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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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.

Hello, friends and colleagues!

Welcome to this edition of DCDT's newsletter. I hope you'll take the opportunity to reflect on where we've been before jumping, feet first, into our many new endeavors. Let's all take time to regroup and re-energize for new opportunities to be involved in improving transition services for students with disabilities.

And what a year it was for the organization! We had a spectacular conference in Orlando, with over 250 break-out and poster sessions. In addition to learning from the best research and promising practices presented in those sessions, we were inspired by the personal stories of successful transitions to adult life of Josh Blue (past winner of the TV show *Last Comic Standing*) and Heather Whitestone McCullum (a past Miss America winner). The conference provided an opportunity to learn from others, share ideas and research, and connect with friends and colleagues from across the United States. You'll find pictures to remind us all of our experiences at one of the best DCDT conferences ever!

We had some changes to our membership on the National DCDT board over the past year as well. I want to acknowledge the contributions of Bob Loyd, Christina Bartholomew, Amy Pleet, and Jane Williams, who served the board as Publications chair, Student Representative, Parent Representative, and Treasurer, respectively, and who moved on to other opportunities. They all provided exceptional leadership, and we appreciate their hard work! I also want to thank Audrey Trainor, who has stepped in as Publications chair, and Chauncey Goff, who has moved up to the role of chair of the Human Rights and Diversity committee. In addition, I want to welcome back to the board Jim Heiden, serving in the role of outgoing treasurer for this

year. Darlene Unger has agreed to step in for the remainder of Jane Williams' term as treasurer, with assistance from Jim as she learns our budget and financial system.

Last, I want to welcome Cindi Nixon back to the board. Cindi has stepped into a new position as conference planner, to help us centralize our conference planning procedures and explore additional sources of revenue. This should not imply that the hard work of past local arrangements committees were not sufficient or not appreciated. My work with the group from Florida convinced me, however, that our conferences are larger than we should expect an all-volunteer group to organize (and reinvent every two years).

Thank you for reading this newsletter . . . as you can see, we've made some changes to this important member benefit as well. Financial costs prevent us from distributing this as a direct mailing, but in this technologically advanced time, we hope that this change will be one that our members will embrace. This electronic version of the newsletter will also be available on the DCDT Web site, creating an archive that you can access long after paper versions have been filed away and forgotten. We will also begin a more frequent electronic system to alert members of new events and information in a more timely manner than the production of a newsletter allows. We hope that these changes will help members feel more connected to the organization and anticipate our coming events. Remember that we have board elections coming up in the spring, and know that we appreciate all that you do to help students with disabilities make successful transitions to their adult lives!

Colleen
Colleen A. Thoma, PhD
President, DCDT
cathoma@vcu.edu

Continues next page

"Message from the President" continued from p. 1

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

Chauncey Goff, a fourth-year doctoral student in The University of Oklahoma's Special Education Program, is the new chair of the Human Rights and Cultural Diversity subcommittee of DCDT. In a recent research project, he studied self-determination's potential to affect transition outcomes and empower Black students and their communities to address their disproportional representation. Mr. Goff's research also served to found the Sooner Scholar program, funded by the U. S. Department of Education. The Sooner Scholars program financially and professionally supports six students of color as they obtain their doctorates in special education, exit The University of Oklahoma, and enter higher education leadership positions.

Audrey Trainor is an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in the Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education. Following her first career as a high school special education teacher, she completed her doctorate in special education, with a focus on multicultural and bilingual issues, at the University of Texas, Austin. Her interests

include multicultural special education issues, postsecondary transition planning for students with learning disabilities, family and student participation in special education, and English language learners diagnosed with disabilities.

Darlene Unger is a research faculty member at Cornell University's Employment & Disability Institute, where she coordinates the New York State Model Transition Project, an evaluation of 60 partnerships designed to improve the post-school outcomes of youth with disabilities through the coordinated delivery of transition education and rehabilitation services, and also serves as a researcher for the Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center–Northeast. She has previously held faculty appointments in special education at Kent State University and Virginia Commonwealth University. During her 17 years at VCU, Dr. Unger coordinated research and demonstration projects related to supported employment and improving transition service delivery and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. Her publications include chapters and journal articles on employer experiences with people with disabilities, the efficacy of public–private partnerships, and effective strategies and supports to facilitate competitive employment for individuals with disabilities.



Dr. Thoma hoods Dr. Christina Bartholomew (former DCDT student representative) at the graduation ceremony at Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Education. Dr. Bartholomew's dissertation research study was titled *Teachers' Perceptions of School and Classroom Influences on Their Support for Student Self-Determination: An Ecological Approach*.
 Congratulations, Christy!

DCDT NEEDS YOUR FAVORITE TRANSITION TIP!

DCDT is collecting ideas and tips about transition practices from those out on the front lines of transition! The goal is to compile and develop “101 Practical Transition Ideas” consisting of transition practices that are currently being used by practitioners. We want to find out what you are doing that works and share your stories with others!

We are collecting transition ideas in the areas of:

- Transition Planning
- Student Involvement
- Family Involvement
- Interagency Collaboration
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Inclusion and Access to the General Curriculum
- Transition Assessment
- Cultural Diversity
- Assistive Technology and UDL
- Students from Specific Disability Groups

To submit your idea please follow the link to a quick online survey. It should only take 15 minutes to submit your idea.

Go to: <http://www.transitioncoalition.org> and then click on “101 Practical Ideas for Transition”

This information is being collected by Dr. Mary Morningstar and Ryan Kellems MEd. Please e-mail Ryan (rkellems@ku.edu) with any questions

NSTTAC UPDATE

NSTTAC has posted secondary transition evidence-based practice resources on its Web site (http://www.nsttac.org/?FileName=evidence_based_practices). This includes descriptions of 28 practices supported by moderate or strong levels of evidence and related lesson plan starters for each of the practices. Some sample practices include “using the *Self-Directed IEP*,” “teaching functional reading skills,” “teaching purchasing skills,” “teaching completing a job application,” and “providing community-based

instruction.” NSTTAC will co-host the second annual Secondary Transition State Planning Institute with the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities and the National Post-School Outcomes Center, May 7–9, 2008, in Charlotte, NC. Participants are members of state planning teams for secondary transition capacity building. For more information, go to the Web sites of any of the three Technical Assistance and Dissemination Centers co-hosting the event.

HEY BUDDDDIES . . . JOSH BLUE, DONNA WANDRY DELIGHT CONFERENCE GOERS

by Donna Martinez

Keynote speaker Josh Blue, winner of the fourth season of NBC’s “Last Comic Standing” and one of the hottest comedians in the country, ignited the conference with laughter and personal insight into his life as an individual with CP. Blue’s side-splitting routine covered a wide range of topics, including how it feels to hail a cab with a “crazy right arm,” having the police thinking that he is constantly drunk, enduring life as a student in special education, and playing soccer in the U.S. Paralympics.

Blue challenged the stereotypes most commonly associated with being disabled with his unique brand of comedy. Joining Blue on stage, Past President Donna Wandry held her own in a hilarious interview that offered the audience insight into his life as a student with CP and showcased our Past President’s hidden comedic talents. Questioning was then opened to the audience. Blue’s hilarious and uncanny ability to improvise during the question-and-answer session encouraged the audience to

overcome their pre-conceived notions about who in our society should be considered “disabled.” It was a show perfectly balanced with motivation, inspiration, and raw humor.

Josh Blue performs on stage at the DCDT Conference.



NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST REGION

By Mary Morningstar, NW Regional Representative

KANSAS

The Kansas subdivision established a 3-year plan of action that include the following goals:

1. Increase awareness of CEC & KS DCDT among secondary special education teachers;
2. Develop and promote DCDT as a resource for persons in secondary special education; and
3. Increase involvement in regional and national organizations/events.

Members have started working on their plan of action in a variety of ways. For example, the president of DCDT has joined the KS CEC Executive Board and takes an active role in CEC conference planning. In addition, the subdivision hosted a Transition strand at the Kansas CEC conference in Hutchison. The format for this strand included short presentations followed by discussion of a variety of topics. To promote membership at the Kansas 2007 CEC conference, the subdivision held a division meeting in which it gave away 4 one-year DCDT memberships to CEC members present who were not yet DCDT members. This Subdivision is also working with Kansas State Department personnel to plan the spring 2008 KansTrans Conference. The plan is to host/help host a snack or lunch at this event and the Subdivision's display board will be visible at this conference. Finally, the subdivision donated a state basket at the DCDT International Conference in Orlando. For more information, contact Kim Garrett (kim.garrett@usd382.com).

IDAHO

The Idaho DCDT sponsored a day-long transition pre-conference workshop on 18–21 Programs to the state CEC conference in Sun Valley. In addition, several DCDT members presented sessions during the ID CEC conference. Over 60 people attended the session. Five officers from Idaho attended the National DCDT Conference in Orlando. In addition, 21 members of Idaho DCDT are participating in the Idaho State Transition Mentor Program, which provides regional training and technical assistance across the state. Finally, the subdivision is helping with the Tools for Life Transition Fair, which is a statewide conference for students with disabilities. ID subdivision also donated a state basket at the DCDT International Conference in Orlando. For more information about what is happening in Idaho, contact President Lisa Perry (lperry@nsd131.org).

MISSOURI

The state officers attended the International DCDT conference in Orlando. This was a wonderful opportunity to network with leaders in the field and engage in active dialogue about best practices and evidence-based research in the area of transition. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) staff attended and presented at the conference. During the month of October, the Missouri Community of Learning participated in an online question and answer format with Dr. Gary Clark on the topic of transition assessments. MO–DCDT supports these statewide practices and encourages members to participate in events. The membership committee developed a referral form for membership and MO–DCDT logo shirts and attended state-level CEC events to increase awareness of the MO–DCDT presence in the state. Congratulations to Margaret Price, the DCDT member who received the prestigious Emerson Award in St. Louis County, MO. If you would like more information, please contact Linda Cantrell (314.989.8949 or lcantrell@ssd.k12.mo.us).

NEBRASKA

Nebraska DCDT is a newly formed chapter, and we welcome them to the NW Region! So far this year, they have been busy getting the word out about the subdivision and ways to increase membership. They have developed a DCDT Nebraska Membership Brochure and are making presentations to interest groups with the intent of increasing membership. Keep your eyes open for more exciting developments from this new subdivision. For more information, contact Jan Barber (jbarber@ESU13.ORG).

MINNESOTA

Minnesota is also in the process of reorganizing after a few years of inactive status. Recently, Sara Stack met with the MN State Department of Education's Transition group to promote participation in DCDT and ways the two groups could work together. The vision is for MDE and the newly formed DCDT subdivision to collaborate efforts, energies, and expertise toward a statewide Transition Conference. The group members are excited about the prospects and know that the MN DCDT group will prove to be an exceptional addition for our exceptional staff and students. For more information, contact Sara Stack (sstack@cseced.org).

DCDT would love to establish more subdivisions in the NW region! Any DCDT members in Washington, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, or Alaska interested in learning more about state subdivisions can get in touch with Mary Morningstar (mmorningstar@ku.edu).

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) with more submissions.

Gwen Williams, Editor

SCENES FROM THE 2007 DCDT CONFERENCE IN ORLANDO



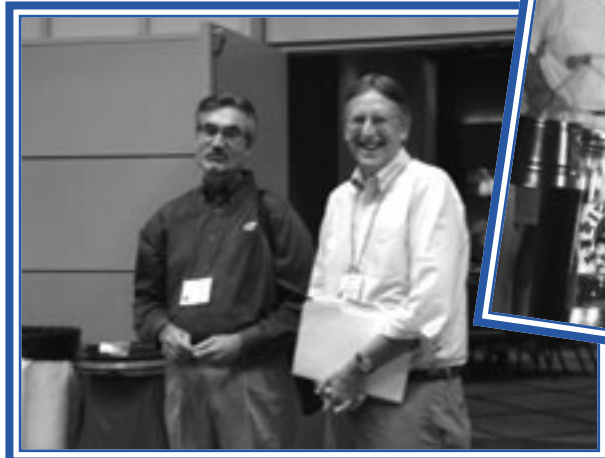
Volunteers working for DCDT



Hard at work



Opening conference drums



Sharing a laugh



Mirror, mirror



Wearing the crown



Miss America speaks on overcoming disabilities



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HISTORY OF DCDT

The Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) was organized in 1976 as the 12th division of the Council for Exceptional Children. DCDT focuses on the career development of children, youth, and adults of all exceptionalities and recognizes transition from school to adult life as a major component of that process that focuses on the life roles of individuals as students, workers, consumers, family members, and citizens. DCDT has evolved into a powerful force in the youth development field through its high-quality publications, its active participation in policy development and implementation,

its provision of effective national and regional conferences, and its interdisciplinary approach to issues affecting children, youth, and adults of all exceptionalities.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of DCDT is to promote national and international efforts to improve the quality of and access to career/vocational and transition services, increase the participation of education in career development and transition goals, and to influence policies affecting career development and transition services for persons with disabilities.

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 an issue of the journal and newsletter with a friend (enclose membership information from our Web site).
- Add DCDT membership information to your hand-out 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>).

Brewing Best Practices In Transition

- ♦ Writing Transition IEPs/
Postsecondary Goals
- ♦ Summary of Performance
- ♦ Transition Planning for
Moderate to Severe Disabilities
 - ♦ Employment :
Child Labor Laws,
Job Carving and Developing
Micro Enterprises
 - ♦ 21st Century Skills
 - ♦ High School Redesign and
Transition Planning
 - ♦ Facilitating Learning
Communities
- ♦ Effective Transition Curriculum
 - ♦ Self Determination
- ♦ Preparing Students for Post-
Secondary Education
 - ♦ Transition Assessment
 - ♦ Indicator 13
- ♦ Accessing Adult Services



Milwaukee, Wisconsin

October 16-17, 2008



Sponsored by

*Division on Career Development and Transition
A Division of the Council for Exceptional Children*

CONFERENCE AGENDA

**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 15**
REGISTRATION
4:00—7:00
RECEPTION
5:00—7:00

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 16**
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
8:00—9:45
10:00—11:45
LUNCH
11:45—1:00
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
1:00—2:45
3:00—4:45

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 17**
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
8:00—9:45
10:00 - 11:45
WORKING LUNCH
12:00—2:30

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HOTEL RESERVATIONS MAY BE
MADE BY CALLING THE HOTEL

1-414-271-7250

Or

1-800-445-8667

**GROUP BOOKING
CODE IS : DCDT**

SPECIAL ROOM RATE IS:

\$159 single/double

**Cut off date for rate is
September 14, 2008**

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION FEES:

NON DCDT MEMBERS \$ 190
DCDT MEMBERS \$ 175
STUDENTS \$ 125

ON-SITE REGISTRATION

NON DCDT MEMBERS \$ 240
DCDT MEMBERS \$ 225
STUDENTS \$ 175

Registration Includes

Entrance to the Conference
Two Continental Breakfasts
Two Lunches and a
Reception



**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
DCDT**

**DCDT FEDERAL
ID # 911220306**

**All PO's must accompany
Registration form**

Name _____ email: _____

Address _____

School District or Agency _____ Phone _____

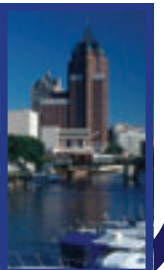
Position: _____

Accommodations? _____

DCDT Member? Yes No CEC Number: _____

Send completed form and check or purchase order to:

**Jim Heiden
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Muskego, WI 53150**



REGISTER EARLY