf (1 page, 164 KB). <http://tinyurl.com/yf5t5tb>

## **NASFAA and Casey Family programs: Guide to Financial Aid Assistance to Students from**

## **Foster Care and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth**

This guide provides information for those who help youth from foster care and unaccompanied homeless youth to secure financial aid for postsecondary education or training programs. It describes how to respond to new FAFSA questions 55-60 that will determine federal financial aid status for these students. A section on sensitive communications is also included. This guide will be useful for financial aid professionals, independent living coordinators, guidance counselors, financial aid counselors, social workers and advocates who are helping youth to secure the maximum allowable financial aid.

[www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/ProvidingEffectiveFinancialAid.htm](http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/ProvidingEffectiveFinancialAid.htm)

## **Do Something: Seed Grants**

Do Something Seed Grants can aid project ideas and programs that are just getting started, to jump-start programs and realize ideas for the first time; or projects that are already developed and sustainable and moving toward the next steps of the project and organization as the project expands. Maximum award: \$500. Eligibility: U.S. or Canadian citizens aged 25 or under. Deadline: ongoing.

<http://www.dosomething.org/grants/faq>

## **Scholarships and Internships for Latino Students with Disabilities**

The World Institute on Disability (WID) has a five-year grant to establish the National Technical Assistance Center for Latinos with Disabilities living in the

United States, through Proyecto Vision. Proyecto Vision's website has a list of scholarship opportunities for college students who are Latino and who are living with disability.

<http://www.proyectovision.net/english/opportunities/scholarships.html>

### **The Washington Center Scholarship**

The Washington Center Scholarship for Students with Disabilities funded by the AT&T Foundation and HSC Foundation, these awards provide housing assistance in varying amounts (up to a full housing scholarship) to competitively selected students who self-identify as having a disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Priority consideration is given to undergraduate students; however, Postgraduate Program applicants may be considered.

<http://www.twc.edu/node/8142#disabilities-scholarships>

**Add to your Favorites!  
(websites)**

### **Able Forces**

The mission of Able Forces is to address the critical employment and training needs of our combat injured veterans of OEF/OIF and all disabled veterans. They emphasize continuity of support and focus on providing employment opportunities and community-based job preparation training to the Nation's heroes suffering from Severe Physical Disabilities, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and minor to profound

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

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

### **National Resource Directory**

The National Resource Directory is a website that connects wounded warriors, service members, veterans, their families and caregivers with resources and information regarding education & training, employment, and housing.

Veterans can look for information and resources by state as well.

<https://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov/>

### **NCWD/Youth Individualized Learning Plans Webpage**

The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) has developed a new webpage that focuses on Individualized Learning Plans (ILP). In addition, the webpage provides information on best practices, policies, and research on ILP. ILP are not limited to youth with disabilities but is open to ALL youth in secondary schools that can use an opportunity to identify their own interests and preferences related to career and postsecondary education. This is a great tool to use in the classroom as a first step in the transition process for ALL youth.

<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/ilp>

### **Next Generation Learning Challenges**

The Next Generation Learning Challenges is tasked with using technology to help students to complete high school to become college ready. They will collect and disseminate research evidence that will enable schools to improve the quality of experience for all students. They currently have provides two

waves of grant opportunities and are currently accepting applications for a third wave focusing on the secondary and postsecondary levels.

<http://nextgenlearning.org/>

### **Summer Job+**

The United States Department of Labor has released a new call-to-action for businesses, non-profits, and government to provide pathways to employment for low-income and disconnected youth. Businesses that participate in this initiative are required to make a "Pathways Pledge" by choosing one of three pathways to assist low-income youth: life skills, work skills, and learn & earn. In a few weeks, a new job bank for youth will be launched to help youth connect with job opportunities across the country. Youth can sign-up on the website to receive an email informing them that the job bank is live.

<http://www.dol.gov/summerjobs/>

### **Student Veterans of America**

The mission of Student Veterans of America is to provide military veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education and following graduation. Their vision is that all veterans will succeed in higher education, achieve their academic goals, and gain meaningful employment. <http://www.studentveterans.org>

### **What Works Clearinghouse**

The What Works Clearinghouse, an initiative of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), has been updated to give the public better ways to find what works in education. Publications are now categorized into 15 topic areas. Resources included under topic areas

include reviews, practice guides, and intervention reports.

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>

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**Submissions:** We welcome submissions from transition-related organizations and entities to post resources and information in our quarterly newsletter. Please email us at [askheath@gwu.edu](mailto:askheath@gwu.edu) to include your submission in our next newsletter.