

Monday Bulletin on Services to Youth

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

Leadership

You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you think you cannot do.
- Eleanor Roosevelt

Leadership consists not in degrees of technique but in traits of character; it requires moral rather than athletic or intellectual effort, and it imposes on both leader and follower alike the burdens of self-restraint.
- Lewis H. Lapham

If one is lucky, a solitary fantasy can totally transform one million realities.
- Maya Angelou

Don't be afraid to take a big step when one is indicated. You can't cross a chasm in two small steps.
- David Lloyd George

Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

When the effective leader is finished with his work, the people say it happened naturally.
- Lao Tse

CONNECT & CCL Empowering Youth Leaders

By Ian Engle

Involvement in the Proud and Powerful activity within the Connections for Community Leadership (CCL) is part and parcel to the same whole as CONNECT. The efforts of the Proud and Powerful committee are conducted through strategies and activities that encourage pride and power within our brothers and sisters with disabilities. The CONNECT project draws on the philosophy and vision of the Proud and Powerful committee when developing networks of students in higher education with disabilities, to encourage boldness and action among students with disabilities when advocating their rights and organizing to do so on campus. The establishment of communication among students involved with various CONNECT chapters at different colleges fosters specific agendas to address discrimination, access, and the defense of any civil or human right we are equal to exercise. I am literally and figuratively proud to be involved with the Center for Creative Leadership, and the outreach to students through the CONNECT program.



Ian Engle -

CONNECT encourages students with disabilities to work with colleges and universities to create student organizations geared toward establishing a community of those interested in issues and willing to take action. Moreover CONNECT provides a forum wherein students with disabilities can interact, organize, and develop their own unique culture of activism. Pride and power are important, if intangible, elements to the vibrancy that makes the CONNECT group a dynamic for change. Within the greater umbrella of the CCL at Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC), the CONNECT groups are tied to resources developed by the Proud and Powerful committee to support and bolster efforts of those involved.

Many of the members of the Proud and Powerful committee are also CONNECT participants or facilitators, therefore the bond between the two is natural. Pride and power are sure to be a part of the sharing that goes on at the annual CONNECT retreat. We support one another, and the Proud and Powerful committee is an avenue of opportunity for those who take advantage of it. Many of those involved with CONNECT are doing things with their lives that produce feelings of pride and power, and the CCL has developed

Continued on page 2



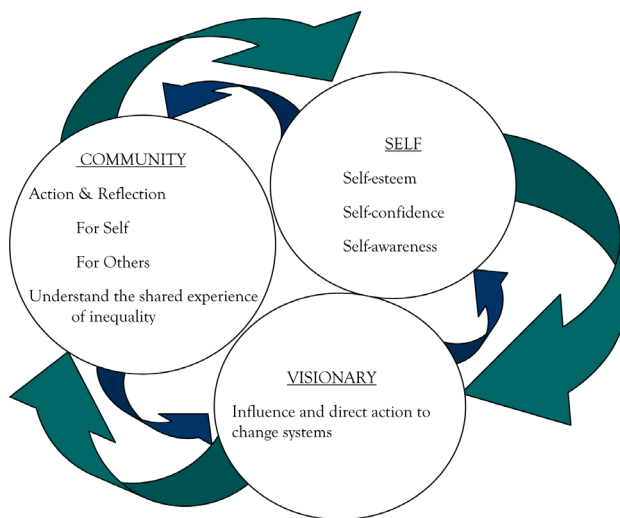
“Every member of the community has the opportunity to pursue a leadership position in an area of interest to them.”

Connections for Community Leadership (CCL) is a program that supports people with disabilities in becoming leaders of their communities. This evolving program is funded by the Developmental Disabilities Council and is coordinated by the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition. CCL works to create:

- More inclusive communities.
- A competent group of people committed to changing the system.
- A network of allies creating system changes and building inclusive communities.
- Organizations with the capacity and skills for supporting people with disabilities.
- A network of people with disabilities who are knowledgeable about disability issues and who become leaders of their communities.
- A group of young disability activists to carry on the work of Justin Dart, Ed Roberts, Judi Chamberlain, and other influential leaders in the disability rights movement.

This Monday Bulletin includes information about a few of the CCL programs, as well as other youth leadership programs in Michigan. There are many ways for you, your organization, or the students you serve, to get involved.

Learn more about CCL at: <http://www.copower.org/leader/cclhome.php>



LeaderLINKS

LeaderLINKS is a statewide database used to link emerging leaders with each other and leadership opportunities throughout Michigan. A project of CCL, LeaderLINKS is a unique tool that allows people with disabilities to learn about leadership opportunities, supports, and organizations as well as for leadership organizations to promote their programs to emerging leaders in Michigan.

How to access LeaderLINKS

Accessing the database is simple. You can call CCL toll-free and they will do the searching for you or you can search the database online at:

<http://www.copower.org/leader/leaderLINKS.htm>

Empowering Youth

From page 1

the mechanism to recognize and celebrate those feelings of accomplishment. I am excited to see what evolves out of the CCL, working as a tool enjoining individuals within a framework of support, for accomplishing the goals set by groups of people with disabilities, like the students of CONNECT, to address issues of systemic oppression and cultural ignorance. I am proud to be a part of such a truly grass-roots movement for social change.

About the author...

Ian Engle was a senior at Michigan State University, on a wrestling scholarship, when he acquired a disability. Shortly thereafter, he participated in the Center for Disability Leadership (CDL) at Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc. (MPAS). He engaged in dialogue, learning and action with people from different races, creeds, and social classes, all united in a common struggle against oppression. MPAS hired him to serve on the organizing staff for the CDL. Soon after, he contracted with MPAS to conduct voting workshops at state institutions for people who receive mental health services. Eventually, Ian joined MPAS full time and became involved in the Independent Living Movement, advocating for equality and freedom and against institutionalization.

Ian completed his bachelor's degree, and is dedicated to enforcing the rights of people with disabilities to have freedom and control over their own lives. In large part, this means focusing on young people in nursing homes. Personal contact with those who have been put at a disadvantage through no fault of their own, and the opportunity to encourage people to stand up for the right to choose and direct our own supports, and working with people who are putting forth an effort to better their lives in the face of systemic oppression is what Ian treasures most.



Connections for Community Leadership

CONNECT is a statewide organization that networks traditional and non-traditional students with disabilities and their allies who are involved with disability student groups on college campuses. CONNECT connects students to other student groups from around the State of Michigan, and to leadership opportunities and resources in their communities. CONNECT also provides technical assistance to disability support offices, college programs, and community organizations that want to support students with disabilities in the adventure of leadership.

CONNECT can assist you with communicating with other student groups throughout Michigan. Providing support to students with disabilities so they can be more effective in their community. Strengthening activities and accomplishments of disability student organizations. Creating a transition plan for disability student organizations.

Call: 1-800-760-4600 ext. 326

Email: CONNECT@prosynergy.org

Visit: <http://www.copower.org/leader/Publications.htm>

Michigan Woman Featured on ODEP Web Site

“As a high school dropout with a troubled past and a learning disability, Jessica D. of Michigan faced many obstacles that she thought would be impossible to overcome. Loving support from her grandparents put her back on the path to education. She re-enrolled, graduated with honors and started college. There, she learned about the Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP).

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), one of two federal agencies that coordinates the WRP, hired Jessica into its own workforce for two consecutive summers. Her first assignment was to write success stories about youth with disabilities who had participated in various ODEP-funded programs...”

Read the rest of the article at:

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/talent/032008.htm#jd>

Informed Communities

Informed Communities is a grant funded by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council to help people with disabilities, their families, friends, and allies, understand national, state, and local disability issues; participate in public policy discussions; and take action on issues that affect their lives. It is a project of Connections for Community Leadership (CCL).

By participating in the informational meetings, people with disabilities will receive information on policy issues that directly affect them. Along with gaining this up-to-date information, they will also receive information on resources and tools which detail how to affect that policy issue. This provides people with disabilities the knowledge and supports necessary to make an informed choice, enhance their self-determination, and participate in the community.

Upcoming Forums

May 9, 2008: Voting - Marquette County

September 2008: Voting- Allegan county

<http://www.copower.org/leader/informedcommunities.htm>

We Lead! Curriculum

CCL has created a leadership development curriculum entitled “We Lead.” This curriculum offers information about disability history, pride and leadership skills. Participants practice this knowledge as they work together to identify, organize, and deliver a community service project. It was first implemented in Kent County in 2005, and since then several organizations throughout the state have replicated We Lead or adapted it to fit the needs of a specific community.

The most important part of the curriculum is the facilitators’ role. At the beginning, facilitators are running the show, doing the organizing, making decisions, etc. However, throughout the program the responsibilities are transferred to the participants and by the end of the program, the participants are doing the majority of the work. This is what makes the curriculum so effective.

Get Your Copy Today!

The We Lead curriculum is available on the CCL web site or on CD free of charge. Printed copies are available for a cost of \$10. To request a copy, please contact CCL:

Phone: (866) 532-2669 (toll-free)

E-mail: leadership@prosynergy.org

Web site: www.copower.org/leader/index.htm

Ralph Lynam Leadership Institute for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Youth

Ralph Lynam Leadership Institute is designed to provide Deaf and hard of hearing high school students, currently in grades 10-12, the leadership skills and self-determination to become responsible citizens and strong leaders in their communities.

Consider the Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth that you know. Take the time to explain the Leadership Institute and the importance of developing leadership skills. How can you encourage a future leader?

At the Leadership Institute students will learn about their current leadership assets, and how to strengthen them. Most importantly, students will learn specific ways to improve areas in their lives that may need extra attention.

The Leadership Institute is a strong transition program for high school students. Resume building, improving English skills, interviewing skills and how to complete college applications will be a few of the topics explored.

Students may attend multiple years, and those successfully completing the Leadership Institute are eligible to apply for Counselors-In-Training positions at Camp Chris held in August. Thus giving students a chance to put their leadership skills in action within a couple of months, and put real work experience on their resumes.



Students will receive training from presenters in the fields of advocacy, assistive devices, civil rights, and prevention strategies targeted against substance/violence abuse. Activities include bowling, swimming, Michigan Capitol tour, an open-captioned movie theatre and a dance. Most of the presenters are Deaf or hard of hearing.

When: Sunday, June 22, 2007 - Friday, June 27, 2007

Where: Michigan State University,
East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Fees: \$250.00 (Scholarships available from local Lions, Kiwanis, MRS, CMH agencies, etc.)

For more information and an application see:
www.madhh.org and click on Youth Programs.

REFERENCE POINTS: Opportunities for Youth

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

DIALOGUE, an international news magazine edited for individuals who are experiencing vision loss or are blind and their friends and families, has released a Call for Submissions for 2008. DIALOGUE publishes articles, personal essays, interviews, news and resources on all aspects of coping with a vision impairment., Visit www.blindskills.com/current_past.html. Queries, article submissions and items for the resource column and calendar may be sent to magazine@blindskills.com.

PHOTO CONTEST

Are you a person with a disability? Share your photos with the world! Mobility International USA and the National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange want photos for a full-color, 12-month 2009 calendar and screen saver. The deadline is March 31, 2008. More information is online at: <http://www.miusa.org/ncde/spotlight/photocontest08>.

MICROSOFT DigiGirlz SUMMER CAMP FOR YOUNG WOMEN, GRADES 9 - 12

Microsoft is once again requesting assistance in encouraging young women to apply for their DigiGirlz Summer Camps, which were developed to provide girls with a better understanding of what a career in technology is all about. The camp is free of charge to participants.. Camps will be held this year in the following eight locations: Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Fargo, ND; Irvine, CA; Las Colinas, TX; Redmond, WA (corporate) Stony Brook, NY; and Washington, DC. Application due dates vary by site. For more information go to <https://www.microsoft.com/about/diversity/programs/camps.mspx>.

REFERENCE POINTS is an activity of TATRA, a project of PACER Center: <http://www.PACER.org>

Save the Dates Events & Training

April

Health Resource Support Parent Training

April 19, 2008

Holiday Inn West, Lansing

Details at <http://www.bridges4kids.org/f2f>

2008 Michigan AER Annual Conference

“Skillfully Addressing New Challenges”

April 24-25, 2008

Marriott at Laurel Park Place, Livonia

Details at <http://www.maerbvi.org/conference.htm>

June

Michigan Integrative Supports Summer Institute

June 17-20, 2008

Hagerty Center

Traverse City, MI

See: <http://www.cenmi.org/mits/NewsView.asp?id=821>

October

Learning Disability Association of Michigan

October 26-28, 2008

East Lansing, MI

<http://www.laofmichigan.org/calendar.htm>

November

Michigan Rehabilitation Conference

November 5-7, 2008

Grand Traverse Resort

Acme, MI

<http://michiganrehabilitationconference.org/>

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

Please Forward or Print Monday Bulletin

E-mail your contributions or ideas for “Monday Bulletin on Services to Youth” to Julie Eckhardt: jewel@chartermi.net or call 231/590-2764. To subscribe, contact Julie Eckhardt. Views expressed in Monday Bulletin articles are not necessarily the views of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth nor Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

On-Line Training Opportunities

School Counselors: Facilitating Transition for Students with Disabilities

From the IRIS Center. More information can be found at <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/cou2/chalcycle.htm>

Graduate Level Coursework in Transition Education and Services

Sponsored by the Transition Coalition at the U of KA; courses include “Intro to Transition Ed and Services”, “Transition Assessments”, “Family Involvement and Student Involvement in Transition”, “Preparing Students for Employment and Postsecondary Education”, and “Interagency Collaboration during Transition Planning”. For more information go to:

<http://www.continuinged.ku.edu/is/sped.shtml>

Individual Supports to Increase Access to an Inclusive College Experience for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Offered by the On-Campus Outreach project at the U of MA. The purpose of this online training module is to provide guidance on developing an Individual Support Model (ISM) to increase access to inclusive college experiences and to improve chances for the success of students with intellectual disabilities. More information can be found at http://www.education.umd.edu/oco/training/oco_training_modules/IndividualSupports/start.html

Effective Career Planning, Job Development, and Job Coaching

Sponsored by TRN, Inc, these three, two-week 20 hour courses are taught by nationally recognized experts in the field. For more information go to <http://www.tminc.com/entry/welcome2.asp>

Understanding Disability Legislation: An Online Course for National Service Programs

The Corporation for National & Community Service’s Resource Center offers free online courses on a wide variety of topics to help strengthen national service programs. Several of these courses are designed to actively involve individuals with disabilities in these programs. See the “Inclusion” section of the online course list for more information. <http://nationalserviceresources.org/resources/courses/>

The above is from REFERENCE POINTS an activity of TATRA, a project of PACER Center <http://www.PACER.org>