

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message From the President.....	1
DCDT Award Winners in 2006!.....	1–3
Policy Connections	3
Conditioning the Conversation	4
DCDT Members Star in Salt Lake City!	4
News From the Northeast Region of DCDT	5
News From the Southeast Region.....	5–6
News From the Southwest Region.....	6
News From the Northwest Region.....	6–8
FFDCDT Update	8

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings!

What a great experience we recently had in Salt Lake City! It is a continual renewal for me to attend the CEC conference, to be able to interact with friends and colleagues within DCDT and other divisions, and to benefit from great sessions and social events. We were very prolific in transition-related submissions and accepted presentations and, therefore, maintained a strong profile at the conference. Our DCDT division booth was manned by several dedicated board members and division members throughout the three days of the conference, and it was, by all accounts, well-attended by conference goers. Our marketing chair, Meg Grigal, once again supplied the booth with great mementos, like highlighters, pens, and magnets emblazoned with the DCDT logo. So I have the feeling that these reminders of our division will be noticed in offices and schoolrooms across the country!

At our Board meetings, we finalized a great many projects and directives that will benefit our members. As of this year, we will be going to three issues of CDEI a year! With the more frequent journal, our newly-instituted e-mail blast to provide up-to-the-minute division news, and our very informative newsletter, we will be able to get communiqués into the hands of our members every couple of months! Please go visit our Web site (www.dcdt.org); the revi-

sion is nearly complete, and it will continue to be updated at least three times a year. We also have entered into a very beneficial publishing arrangement with Corwin Press that will allow significant savings on division members' purchases of Corwin-produced DCDT products. Our first product, a second edition of the popular "Assess for Success" book, is planned for publication this fall, so watch for information!

As you can see, this has been a very busy and productive year. On July 1, Dr. Kris Webb, our president-elect, will take over as the DCDT president. While I will miss and recall with fond memories my time at the helm of this great organization, the membership and the field of transition are in for a treat under Kris's leadership. She is a dynamic professional with many great ideas, and an incredible commitment to the stewardship of this organization.

And, mark your calendars now for October 18–20, 2007! Plans already are underway, and the local arrangements committee is hard at work on the DCDT 2007 conference in Orlando, Florida, in . . . no, not near . . . in Disney World at the Contemporary Resort Hotel. What a great conference in a great location that will be, and I look forward to seeing you there!

With warmest regards,

Donna Wandry,
DCDT President

DCDT AWARD WINNERS IN 2006!

During the 2006 DCDT business meeting held in conjunction with the Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Salt Lake City, Past President Mike Wehmeyer recognized DCDT Board members for service and professionals who were recipients of DCDT awards. Recognized with **Outstanding Service Awards** to DCDT were

- Colleen A. Thoma, Ph.D., Secretary, 2003–2005
- Paula Kohler, Ph.D., Research Committee Co-Chair, 2004–2006
- Larry Kortering, Ed.D., Research Committee Co-Chair, 2004–2006
- Donna Wandry, Ph.D., President, 2005–2006
- Randi Swenson, Northwest Subdivision Regional Representative, 2000–2006

"DCDT Award Winners 2006!" continued from page 1

- Tammie Picklesimer, Representative Assembly Member, 2004–2006

DCDT President Donna Wandry awarded **Best Practices Awards** to Wasatch County School District (UT) and Durand High School (MI).

The **Iva Dean Cook Teacher of the Year** is awarded to an educator who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and service to the career education and transition of students with disabilities. The award is named in recognition of Iva Dean Cook, a DCDT founding member and past president and a pioneer in teacher preparation in transition. **Jeffrey J. Cavanaugh** from Cudahy High School in Cudahy, Wisconsin, was described in all of the letters supporting his nomination as a person who has had a significant impact on the lives of students with disabilities and who is always the "go-to" person when it comes to transition. The principal at Cudahy High School, located in the metro-Milwaukee area, where Mr. Cavanaugh is a teacher, district transition coordinator, and special education department head, described him as "a tireless advocate for his students."

The **Employer of the Year Award** is presented to an employer or business that has shown remarkable commitment to promoting or providing employment opportunities to students with disabilities. This year, DCDT had two outstanding awardees to honor. In the first category, that of large employers, DCDT was pleased to honor the efforts of **Bank of America**.



Bank of America representatives receiving the DCDT Employer of the Year plaque. Left to right: David Ziegler, Matt Planer, Jon Sudimak, Sharohn Howard, and Mark Feinour. Seated: Liz Graney

DCDT member Laura Eisenman highlighted the many ways management at Bank of America have shown a commitment to hiring and supporting people with disabilities in meaningful jobs and, moreover, helping people to turn jobs into careers. Ms. Eisenman indicated that "through systematic performance reviews and frequent training opportunities, people with intellectual disabilities actually have

the opportunity to (and do) climb the corporate career ladder." Bank of America has been a major catalyst in Delaware and nationally for employment of people with intellectual disabilities.

The second honoree, in the category of small businesses, is **Jim Young**, the Store Manager for the **Ingles Supermarket** in Dawsonville, Georgia. Mr. Young was nominated by Sandra Tankersley and Kim Baker, teachers in the Dawson County High School Work-Based Learning Program in Dawsonville. In their nomination letter, Ms. Tankersley and Ms. Baker indicated that "Mr. Young has gone above and beyond the call of duty to assist students with special needs in transitioning to the world

of work. Ingles was one of the first employers in Dawsonville to partner with the school system to provide job training through the Community-Based Vocational Instructional Program (CBVI). Mr. Young, with the support of Ingles, has gone above and beyond to assist students with special needs in transitioning to the world of work."

The **Patricia L. Sitlington Research in Transition Award** is presented to an individual who has contributed to more positive outcomes for transition-age youth and to the field of transition through a body of research in transition. The award is named in honor of Patricia Sitlington, a DCDT past president who has contributed significantly to knowledge in the field through research. Because 2006 marks the first year DCDT has given this award, we felt that the only appropriate recipient for the Patricia Sitlington Research in Transition Award was **Pat Sitlington!** Her nominator for this award, Dr. Gary Clark, wrote, "Longer than any other individual in this area that I know of, she has generated and maintained a program of follow-up research that has been a model for the field. She and her colleague, Alan Frank, literally and figuratively 'wrote the book' on follow-up/follow-along research for graduates and school leavers in special education. Just as importantly, she has gone beyond quality research methodology to communicate systematically her findings to professional educators in ways that many field researchers are unable or unwilling to do." "Her maturity as a scholar," continued Dr. Clark, "has given her not only the knowledge and understanding but also the credibility that is required for scholarship that combines theory, philosophy, research, and policy perspectives."

The **Marc Gold Innovative Practices in Transition Award** is presented to an individual or organization that has demonstrated innovation in transition services. The award is named after Marc Gold, whose innovative "Try Another Way" approach opened the door to employment for many students with disabilities. This year's award winner, **Dr. Beth Mount**, perfectly embodies the commitment to innovation DCDT seeks to honor with the Marc Gold Award. Dr. Craig Michaels, who nominated Dr. Mount, said that he believed that "Dr. Mount is almost single-handedly responsible for pioneering the research and establishing the current context in which person-centered planning is acknowledged as a scientifically-validated, best practice in transition." Dr. Mount has been a fixture in research and model development pertaining to person-centered planning for almost two decades, and as Dr. Michaels' suggests, has been instrumental in applying that to transition planning.

The **Donn Brolin Award for State/Province Leadership and Services** is awarded to an individual who has provided significant leadership and service in transition to a state or province. Donn Brolin was a founding member and the first president of DCDT and, as author of the Life Centered Career Education curriculum, he was influential in the career development and early transition movement. DCDT had so many outstanding nominations for the Donn Brolin award that the DCDT Awards Committee was unwilling to select only one. The first Donn Brolin Award winner, **Susan Walter**, hails from

Illinois, where she serves as the Technical Assistance and Training Coordinator for the state Transition Outreach Training for Adult Living Project. Her activities within the state and in representing the state of Illinois nationally in transition-related activities are numerous and include her responsibilities as the Illinois DCDT president. In addition, Ms. Walter is the parent of a child with significant disabilities and, in this role, she has mentored countless other parents around special education legislation, transition issues, and the inclusion of youth with disabilities in the K–12 system. The second Donn Brodin award winner, **Steven J. Gilles**, has been instrumental in the transition movement in Wisconsin and six years ago began overseeing the direction of Wisconsin Statewide Transition Initiative. In addition, he oversees the Wisconsin Post High School Outcomes Survey project, which has received national acclaim. He has worked diligently to develop a series of publications, including “Opening Doors to Postsecondary Education and Training;” has developed interagency agreements with the Department of Workforce Development—Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and has established the Wisconsin Transition Workgroup. Mr. Gilles has developed collaborative relationships with multiple national initiatives in the field of transition, such as the Transition Outcomes Project, the National Association of State Directors of Special Education’s Community of Practice, and the National Alliance on Secondary Education and Transition’s Standards and Quality Indicators.

The **Oliver P. Kolstoe Award** is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the field of career

development and transition through means other than direct classroom instruction. The award is named in recognition of Oliver P. Kolstoe, a DCDT founding member and past president whose early research and publications significantly shaped the field of transition. The 2006 Kolstoe Award winner, **Dr. James E. Martin**, is described in his nomination letter as a person who has “empowered students to be more self-determined in the IEP planning process” and who has “been highly effective and an excellent example of the ‘research to practice’ model.” Over the years, Dr. Martin’s research, model development, and extensive speaking and training engagements have taken an obscure idea and made it best practice—students chairing their IEP meetings. He has developed curricular materials that enable practitioners to promote self-determination through IEP planning and has applied his expertise to other areas, including supported employment. Dr. Martin is currently Director of the Zarrow Center for Learning Enrichment and holds the first Zarrow Endowed Chair in Special Education at the University of Oklahoma. He is also a past treasurer of DCDT.

The final award for this evening was a moving tribute to honor the lifetime achievement and accomplishments of **Dr. Andrew (Andy) Halpern**. Dr. Halpern was honored when delegates to the 2006 CEC Representative Assembly approved a **Resolution** submitted by DCDT to honor his lifetime contributions to individuals with disabilities. Dr. Halpern was not able to be in attendance at the annual DCDT meeting; however, Board members videotaped the presentation, along with congratulatory messages from DCDT colleagues.

POLICY CONNECTIONS: BEYOND SPECIAL EDUCATION

We spend a lot of energy creating, implementing, navigating, and advocating in regard to the laws and policies aimed at the special education system. Yet, the lives of young people with disabilities and their families can be affected by a host of laws and policies beyond the immediate realm of special education. Especially as youth transition from school to adult life, we know that knowledge about employment, higher education, and independent living options and collaboration with community advocates and professionals in those areas can be critical to students’ post-school success.

Many advocacy and professional groups regularly monitor policy issues affecting people with disabilities and their families. And like the Council for Exceptional Children, these groups often will share their perspectives on the Web as a way to encourage and support grassroots advocacy. A sampling of these policy Web sites are provided in the table below. The Council for Exceptional Children’s Legislative Action Center can be found by going directly to the site (<http://congress.nu.edu/cecl/home/>) or by going to the main CEC Web page (<http://www.cec.sped.org>) and clicking on “Policy & Advocacy.”

Sample Disability Policy and Legislation Web Sites

Association for Career and Technical Education http://www.actonline.org/policy/index.cfm	Association of University Centers for Disabilities http://capwiz.com/aucd/home/
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities http://www.c-c-d.org/legislative_news.htm	National Council on Independent Living http://www.ncil.org/advocacy/
National Disability Rights Network http://www.napas.org/policy/default.htm	National Rehabilitation Association http://www.nationalrehab.org/website/govt/index.html
TASH http://www.tash.org/govaffairs/	The Arc http://www.thearc.org/governmental-affairs.htm

CONDITIONING THE CONVERSATION

By Amy Pleet

Have you ever found yourself in a group conversation where you felt lost? Maybe someone referred to prior decisions, and everyone except you appeared to know what he was talking about. What a disconcerting feeling! Maybe someone was using terms you didn't know, and you didn't want to appear "stupid" by asking for definitions. Did you find that your internal conversation drowned out the conversation in front of you? Everyone has had this experience sometime in life, but this is often the feeling that parents describe when they participate in an IEP team meeting. No wonder parents frequently avoid attending teams! As a professional, you can make IEP teams and transition planning meetings more "parent friendly" by **conditioning the conversation**.

Before a meeting with a parent, reflect on these three critical points:

1. **Empathize:** Imagine the situation from the parent's point of view. What information gaps, attitudes, beliefs, preconceptions, and fears will this parent probably bring into the meeting?
2. **Consider:** What attitudes, historic beliefs, and preconceived ideas will other team members (including you) bring into the meeting that may limit open discussion and parent partnership?

3. **Commit:** In a brief statement, what is this team's commitment regarding this youth and engagement of the parent?

Then, as early as possible in a meeting, create an open conversation to establish a context in which the team's commitment is spoken, the parent's (and others') concerns can be discussed, and knowledge gaps can be addressed. You will establish the **conditions** for the conversation to occur.

For example, I recently attended a team in which I watched the silent parent as the team reviewed her son's failures and discussed the possibility that he may have a disability. As a parent myself, I could guess that she struggled with internal conversations of self-blame and fear of team members' judgment of her parenting. She was holding her breath, passively waiting for the next bad news. A teacher reassured her by saying, "Listen, you just got a whole table full of help with your son. You don't have to do this alone. We are here to work with you to figure this out." In that one communication, that teacher **conditioned the conversation** and cemented a partnership with the parent that will endure. The mother could relax and join the team; the rest of the discussion was productive!

The next time you participate in a meeting with a parent, notice whether anyone has **conditioned the conversation** to establish that you are on the same team working towards the same goal. If not, maybe you can do it!

DCDT MEMBERS STAR IN SALT LAKE CITY!

President Donna Wandry presides over the Spring Board Meeting while Past-President Mike Wehmeyer downloads "official business" on his computer.



Randi Swenson, Bob Lloyd, Dale Matusевич, and Renee Cameto take a moment to pose for the camera amid Board business.



State subdivision leaders share recruitment strategies during the annual Leadership Luncheon.



INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL SECONDARY TRANSITION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (NSTTAC)

NSTTAC is headquartered at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. NSTTAC's purpose is to assist states in building their capacity to support and improve transition planning, services, and outcomes for youth with disabilities. The Center's work will be organized around three expert panels: (1) Knowledge Generation, coordinated by Principal Investigator David Test at

UNC Charlotte; (2) Capacity Building, coordinated by Principal Investigator Paula Kohler at WMU; and (3) Dissemination and Outreach, coordinated by Principal Investigator Larry Kortering at ASU. For more information telephone 704-687-8606, e-mail the NSTTAC project coordinator (chfowler@email.unc.edu), or log on to our Web site (www.nsttac.org).

NEWS FROM THE NORTHEAST REGION OF DCDT

WISCONSIN AND ILLINOIS

The Wisconsin and Illinois Regional Collaborative chapter is off to a great start. Three organizational meetings have been held and the new officers are working with the IL and WI CEC Presidents to align all past membership. This new chapter is being led by Dr. Tom Holub of Madison, WI, but of major importance to all current and future members is the note that anyone interested in assuming a leadership role should contact Tom. Leadership opportunities continue to exist. The next regional meeting is tentatively slated for mid-May in Milwaukee. Interested parties should contact Tom (tholub@edgewood.edu).

MICHIGAN

The Michigan DCDT organization is now under the leadership of President Cathy Schmidt of Oakland Schools and Vice President Teri Thompson of Huron Valley Public Schools. The second meeting was held on April 12 and plans were developed to contact Michigan DCDT members and encourage them to get involved in Michigan's DCDT initiatives. The officers displayed the new Michigan DCDT Board at their Transition Outcomes Projects (TOPS) meeting of transition coordinators from around the state on April 26 and 27. A major goal of Michigan DCDT is to develop linkages with all of the transition groups in Michigan to share programs, transition initiatives, and student success. There are still openings for other leadership positions in Michigan DCDT; contact Cathy Schmidt (Catherine.Schmidt@oakland.k12.mi.us) or Teri Thompson (thompson@huronvalley.k12.mi.us) to get involved. The next meeting is scheduled for early June. Contact the officers to get involved. Your input and energy is welcomed.

OHIO

The new officers of Ohio DCDT are President Robert Baer (rbaer@kent.edu) and Vice President Darlene Unger (dunger@kent.edu), both from Kent State University. Moira Conrad (Konrad.14@osu.edu), Secretary, and Margo Izzo (izzo.1@osu.edu), Treasurer, are both from Ohio State University. The Ohio team is busy collecting and analyzing data from the

Ohio Longitudinal Transition Surveys. The team is beginning to make plans for their statewide transition conference scheduled for May 2007. Ohio has a new DCDT display board available to any organization promoting Ohio DCDT membership; contact Robert Baer to reserve the display board and any officer to get involved in Ohio DCDT.

PENNSYLVANIA

The team of officers in Pennsylvania DCDT are Ken Deitmen, President (kdeitmen@pattan.net); Marjorie Eckman, Vice President (ME50@aol.com); and Debbie Evans (devans@caiu.org). Pennsylvania DCDT officers provide an article for each PaCEC newsletter and are recruiting members to attend the PFCEC Division of Career Development and Transition Luncheon. They will sponsor "Effective Practices" workshops at the PFCEC convention. West Chester University of Pennsylvania is presenting "Workshop: National Perspectives in Transition," June 26–June 30, 2006, at the Graduate Business Center in West Chester, PA. For more information about this workshop, contact Donna Wandry (dwandry@wcupa.edu).

NEW YORK

The officers for New York DCDT are President Elizabeth Hall at SUNY–Geneseo (halle@geneseo.edu) and Treasurer Craig Hall. New York DCDT is busy sponsoring two annual regional transition fairs in their state for students in Grades 7–12. There will more than 13 agency representatives available to talk with students. DCDT of New York will host a transition strand at the annual NYCEC conference (October 2006 in Albany, NY) and sponsor a DCDT table at the NYCEC conference. They will co-sponsor a mini-grant for MS/HS teachers who follow CEC and DCDT missions/outcomes. The money will be used to increase transition and special education capacity in the state. For more information on any of these initiatives, contact the president.

Any DCDT members in the states of Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, or Vermont interested in starting a DCDT chapter in your state, contact Peg Lamb, Northeast DCDT Regional Representative (drpeglamb@yahoo.com).

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHEAST REGION

SOUTH CAROLINA

Horry County School District (HCS) and Coastal Carolina University (CCU) at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, sponsored a Job Fair/Transition Forum on April 6 at CCU. This was a collaborative effort by the university and school district to encourage community efforts and jobs for all students.

Juniors and seniors from the school district, along with college students, had the opportunity to meet with 50 vendors and community agencies to access jobs and services available. Having the event on the college campus was a real-life experience for the high school students. Students from CCU and Horry Schools

were hired on the spot and many applications were completed for upcoming positions.

Mollie Fout, Director of the Career Center at CCU, and Marsha Tennant, Transition Specialist for HCS, facilitated the planning of the event with support from CCU Career Center and Career Advisors from the school district. Plans are being made to replicate the event again next spring.

VIRGINIA

Virginia DCDT is a sponsoring partner of the Virginia Transition Forum held annually in March. This past March, the Forum was held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center in

"News from the Southeast Region" continued from page 5

Roanoke, Virginia, and was attended by over 930 participants. The theme for the Virginia Transition Forum 2006 was Leadership Through Change. Over 90 concurrent sessions were held across the three days along with two keynote speakers (Jonathan Mooney and LeDerick Horne) and a youth panel. Strand topics included assessment, career and technical education, community living, disability specific, effective practices for youth in transition, employment, higher education, instructional strategies, legislative trends, and technology. This year's effort included increasing the number of youth and family participants at the Forum. Forum organizers were pleased to announce that 18 families were provided sponsorship to attend the Forum along with approximately 75 youth. The Virginia Transition Forum 2007 is scheduled for March 12–14 at the Marriott Norfolk Waterside in Norfolk, Virginia.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST REGION

In a time when some state units seem to be challenged to remain active and involved, a group of transition people in Texas decided that it was time to have an active DCDT unit. Carol Huntley, Kathy Hutto, and Jeanine Pinner attended the Leadership Training offered by the Marketing Committee of DCDT at the Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in October 2005, and took off from there. As pioneering members, Carol,

VA DCDT is also putting the finishing touches on the annual DCDT Summer Institute 2006. This year's theme is Under Construction: Building a Successful Future. The Institute will be held July 27–28 in Richmond, Virginia, at The Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn. Topics include Community-Based Work: Adding Value to the Business, IDEA 2004 Federal Regulations: How to Implement Regulations for Transition Age Students, People with Autism and Aspergers Syndrome: Connections within Communities, Transition Mapping: Utilizing Mapping Resources for Effective Transition Planning, and Transition Portfolios: Strategies for Implementing Portfolios to Maximize Student Success. For more information about the Summer Institute, please contact Kendel St. John at 540-885-0183 or 540-564-1983.

Kathy, and Jeanine are president, president-elect, and treasurer respectively, with April Henry as membership chair and Dalun Zhang as secretary. Congratulations to the Texas group!

Salt Lake City, Utah, was the recent host to the National CEC Conference. Approximately 4,800 CEC members attended and enjoyed typical Utah weather—rain, snow, and brilliant sunshine within a 4-day time period.

NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST REGION

Randi Swenson, NW Regional Representative
913-239-4174

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support you have given me during the past six years as I have had the honor of serving as your Northwest Regional Representative. I can truly say that this experience has been one of the most rewarding of my career and that I have met some of my most favorite people in the world through my association with DCDT. You are all so professional and so dedicated to the field that I continue to be amazed and enlightened through my contacts with all of you. I hope I have been able to serve and support you and your efforts at least half as well as you have supported me and encouraged my professional growth. My life has certainly been enriched and I will miss serving as your representative. You are all so wonderful at what you do and you are one heck of a lot of fun, too. I look forward to connecting with you in the future through our continued involvement with DCDT on many levels. Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your regional representative over the past six years. As the saying goes, "Time sure flies when you are having fun."

Your new representative, as of July 1, 2006, is **Mary Morningstar, PhD** (mmorningstar@ku.edu). Dr. Morningstar is a Special Education professor with the University of Kansas and works with the Transition Coalition project.

Below I have included some highlights of what has been happening in our active states around the **NW Region** over the past several months. Read them and you'll see what I mean about dedication to improving transition related services and options for people with disabilities.

KANSAS

KANSAS TRANSITION SUMMIT

The planning committee for the KansTrans/Silobusters conference is pleased to announce a change of event formatting for this year. **KS-DCDT** has helped serve on the planning committee and is also serving as one of the co-sponsors again this year. The event will be held **April 18–19, 2006**, at the **Wichita Airport Hilton**; for on-line registration and information go to the Web site (www.ksde.org). The new format encourages teams to come together and hear information from experts in the field and then, using that information, develop action plans to improve transition services at the local level. Teams can be made up of a variety of participants representing both Special and General Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, DD organizations, Community Mental Health Centers, Independent Living Centers, Foster Care, Juvenile Justice, Business/Community, Families/Students, and Workforce Development Centers.

This year, as part of the conference, there will be a student (age 16–22) and an individual or group that will be recognized for their contribution and leadership in the area of transition. The awards will be presented at the evening reception on **April 18, 2006**.

DISABILITIES MENTORING DAY IS COMING SOON!

Kansas DCDT is also promoting involvement in the Disability Mentoring Day (DMD). DMD is a large-scale, broad-based effort designed to promote career development for students and other job seekers with disabilities (mentees) through hands-on

career exploration, job shadowing, and internship or mentee/mentor relationships.

In 2005, with the help of a network of volunteer local coordinators in 33 counties around the state, more than 700 Kansas students and job seekers participated in DMD—with more than 9,000 participants globally. Check out the Web site (www.dmd-aapd.com) to identify local coordinators or contacts in your area. For more information about DMD, contact **Kerrie Bacon** (kbacon@kansascommerce.com, 785-296-6527).

KANSAS DCDT MINI GRANTS

The **Kansas DCDT** board is currently working on guidelines to grant up to 3 Mini Grant Stipends, so watch for details to be announced soon.

For more information about these or other **KS-DCDT** related issues contact **Kim Garrett**, president elect, (Kim.garrett@usd382.com, 620-672-4540).

IOWA

The **Iowa DCDT** Board members, Diane Twait Nelsen (President), Nancy Lindgren (Vice-President), Jackie Gray (Treasurer), and PamWatkins (Secretary) attended and presented at the annual state transition conference. The 2006 Transition-Parent-Educator Connection Conference was held in Ames, Iowa, February 26–28, 2006. The DCDT board members were able to increase DCDT membership by promoting the organization with pamphlets, brochures, the new DCDT display board, and good old-fashioned hand shaking and networking. The DCDT presentation booth featured the beautiful display board that was provided by the National DCDT Board. Keynote speakers were Neil Howe, speaking on high school reform, and Jonathan Mooney, speaking as a former high school student with disabilities transitioning through school. There were approximately 89 sessions throughout the 3-day event. Some big Midwestern **IA-DCDT** thanks and appreciation goes out to Dr. Barb Guy, Iowa Department of Education of Transition and Work Experience, and Deb Samson, Iowa Department of Education Parent-Educator Connection Consultant.

In Iowa, the role of the Work Experience Coordinator (WEC) is also providing transition services, especially in AEA #10. This year the remaining four WECs struggle to provide the traditional support service and to support those districts without WECs, 22 in all. We have shifted from direct services providers to training consultants for local staff, providing the districts with our expertise so they can carry on. Change is difficult when the need for transition services has increased as the varied population of students has increased. During this time of change please consider joining our the **IA-DCDT** subdivision so we can help each other bridge the gaps and continue to provide best practices in career development and transition to all students.

For more information regarding **IA-DCDT**, contact DCDT Board President **Diana Twait-Nelson** (dnelson@aea8.k12.ia.us).

IDAHO

The **Idaho DCDT** Board is doing a super job, which is reflected in their rapidly growing membership. They have gone from 18 members last year to 39 members this year, becoming one of the largest member states in the NW region. They would like to give

credit in part to a new transition mentor project sponsored by the Department of Idaho, Secondary Special Education.

“Assessment for Transition Planning: Mission Impossible or Not” was presented by Dr. Gary Clark, of the University of Kansas, prior to Idaho’s CEC state conference in Sun Valley last October. **ID-DCDT’s** pre-conference session was the official kickoff for the transition mentors project in Idaho, with 36 pre-registered participants. Dr. Clark also presented a breakout session during Idaho’s CEC conference, again, putting a real focus on transition and career development.

In addition, the Board elected and appointed new officers (for January 2006–2007) and they are continuing to work on a state newsletter, participating in planning “Tools for Life” a statewide transition fair, and continuing to build relationships with agencies that promote opportunities for students in transition. Several Board members and DCDT members attended the annual CEC convention in Salt Lake City—participating in the DCDT leadership luncheon. Keep up the great work, Idaho.

For more information about Idaho’s DCDT subdivision activities, contact the new president, **Karen Gillette** (karen.gillette@boiseschools.org), or president elect, **Lisa Perry** (lisa.perry@boiseschools.org).

MISSOURI

The **Missouri DCDT** chapter has been active throughout the school year. They have helped sponsor two programs that empowered students and parents. In October, **MO-DCDT** had a Supported Employment forum with the help of Special School District and the Missouri Business Leaders Network at Oakville High School. DVR and the local employment agencies were able to present their agencies to families in a friendly and informative city hall meeting-style forum. The event brought out families and teachers who were searching for a better understanding of the employment process. The second forum on the topic of Housing Options was held in this spring. The forum was even better attended and looked at options for postsecondary outcomes in the area of residential and community living. They plan to continue to look at the needs of the students and create programs to meet their needs.

Missouri’s DCDT membership has grown and they are currently looking for five regional volunteers (NW, NE, SE, SW, Central) in the state to help organize local networking get-togethers to exchange information and ideas on best practices. Later this Spring, **MO-DCDT** will be participating in the **LDA** conference by providing speakers and forums on transition. They are also looking to build some student groups to help us generate a better understanding of transition and self-determination for new teachers.

Several past and current board members attended the International DCDT conference in New Mexico (including the leadership training), while others have attended local conferences throughout Missouri. They are also trying to get more involved with **CEC Missouri** to form a cohesive group who want to see students achieve.

For more information about **Missouri DCDT** or if you would like to help or serve as a regional volunteer, please contact **Chuck Howard**, president (314-845-2739, pikapp309@hotmail.com).

"News from the Southeast Region" continued from page 5

NEBRASKA

Yes, you do now have an active DCDT subdivision! Jan Barber and Michalla Schartz are helping to implement your new professional subdivision and are looking for others who want to join in this charter effort. Contact **Jan** (jbarber@ESU13.ORG) or **Michalla** (mschartz@unlserve.unl.edu).

Anyone else ready to help organize efforts on behalf of DCDT in your state? Let me know before my term ends in June. I have a brand new "how-to" packet of information to help you get started. Ask during this fiscal year and I may even have some "start-up" stipends available. Contact **Randi Swenson** (rswenson@bluevalleyk12.org).

FFDCDT UPDATE

Heather Mack, President FFDCDT

Florida Federation—Division on Career Development and Transition has been working tirelessly on the 2007 International Conference, which is being planned at Disney World, Orlando. Great plans are in the works. This will be a "must attend" for all. We have secured the Contemporary Hotel as our Confer-

ence hotel, with monorail transportation to the park and surrounding areas. There will be discount tickets to the theme parks (for use, of course, when your sessions are finished!).

We are extremely grateful to our Local Arrangements Chair, Joyce Lubbers. She is keeping us all on track and moving forward. This is a huge project and we are already well underway. We hope to see you and your family at this exciting 2007 Conference!

DCDT ANNOUNCES 2006 ELECTION RESULTS!

- VICE PRESIDENT—Sherrilyn K. Fisher
- SECRETARY—Elizabeth E. Getzel
- NORTHEAST REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE—Peg Lamb

- NORTHWEST REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE—Mary E. Morningstar

TRANSITION INSTITUTE OFFERS WEB-BASED SYSTEM FOR DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION

The Auburn Transition Leadership Institute (ATLI) within Auburn University's College of Education has created the Post-school Outcomes Data System (P.O.D.S.), a Web-based software intended for

state-level use in collecting, monitoring, and reporting post-school outcome data for students with disabilities. Contact Dr. Karen Rabren at 334-844-5943 (rabreks@auburn.edu) for information.

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