

Monday Bulletin on Services to Youth

To Coordinate... To Enhance... To Serve... Through Communication...

Exploring Options at the Choices Fair

By Lynn Boza

Over 700 transition-age students from Detroit Public Schools, public school academies and charter schools attended the “Choices Fair” held in Detroit on May 10, 2007. Exhibitors included employers, agencies and post-secondary training programs. Teachers like Rosalind Payne-Thompson, pictured here, explained programs like the Breithaupt Career and Technical Center to younger students and congratulated upcoming graduates on their success in the program. Desmond Smith is a student who is about to graduate from the Breithaupt Career and Technical Center. He studied



Desmond Smith

Information Management Technology at Breithaupt and will continue with post-

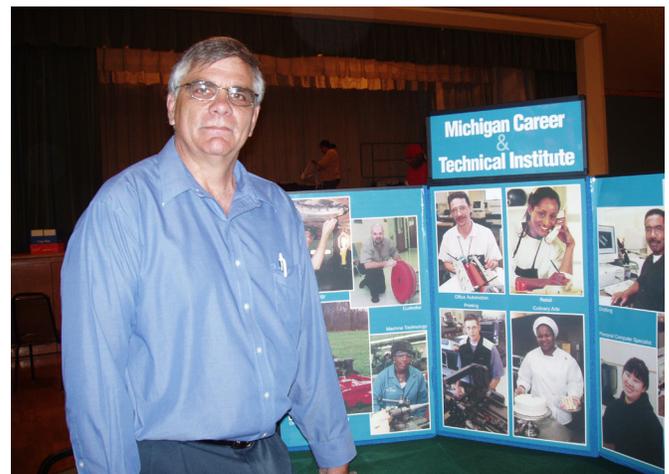
secondary education in this field of study with help from Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

For more information about Breithaupt Career and Technical Center and its 17 vocational programs. Visit their web site <http://schools.detroit,k12.org/Breithaupt>

During this busy IEP season, we want to congratulate all the students with disabilities who will be graduating or completing school this year and becoming involved with their next transition to life after high school!



Rosalind Payne-Thompson



Dave Porter representing MCTI

Please Forward or Print Monday Bulletin for Others

Email your contributions or ideas for “Monday Bulletin on Services to Youth” to Lynn Boza: bozal@michigan.gov or call 517/241-3957. To subscribe, contact Lynn Boza. Views expressed in Monday Bulletin articles are not necessarily the views of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth nor Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

SSA RED BOOK 2007 Update

The 2007 version of the Red Book is currently in production. Please check frequently for updates on status. During the interim, we are providing this update with appropriate earnings levels and other figures that apply for 2007.

- We increased the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) amount for individuals with disabilities, other than blindness, from \$860 in 2006 to \$900 for 2007.
- We increased the SGA amount for individuals who are blind from \$1,450 in 2006 to \$1,500 for 2007.
- We increased the monthly earnings amount that we use to determine if a month counts for the Trial Work Period (TWP) from \$620 in 2006 to \$640 for 2007.
- For 2007, we increased the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Federal Benefit Rates (FBR) from \$603 to \$623 for an eligible individual and from \$904 to \$934 for an eligible couple.
- We increased the income amounts that will have no effect on eligibility or benefits for SSI beneficiaries who are students. For 2007, we increased the monthly amount from \$1,460 to \$1,510 and the yearly maximum from \$5,910 to \$6,100.
- For 2007, the monthly Medicare Part A Hospital Insurance Base Premium is \$410, and the 45% Reduced Premium is \$226. The Part B Supplementary Medical Insurance monthly Base Premium is \$93.50.
- We also increased the Medicaid While Working State Threshold Amounts for Disabled Individuals. We use yearly State threshold amounts to decide if earnings are high enough to replace SSI and Medicaid benefits. The Michigan threshold is \$25,326.

College Students with Cognitive Disabilities

The growing trend of providing postsecondary education for students with cognitive disabilities on college campuses is happening all over the continent--and right here in Michigan. Watch this new film and learn how Micah continues to go "through the same door" as his peers as he shows us how "inclusion includes college" for him and other young adults.

To learn more about postsecondary education for young adults with intellectual/cognitive disabilities go to:

www.education.umd.edu/oco/
www.transitiontocollege.net/
www.thinkcollege.net
www.steps-forward.org/

Dispute Resolution News

- David Gruber, Program Director

Did you know that...

... A new dispute resolution policy is being drafted by the Office of Special Education & Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS)? It would provide a range of informal options for resolving special education concerns. It would also revise the complaint process.

... Interest is growing in the use of neutral facilitators for Individualized Education Program Team (IEPT) meetings and resolution sessions?

... There are state and national resources available for avoiding disputes or resolving them early, including ways to improve your own communications and problem solving skills?

You can read about these topics and more in Reaching Agreement, an online newsletter from the Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP).

www.cenmi.org/msemp/ReachingAgreement/index.asp

Also on the MSEMP Web site is a new online form for requesting mediation and facilitation services, as well as for skill-building workshops.

www.cenmi.org/msemp/RequestForServicesForm.asp

Applying Practical Solutions for Employment Success

From- REFERENCE POINTS

This new document from the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Policy (ODEP) is the second in a series of Customized Employment portfolios. It expands on the topics presented in the first in the series, Practical Solutions for Employment Success with Customized Employment and provides ideas on how to use these strategies with job seekers for their own Customized Employment success. This portfolio provides an overview of the following topics:

Job Seeker Exploration
Self-Representation and Customized Employment
Negotiating with Employers
Developing Self-Employment and Microenterprise
Securing Assets for Customized Employment
Resources

Available on the ODEP web site at:

www.dol.gov/odep/categories/workforce/CustomizedEmployment/successful/index.htm

Project Find: Helping Young People Succeed

Project Find is helping young people succeed. A statewide referral source to special education, we are pleased to share that we have launched a brand NEW website at www.ProjectFindMichigan.org.

Highlights:

- Information about our statewide program
- Contact information for Project Find Coordinators
- Direct link to the 2006-07 Directory of Service Providers for Infants, Toddlers, and Students with Disabilities
- Local, State, and National Resources
- Launch of online referrals, referrals via fax, email, or through the statewide toll-free referral line
- Online ordering of promotional items*, at no cost, to support the outreach and identification of children, youth, and young adults (from birth to 26) who may be eligible for special education services. (*Available in English, Spanish, and Arabic)

Project Find is a Mandated Activities Project, funded by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services. Project Find conducts continuous public awareness and referral activities designed to locate, identify, and refer as early as possible all children, youth, and young adults with disabilities who may be eligible for special educational services through Michigan's Administrative Rules for Special Education and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B.

Project Find is devoted to helping individuals, parents, and people who work with families (known as primary referral sources), to connect with the special educational services that may be needed.

In Michigan, eligible children, youth, and young adults may receive special educational services from birth to age 26. If you know of a child, youth, or young adult who is having difficulty learning or who is struggling in school, contact Project Find for more information about free educational services provided by Michigan public schools.

Referral Line: 1-800-252-0052

FAX: (517) 668-0446

TTY: (517) 668-2505

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

Award Winning Film

Through the Same Door: Inclusion Includes College

This inspiring and uplifting 25 minute film, winner of the 2006 TASH Image Award for the Positive Portrayal of People with Disabilities, documents the new movement of fully inclusive education for young adults with cognitive disabilities on college campuses. The film tells the story of Micah Fialka-Feldman, a 21 year old man of Michigan who knows what he wants. In many ways, he enjoys a typical life: making friends, participating in college activities, and volunteering in the community and in politics. Less typically, he travels the country speaking. But for all of his life, there have been some people telling him that he could not have a regular life. Micah has a cognitive disability and has an IEP. In this film you will see Micah taking public transportation to Oakland University (OU), participating in his college courses, talking with his professors, hanging out with his friends in the Student Center, working at the OU Student Activities Centers, using his assistive technology to send his emails, and keynoting at a state teacher education conference. Woven into the film are engaging interviews with Micah, his friends, the Associate Dean of Education at OU, university and high school faculty, the social worker, and family members.

Meg Grigal, author of *Transition Services for Students with Significant Disabilities in College and Community Settings* says, "Micah shows us all, not only what is possible in his future, but what should be possible for all students. He is charming, funny, and thinks outside the box. He has a lot to teach us all about what is possible in life. This video will open your eyes to possibility." Ann Turnbull of the Beach Center at the University of Kansas recommends that this DVD "be in the hands of young people with disabilities, families, transition coordinators, teachers, and advocacy organizations across the country." Paula Kluth, author of "Your gonna love this kid," says, "This is a must-see film. . . a model of hope, risk, opportunity, and dreams." TASH referred to the film as "a groundbreaking and an exemplary work."

This film can be used with diverse audiences: parents, professionals, university classes, youth, and community groups. In the words of Dan Wilkins, *Nth Degree*, "Micah is changing the way people think and feel about those of us with disabilities. Watch the film. Let him show you what turning your dream into reality looks and feels like."

For more information or to order a copy, visit:

www.throughthesamedoor.com

Save the Dates Events & Training

JUNE

Michigan Career Placement Association (MCPA)

Summer Conference

June 13-15, 2007

Crystal Mountain Resort

Thompsonville, MI

For hotel and registration information:

<http://www.edzone.net/mcpa/>

AUGUST

Mid-Michigan Educators' Summit

August 15, 2007

Valley Plaza in Midland, MI

Contact Kayla Courneya and at

courneyak@baisd.net or via telephone at (989) 667-3280

A flyer is at: [http://www.baisd.net/documents/](http://www.baisd.net/documents/Save%20the%20Date81507.pdf)

[Save%20the%20Date81507.pdf](http://www.baisd.net/documents/Save%20the%20Date81507.pdf)

NOVEMBER

Symposium on Postsecondary Opportunities on College Campus Students with Intellectual/Cognitive Disabilities

November 4-5, 2007

Oakland University, Rochester, MI

For updates on the Symposium: www.ddi.wayne.edu/postsecondary_symposium.php

To request a conference brochure, contact Latosha Marshall at du8586@wayne.edu

Michigan Career Placement Association Summer Conference

The MCPA Summer Conference will be held June 13-15, 2007, at Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville, Michigan. Topics will include High School Redesign, Perkins IV Update, Pupil Accounting, MIOSHA update, round tables and much more.

For hotel and registration information, please visit the MCPA website as follows: <http://www.edzone.net/mcpa/>. If you have any questions, please contact MCPA Past President, Spike Fuehr, (517) 223-6108, fuehr@fv1.k12.mi.us.

Ralph Lynam Leadership Institute of MADHH for Deaf & Hard of Hearing High School Students June 17 - 22, 2007

The Ralph Lynam Leadership Institute of MADHH is held annually at Michigan State University, and can house up to 30 Michigan deaf and hard of hearing high school students. This weeklong transition training program is in its 13th year, and provides an opportunity for deaf and hard of hearing students to develop and strengthen leadership skills for future employment. Students receive a taste of MSU life as they reside in a college dorm and explore the campus during the week. Field trips include a visit to the State Capitol, the office of the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Judge Filice's courtroom are routine. This year we will be attending a Lugnuts game as their special guest.

The deadline has been extended and applications are being accepted. Deaf and hard of hearing students must be in 10th, 11th or 12th grade. Download applications from www.madhh.org, or call (517) 487-0066 ext: 16 or (800) YOUR EAR.

Symposium: Students with Intellectual/Cognitive Disabilities

The Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) is pleased to announce an upcoming Symposium on Postsecondary Opportunities on College Campuses for Students with Cognitive/Intellectual Disabilities. The first ever Michigan event will take place November 4th & 5th, 2007 on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester, MI.

This Symposium brings together leading experts, researchers, practitioners and consumers on post secondary education (PSE) to provide an overview of PSE opportunities and discuss current trends, issues, and solutions for PSE initiatives. Two of the pioneers and researchers in the field, Dr. Meg Grigal, Director of the Postsecondary Research Center (www.transitiontocollege.net) and Dr. Debra Hart, Educational Coordinator at the Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts will present at the Symposium.

To request a conference brochure, contact Latosha Marshall at DDI at du8586@wayne.edu