

Monday Bulletin on Services to Youth

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

MONDAY BULLETIN WINS NATIONAL AWARD



The Monday Bulletin on Services to Youth won the 2006 Excellence in Media Award, conferred by the National Rehabilitation

Association at its recent annual training conference, held November 9-12, 2006. The Excellence in Media Award is presented to an individual or organization whose media production has made a noticeable contribution towards the accurate and progressive portrayal of people with disabilities. It is presented in recognition of outstanding effort in any medium, including print, radio, television, film, and advertising. Michigan Rehabilitation Services' Deputy Director, Bettie Shaw-Henderson (Past-President of NRA) and Bulletin Editor, Lynn Boza were present at the awards ceremony on November 11 in Orlando, Florida.

An additional award winner was Michigan Rehabilitation Services for the 2006 Public Service Award, presented to an individual or organization which has demonstrated leadership in improving rehabilitation services at the federal, state or local levels and who has exercised creative and effective political leadership over

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Mid-Michigan Students Participate in Mentoring Day Disability Network Promotes Job-Shadowing Program

Some 22 Midland-area students participated in the fifth annual Disability Mentoring Day on Friday, October 20th. Students from Bullock Creek, Coleman, Dow and Midland High took part in the job-shadowing program, and received real-world experience from the annual event.

The focus of the program is to increase career opportunities for young people with disabilities as they prepare to enter the workforce.

"It's a tremendous aid for these students to have a real understanding of the types of jobs that are out there", said Lowell Gisel, STAGES program leader for Disability Network of Mid-Michigan. "Job-shadowing through the mentoring day is an important event for these kids."

As part of the program, the Midland-area students observe the various job duties being performed, interact with the employees performing them, and examine whether they would be satisfied or qualified to do the jobs. The students also identify the necessary training that is required for each respective job.

"There is no better way for a student to learn about the workplace than through real-world experience", said Lowell. "We're very proud of this event, and excited to start planning next year's Mentoring day already."

Following the actual job-shadowing, participating students attended a luncheon at Dow, where they discussed their experiences with adult "mentors for the day". Afterwards, the students were treated to an interactive presentation with Mr. John Kemp in the Dow auditorium. Mr. Kemp serves as a member of the nonprofit Boards of Directors for several organizations, including: the United States International Council on Disabilities; the National Rehabilitation Hospital of Washington, DC; and The Abilities Fund.



Sara Kristal-Brandon, Executive Director for Disability Network of Mid-Michigan, addresses students, and acknowledges Mr. John Kemp (not shown) for participating in the Disability Mentoring Day activities.

Submitted by Bill Morand

NATIONAL AWARDS

Continued from page 1

a period of years on behalf of rehabilitation programs and individuals with disabilities at the federal, state or local levels.

A special thanks to Monday Bulletin contributors, readers and supporters. Please help us make this publication a continued success with your submissions!

Congratulations Monday Bulletin Staff:

Lynn Boza- Editor

Julie Eckhardt- Design, layout, and editing

Melissa Emmer- Distribution

Rosanne Renauer- Originating Editor



ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

The Michigan Transition Services Association annual spring conference will be held March 5-7, 2007 at the Bavarian Inn Conference Center. Presenters, exhibitors, and poster session participants are needed at this time. This year's theme is "Taking Care of Business". Conference forms are available at www.michigantsa.com

For further information please contact Jo Cherry, conference chairperson at joc@sjcisd.org

Reference Points

MENTORING RESOURCES

Mentoring in America: Snapshot of the Current State of Mentoring

In 2005, MENTOR commissioned a new poll on mentoring in America. The findings of that poll were released on May 3, focusing on the attitudes and behaviors of three key groups of American adults: formal mentors, informal mentors and non-mentors. Key findings include that young people involved in structured one-to-one mentoring relationships has increased nearly 20 percent, and that 44 million adults are willing to serve as mentors. <http://www.mentoring.org/leaders/files/pollreport.pdf>

The National Center for Mentoring Youth with Disabilities

Partners for Youth with Disabilities (PYD) announces the opening of the National Center for Mentoring Youth with Disabilities. The National Center provides opportunities to learn about best practices, connect with others who are committed to similar work, learn about upcoming conferences and receive training and technical assistance. The National Center has released its first publication, "Aspire, Achieve, Empower: Best Practices for Mentoring Youth with Disabilities." A version of the guide can be downloaded at <http://www.pyd.org>

An additional resource, the 2005 "Best Practices Guide in Mentoring Youth with Disabilities" has also been developed by PYD. This 145 page guide describes best practices and strategies for mentoring youth with disabilities. It can be downloaded for free in PDF format from http://www.pyd.org/national-center/GuideBookAssembly_medium150.pdf

Self-Employment and Mentors: Micromentor.org

Micromentor helps entrepreneurs grow their businesses through mentoring relationships with experienced business professionals. Mentors volunteer their time to meaningfully impact the lives of those new to the world of small business. For more information go to <http://www.micromentor.org/>

Service Corp. of Retired Executives (SCORE)

SCORE is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, providing public service to America by offering small business advice and training. Volunteers share their wisdom and lessons learned in business. Volunteers are working/retired business owners, executives and corporate leaders. More information can be found at <http://www.score.org>

Small Business and Self-Employment Service

Consultants at the Small Business and Self-Employment Service (SBSES) can provide ongoing business development supports and links to specific mentoring resources in your area. Contact them directly for additional information at 1-800-526-7234. For more information go to <http://www.jan.wvu.edu/sbSES/index.htm>

REFERENCE POINTS is managed by PACER Center www.pacer.org as a joint technical assistance activity of the TATRA Project and the National Center on Secondary Education and Transition www.ncset.org

Apply Now for Youth Leadership Forum 2007!

Deadline is December 15, 2006.
For an application and more see:

www.mylf.org

The Michigan Loan Funds Seeking Advisory Council Members



The Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund is looking for consumers, employers, or Rehabilitation Representatives to become members of our Assistive Technology Loan Fund Advisory Council.

Advisory Council Functions

The primary activities of the Advisory Council are to:

1. Ensure all policies and procedures of the Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund are adhered to and give input when changes need to be made.
2. Give input regarding the progress and improvement of the Loan Fund.
3. Spread that the word about the Loan Fund and help us reach others across the state and discuss ways for program staff to market the programs.

Commitment Time: The Advisory Council meets quarterly. Meetings are generally held on the 1st or 2nd Tuesday from of the month 1:30-3:00 PM. Members are sent a meeting agenda and documents by e-mail.

Meeting Location: Members may attend the meetings in person at the Statewide Independent Living Council, (SILC) or by phone (a toll free number is provided).

If you are, or if you know of someone who is interested, please have him/her contact Leah March at United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan. She can be reached by phone at 517.203.1200 or 800.828.2714, by E-mail: march@ucpmichigan.org, or by mail 3401 E. Saginaw, Suite 216, Lansing, MI 48912.

Learn more at: www.michiganloanfunds.org/

Michigan Rehabilitation Services 2006 Transition Highlights

In FY 2006, the Youth Services & Community Alliances unit was directed by Sandra Peck, Division Director, and staffed by Lynn Boza. Accomplishments and activities related to Transition and their impact upon Michigan Rehabilitation Services and its customers will be included in this and future Monday Bulletins.

DID YOU KNOW?

The MiConnections project was selected to be a member of the Michigan team at the Shared Youth Vision Federal Collaborative Partnership. The teams met in September of 2006 to begin planning.

MRS SERVES ADJUDICATED YOUTH

Michigan Rehabilitation Services prioritized services to adjudicated youth through a 5-year joint project with the Department of Human Services (DHS). Procedures for working together at the state and local levels were identified. A seamless referral system between the five state training facilities and vocational rehabilitation offices was developed. Internal DHS procedures for applying for State Disability Assistance were modified. Interagency cross training was provided over a two-year period. A transition coordinator position (.5 FTE) at the Maxey Boys Training School is funded through a cash match partnership agreement.

The total number of Adjudicated Youth served in 2006 was 240. Average cost per youth successfully placed in employment was \$4,420.

YOUTH SERVICES ARE IMPORTANT TO MRS

At the end of FY 2006, data representing youth – that is, individuals age 14-21, and 22-26 if referred by schools – served in the rehabilitation system is as follows:

Number Youth Served	16,435
Percentage Youth Served	35.7%
Number Youth Rehabilitated*	1,956
Percentage Youth Rehabilitated	27.9%
Average dollar cost / rehab ages 14-21	\$4,132
Average dollar cost / rehab ages 22-26	\$3,336

• Rehabilitated refers to individuals suitably employed for 90 days or more at time of case closure with MRS.

Save the Dates • Events & Training

JANUARY

The Art of Creating Opportunity: 12 New Tools for Students in Transition with Denise Bissonnette

January 25, 2007

The Hilton - Troy, 5500 Crooks Road in Troy, MI
FREE - Pre-registration required by January 18. Space is limited.

More information at www.oakland.k12.mi.us, click on "Register Online," then locate class.

Questions on content: Cathy Schmidt, 248.209.2504

Sponsored by Oakland Schools and Oakland County Community Mental Health

FEBRUARY

Career & Technical Preparation Conference

February 11-13, 2007

Sponsored by Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth & Ferris State University
Detroit Marriott

MARCH

Annual Transition Services Conference

"Taking Care of Business"

March 5-7, 2007

Bavarian Inn
Frankenmuth, MI

More information at: <http://www.michigantsa.com/>

APRIL

The Art of Creating Opportunity: 12 New Tools for Students in Transition with Denise Bissonnette

April 11, 2007

Sponsored by Michigan Rehabilitation Association's Job Placement Division

2006-2007 NASDSE Satellite Conference Series

What Is the NASDSE Satellite Conference Series?

Each year the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN), offer this personnel development series to state education agencies to share with stakeholders.

Topics for the conferences are consistent with the theme of educating all students, including students with disabilities, by implementing and sustaining emerging practices and implementing the new IDEA to effectively support students as they learn. Experts will provide important information on these high-interest topics. These telecasts bring nationally recognized experts, using satellite technology and streaming media, thus providing an affordable means of quality personnel development.

The Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS) annually purchases this satellite conference series from the NASDSE to share with our stakeholders (e.g. school personnel at the intermediate, local and public school academy levels, parents, community organizations, etc.) at no cost to them.

For more information see the OSE-EIS Web site at

<http://www.michigan.gov/ose-eis>

Please forward or print this bulletin for others.

E-mail 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 as above.

Views expressed in Monday Bulletin articles are not necessarily the views of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth nor Michigan Rehabilitation Services.