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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Colleen Thoma, DCDT President

This special edition of the DCDT newsletter focuses on updated information about the upcoming DCDT conference, scheduled for October 17–20, 2007. The conference theme, *Building Castles, Building Dreams: The Magic of Transition*, is reflective of the magic that we've been planning for special educators, transition specialists, researchers, administrators, students with disabilities, their parents, and other transition stakeholders. The conference will be held in the modern Contemporary Hotel's conference center, a resort hotel right on the Disney monorail. All events will be held on the Contemporary Resort property, providing easy access to entertainment and dining options at Disney.

It's important to note that DCDT has been a vital organization for over 30 years, and we'll celebrate that anniversary throughout the conference.

Let me spotlight a few of the highlights of what we have in store for you:

- **Pre-conference Session:** NSTTAC will hold a full-day training for state transition teams on Wednesday, October 16, 2007. Pre-registration for this event is separate from the conference itself.
- **Opening Session:** The conference itself will begin with an opening session on Thursday morning at 8:30 am. Our special guest will be Josh Blue, winner of the 2006 Last Comic Standing. Breakout sessions will begin after the opening session, and we will have up to 17 breakout sessions every hour.
- **President's Reception:** Join the members of the Florida Local Arrangements Committee, the National DCDT board, and DCDT past presidents for fun by the Contemporary Pool for a reception on Thursday evening. We will have beverages, snacks, and a cash bar, as well as music and dancing, to cel-

ebate the conference and the Magic of Transition.

- **Keynote Luncheon:** We will have a luncheon event scheduled for Friday, with Heather Whitestone McCallum, the first Miss America with a hearing impairment. She will share her S.T.A.R.S. plan for overcoming life's challenges. In addition, various Florida state administrators will extend their welcome to conference attendees. The cost of lunch is included in the conference registration cost.
- **Breakout Sessions:** We will have over 15 different sessions every hour, focusing on evidence-based practices, promising practices, and first-person success stories to inspire your own thoughts about improving transition services. We will also hold two different poster sessions, one dedicated to graduate student research. This will give graduate students an opportunity to showcase their work, and meet researchers who have inspired their work. Check out this new feature of the conference program.
- **Committee Meetings:** Some DCDT standing committees are planning to meet during the conference. If you have been wondering how to be more involved in the organization, please check the schedule for those meetings. At this time, the Research, Government Relations, and Membership committees are planning to meet. We need people for these key committees.
- **Closing Session:** We will end the conference on Saturday at noon, with a special anniversary celebration to commemorate DCDT's 30th anniversary and a look forward to DCDT's 2009 conference in San Antonio.

(continues next page)

("President's Message" continued from p. 1)

- **Hotel Room Reservations.** If you have not made your reservations yet, look for the article in this newsletter that provides tips for making the hotel reservations at the Contemporary Resort. Some rooms are available, although the room block is filling quickly. There are rooms available at the overflow hotels. Call the Contemporary Resort directly and follow the directions in the Hotel Reservation Tips article.
- **Conference Registration.** We've also included the Conference Registration form in this newsletter for your convenience. You can register online, or by sending the conference registration form (see the specific directions on the registration form). Other important tips about the conference (including the Magical Express for transportation to and from the airport) can be found on the DCDT website (<http://www.dcdt.org>) under the link for professional development calendar.
- **Program Strand Coordinators.** I want to thank the program strand coordinators who helped with reviewing the proposals for presentations. The topics and coordinators are listed below:

### 2007 DCDT PROPOSAL STRANDS

1. Self-Determination & Student Involvement: **Dan Dalun Zhang**
2. Community Partnerships in Transition: **Kathe Wittig**
3. Family Partnerships in Transition: **Amy Pleet**
4. Postsecondary Education Services & Transition: **Deb Hart**
5. Personnel Prep/Professional Development in Transition: **Mary Morningstar**
6. Student Diversity & Multicultural Approaches: **Audrey Trainor**
7. Program Evaluation Models & Data-Based Decision Making: **Ed O'Leary**
8. Aligning Transition-Focused Education, Standards and School Reform: **Ronald Tamura**
9. Legislation and Policy (includes standards and regulations. IDEA 2004, NCLB, WIA): **Laura Eisenman**
10. Employment-Focused Education and Business Strategies: **S. O'Mara**
11. Transition Education in Elementary and Middle Schools: **Donna Wandry**
12. Transition Approaches for Specific Student Disability Groups: **Jim Martin**
13. Skill Requirements in the New Economy: **Beth Bader**
14. Assessment in Transition: **Stacie Dojonovic**
15. Graduate Student Research in Transition: **Christy Bartholomew**

Lastly, I want to thank the dedicated Florida DCDT members who have been working so hard on planning this conference. The amount of work that it takes to put together a conference this large was something that I did not fully understand until I found myself immersed in the process with these dedicated professionals.

### LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE (LAC) CONTACT LIST

- Janet Adams**, Liaison Florida Department of Education  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES)  
E-mail: [janet.adams@fldoe.org](mailto:janet.adams@fldoe.org)
- Drew Andrews**, Hotel/Hospitality Chair  
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- Marjorie Mickelson**, Marketing Chair  
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- Kris Webb**, Parent & Family Involvement Co-Chair  
E-mail: [kwebb@unf.edu](mailto:kwebb@unf.edu)

Please thank them when you see them at the conference in Orlando. You'll recognize them by the look of pride in their eyes (or will that be exhaustion)? We just could not have asked for a more dedicated group of professionals to organize this conference. Enjoy. I look forward to seeing you all in Orlando!



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## 2007 Division on Career Development and Transition International Conference

"Building Castles...

Building Dreams...

The Magic of Transition!"

October 18-20, 2007, Walt Disney World® Disney's Contemporary Resort, Orlando, FL

### Registration Form

Early Bird Registration Postmark Deadline: **September 17, 2007**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Office Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify needed conference accommodations. Accommodations requests must be received by **September 17, 2007**.

*Note: Hotel accommodations must be made directly with hotel.*

Conference Fee	CEC Member	Non-member	Full-Time Student	Parent*	One Day	Sat. Only
Early Bird	\$230	\$275	\$130	\$130	\$175	\$120
After 9/17/2007	\$255	\$300	\$150	\$150	\$200	\$140
Onsite Registration (no meals included)	\$280	\$325	\$150	\$150	\$200	\$150

\* Scholarships may be available. Contact Kathy Burton at [Kathy.burton@fldoe.org](mailto:Kathy.burton@fldoe.org) or (850)245-0478 for more information.

#### Payment Calculation:

Circle  CEC Member  Non-member  Student  Parent  One Day (Th. or Fri.)  Saturday Only

CEC Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional Luncheon Tickets \$40 X Number of extra tickets \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment by Check or Purchase Order:** Payable to FDCDT (Federal Tax ID 592355708). Please insure that all attendee's names appear on checks or purchase orders. Mail with registration form to:

Tanya Ridpath, Radford University Department of  
 Conference Services  
 P.O. Box 6911  
 Radford, VA 24141  
[www.radford.edu/~conf-serv](http://www.radford.edu/~conf-serv)

**Payment by Credit Card or On-Line Registration:**

All registrations must be received by **October 10, 2007**. On-site registration only after October 10, 2007.

Please direct registration questions to Tanya Ridpath @ [www.radford.edu/~conf-serv](http://www.radford.edu/~conf-serv)

**Cancellations:** Written requests for refunds will be honored only if postmarked no later than September 23, 2007. A processing fee of \$50 will be charged for all refunds. No refunds will be available after September 23, 2007.

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR MAKING RESERVATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DCDT CONFERENCE

1. We are only guaranteed the conference rate for the rooms we have blocked.
2. The conference rate is available before and after the conference, but not guaranteed.
3. Please call Disney Reservations at:  
407/939-6244  
407/939-7429  
Key Code: DCDT  
Or the Contemporary Resort directly at:  
407/824-3869  
Key code: DCDT
4. The room block is shown below. Rooms are available before and after the conference, but may not be at the same hotel.  
Our only guaranteed rooms are the rooms in the room block. The Disney monorail will easily transport you

from the Polynesian to the Contemporary Resort. The Disney bus system will easily transport you from the Value Resort to the Contemporary Resort and Conference Center.

Disney can assist you with luggage if moving from one location to another is necessary.

### ROOM BLOCK

Room Block Contemporary Resort

Oct. 16 / 90 sleeping rooms

Oct. 17 / 100 sleeping rooms

Oct. 18 / 500 sleeping rooms

Oct. 19 / 500 sleeping rooms

Oct. 20 / 500 sleeping rooms

Room Block Polynesian Resort

Oct. 16 / 60 sleeping rooms

Oct. 17 / 75 sleeping rooms

5. Other Disney properties that offer a room rate lower than the conference include the Value Resort ([http://disneyworld.disney.go.com/wdwi/en\\_CA/resorts/resortCatListing?id=ValueResortListingPage](http://disneyworld.disney.go.com/wdwi/en_CA/resorts/resortCatListing?id=ValueResortListingPage)).
6. The cutoff date for reservations is Sept. 18, 2007; however, there may be no rooms available by that time.

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKING MEMBERS

**Donna Martinez,**

**DCDT Government Relations Committee Chair**

Do you have an interest in public policy and government issues? Do you desire to gain skill and confidence in advocating for issues relevant to the field, the staff, and students involved in Career Development and Transition? Then the DCDT Government Relations Committee invites you to be a part of this dynamic committee. Plans are in the making for the committee to meet in Orlando. If you are interested in being a part of this critical committee contact Committee Chair, Donna Martinez ([dmartin336@msn.com](mailto:dmartin336@msn.com)). She will advise you once arrangements are made of the Committee's Meeting date and room.

### TELL ME MORE!

The Government Relations Committee is pivotal to making progress on Capitol Hill, in federal agencies, and in state governments. Our committee reviews and analyzes relevant issues for our DCDT Board and membership, provides recommendations to the DCDT board, supports CEC's policy agenda and grassroots initiatives, and finally, works to influence public policy and convert public policy into best practice. Our agenda items include:

- 1 The role the DCDT Government and Relations Committee members play as advocates for students with disabilities and/or gifts,
- 2 Use of the conference as an important tool to promote the committee's growth,
- 3 DCDT's specific advocacy goals advancing the field of Career Development and Transition, and

- 4 Guidance and recommendations regarding public policy issues to DCDT Board and Membership.

Come ready with your thoughts, ideas, and questions!

### OTHER WAYS TO ADVOCATE

Of course, even if you are not able to join us in Orlando, the DCDT Government Relations Committee wants you to know that there are many other ways to help support the goals of DCDT and the Government Relations Committee. Below are some of the ways to help advance policy affecting students with disabilities and/or gifts and talents:

- 1 Sign up for CEC's Weekly Policy Updates by e-mailing ([pubpol@cec.sped.org](mailto:pubpol@cec.sped.org))
- 2 Sign up for CEC's Smart Brief for the latest news send directly to your inbox three times per week by visiting the Web site (<http://www.smartbrief.com/cec/>)
- 3 Continue to monitor CEC's website for breaking news and information
- 4 Email your members of Congress directly from CEC's Legislative Action Center
- 5 —and tell your family, friends and colleagues to do the same!

### WHO SHOULD I CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

We do hope you consider joining DCDT's Government Relations Committee and become active in forming and advancing CEC/DCDT's public policy. For additional information on the Government Relations Committee, please contact Donna Martinez ([dmartin336@msn.com](mailto:dmartin336@msn.com)). Looking forward to seeing you in Orlando!

## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: DCDT CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2008 ELECTIONS

The Division on Career Development and Transition Board is pleased to open nominations for several positions that will begin on July 1, 2008. DCDT needs your leadership, creativity, and experience! If you are interested, or you know a colleague who would be an excellent candidate, please read further for details.

Nominations are being solicited for the following positions:

**Vice President.** The Vice President serves as President Elect in the event of resignation or absence or inability to serve of the President Elect and performs other responsibilities as designated by the President, particularly chairing the Membership Recruitment committee or serving as chair of the Conference Planning Committee. The person elected as Vice President serves a four-year term. The first year, the elected officer will serve as Vice President, and subsequent years as President-Elect, President, and finally as Past-President.

**Southeast Regional Representative.** The Southeast Regional Representative serves as a liaison from the DCDT Board to state DCDT subdivisions and performs responsibilities in the area of marketing, recruiting membership, mentorship, and planning. She/he will assist on a regional basis with the initiation and maintenance of subdivisions and with the conducting of conferences, state meetings, and/or workshops.

The Southeast Representation must be a DCDT member from one of the states in the Southeast Region:

ALABAMA	MISSISSIPPI
DELAWARE	NORTH CAROLINA
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	SOUTH CAROLINA
FLORIDA	TENNESSEE
GEORGIA	VIRGINIA
KENTUCKY	WEST VIRGINIA
MARYLAND	PUERTO RICO

**Southwest Regional Representative.** The Southwest Regional Representative serves as a liaison from the DCDT Board to state DCDT subdivisions and performs responsibilities in the area of marketing, recruiting membership, mentorship, and planning.

She/he will assist on a regional basis with the initiation and maintenance of subdivisions and with the conducting of conferences, state meetings, and/or workshops.

The Southwest Representation must be a DCDT member from one of the states in the Southwest Region:

ARIZONA	NEW MEXICO
ARKANSAS	OKLAHOMA
CALIFORNIA	TEXAS
COLORADO	UTAH
HAWAII	GUAM
LOUISIANA	MEXICO
NEVADA	

**All nominees must be members in good standing of the Division on Career Development and Transition at the time of nomination.**

### NOMINATION PROCESS

The DCDT Nominating Committee will accept the nomination of any member in good standing of the association, including self-nominations. All nominations must be accompanied by a short biography of the nominee, five letters of nomination for the nominee from DCDT members in good standing, and written consent from the nominee to serve if elected. Self-nominations must be accompanied by five letters of nomination from other DCDT members and the self-nomination letter must include a statement of the person's willingness to serve if elected.

Nominations can be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to:

Kristine Webb, PhD  
Past President, Division on Career Development and Transition  
University of North Florida  
Building 10 Room 1201  
1 UNF Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32224  
Phone: 903-620-1807  
Fax: 904-620-3874  
E-mail: [kwebb@unf.edu](mailto:kwebb@unf.edu)

To be eligible for consideration, nominations must be received by **December 15, 2007**.

## NEWS FROM NSTTAC

NSTTAC will host its Mid-Year State Planning Institute on Wednesday, October 17th at Disney's Contemporary Resort Hotel in Orlando, Florida, as a follow-up to our May Institute in Charlotte. Participants will be representatives of state planning teams that developed or updated secondary transition capacity building plans in May, 2007 during the National State Planning Institute in Charlotte. Teams will work with other states, NSTTAC staff, and secondary transition experts to discuss progress, barriers, and strategies related to (a) secondary transition indicators, (b) developing state capacity building institutes, (c) transition assessment, (d) family involvement, and (e) inter-agency collaboration at the state and local levels. If your state

has not yet registered, you can do so at the Web site (<http://www.nsttac.org>).

NSTTAC has recently posted new resources on its Web site (<http://www.nsttac.org>) including:

- DCDT Fact Sheets on transition assessment and student involvement in the IEP
- A draft of our Indicator 13 training materials
- Postsecondary education resources
- The national state capacity building planning tool and sample local planning tools from state transition institutes
- A draft of an Indicator 13 APR Checklist

## RECOGNIZE A TRANSITION COLLEAGUE!

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR DCDT AWARDS

DCDT is pleased to announce that the annual award nominations are currently being accepted for the year 2007–2008. Recipients will be announced during the **DCDT business meeting** at the **International CEC Conference** held in **Boston, Massachusetts** on **April 2–5, 2008**. Nominations are sought for the following awards:

#### IVA DEAN COOK TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This practitioner honor 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.

#### EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is presented to an employer or business that has shown remarkable commitment to promoting or providing employment opportunities to students with disabilities.

#### OLIVER P. KOLSTOE AWARD

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 (which is recognized by the Iva Dean Cook Teacher of the Year Award). 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.

#### MARK GOLD INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN TRANSITION AWARD

This 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 severe disabilities.

#### DONN BROLIN AWARD FOR STATE/ PROVINCE LEADERSHIP AND SERVICES

This honor 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, was influential in the career development and early transition movement.

#### PATRICIA L. SITLINGTON RESEARCH IN TRANSITION AWARD

This award is presented to an individual who has contributed to more positive outcomes for transition-aged 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.

#### NOMINATION PROCESS

To nominate an individual or organization, please submit a narrative (maximum length 3 pages double spaced, 12-point font) that addresses why you believe the nominee should receive the award.

Nominations can be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to:

Kristine Webb, PhD  
Past President, Division on Career Development and Transition  
University of North Florida  
Building 10 Room 1201  
1 UNF Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32224  
Phone: 903/620-1807  
Fax: 904/620-3874  
E-mail: [kwebb@unf.edu](mailto:kwebb@unf.edu)

To be eligible for consideration, nominations must be received by December 15, 2007.

## ARE YOU GETTING THE BLAST?

In order to keep you up-to-date on all things DCDT, this year we started sending out the DCDT E-MAIL BLAST every other month. Hopefully, you have found the BLAST easy to read and a helpful reminder of upcoming events, conferences, and other transition resources. If you have not been receiving the BLAST, it is likely that we do not have your current e-mail address. In order to start receiving the DCDT E-MAIL BLAST, you can email a request to Meg Grigal, DCDT Marketing Chair ([megrigal@yahoo.com](mailto:megrigal@yahoo.com)). You also might want to contact the CEC Membership Services at 888/232-7733 (Toll Free) to update your contact information.

## POINTING THE FINGER OF BLAME

### Amy M. Pleet, EdD, Parent Representative

We live in a culture steeped in blaming parents. You can hear it in the language we use to describe how parents “treat” their kids: overprotective, enabling, unrealistic, in denial. . . . The worst is the “refrigerator mother” explanation of autism that has been disproved, but still surrounds us. Consider whether you have ever heard a professional say, “I met his parents, and now I know why he is that way . . . an apple never falls far from the tree.” If parents are to blame, are professionals excused from accountability?

As a parent, I’ve had plenty of unspoken blame aimed my way. When my daughter refused to attend school and I asked for support, I was told, “Your job is to get her to school. Our job is to work with her when she gets here.” The blame inherent in this statement still catches my breath. The implication was that I was not doing my job as a parent—that it was my fault. Never mind all the crises my daughter faced at school. Attendance was a “home issue.”

When my son didn’t turn in homework and had difficulty interacting with other children, the teacher called me and asked me to handle those two problems. Again, it was somehow my fault. Never mind his diagnosis of Asperger’s Syndrome. Really, what did she want me to do overnight?

What we professionals don’t think about is what it is like for parents to deal with their children’s issues day to day, year after year. Most parents really do have their children’s best interests at heart. Most would take a different approach if they knew of another way that would be better for their child. Most struggle with the desperate feeling that they may somehow be to blame. They don’t need to be reminded by educators. What parents need is reassurance that “blame” is an irrelevant issue. It doesn’t matter. What matters is NOW and what we can do in partnership to support this youth moving forward towards a hopeful future. Every comment of blame, implied or stated, damages the possibility of partnership. Do you speak up to avert that finger of blame? If so, as a parent, I thank you!

## DIVISION ON CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSITION (DCDT) 2007–2008 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### PRESIDENT

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cathoma@vcu.edu

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Vacant

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*(continues next page)*

("Officers & Committee Chairs" continued from p. 7)

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**PARENT REPRESENTATIVE**

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**HUMAN RIGHTS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY CHAIR**

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**PAST PRESIDENT**

Kris Webb  
kwebb@unf.edu

**PROMOTE MEMBERSHIP IN DCDT**

One of the best ways to promote membership in DCDT is to encourage a friend or colleague to join. Try these strategies to build our membership:

- Share this issue of the journal and newsletter with a friend (enclose membership information from our Web site).

- Add DCDT membership information to your handout packets for workshops and conference presentations.
- In your presentations, add a slide promoting DCDT.
- Create DCDT Stickers that include our Web site (<http://www.dcdt.org>).

**A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR . . .**

Greetings from the "Wild-Wild West"!

On behalf of DCDT, I would like to thank all newsletter contributors for your continued support. Please contact me ([gwilliams@mail.wtamu.edu](mailto:gwilliams@mail.wtamu.edu)) with more submissions. See you in Orlando.

**Gwen Williams, Editor**

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Austin, TX 78757-6897

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