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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to another “Network” issue. As DCDT president, I have much to report on what your DCDT has been doing, and best of all, I will discuss future plans.

Each year DCDT members nominate some of our colleagues to receive prestigious awards, and at the 2015 DCDT conference in Portland we once again recognized those who have accomplished much and will do even more in future years to advance our field. Our 2015 award winners are

- **Dr. Cindi Nixon:** *Oliver P. Kolstoe Award*
- **Dr. Audrey Trainor:** *Patricia L. Sitlington Research Award*
- **Susan Loving:** *Donn Brolin Award for State/Province Leadership and Service*
- **Louise Yoho:** *Iva Dean Cook Educator of the Year Award*
- **KU Transition Coalition (Drs. Mary Morningstar and Dana Latin):** *Marc Gold Innovative Practices in Transition Award*
- **Christiana Care Health Care Systems:** *Employer of the Year*
- **Joshua Pulos:** *Andrew Halpern Early Career Practitioner Award*

(See page 8 of this issue for more about these awards.) Their names will be added to the list of past award winners on the DCDT website.

Over 700 attendees from across the country and internationally attended the 19th International DCDT Conference in Portland, Oregon, in November. To increase their knowledge and

skills, attendees selected from 332 content sessions, 87 poster presentations, 3 keynote presentations, and 3 pre-conference workshops. Numerous DCDT committees met. DCDT graduate student members had face-to-face time with a scholar mentor to discuss research issues and our profession, and they then socialized with members of the DCDT Board at a networking event. We will once again gather on October 19–23 for the 20th DCDT International Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Plan now to attend (see page 9 of this issue for more about conference proposals and hotel registration).

The Publication Committee proposed and then helped establish a new feature of the journal *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals* (CDTEI): the inclusion of a “Transition in Practice” article for each issue. The Research Committee has several subcommittees working on various topics. Before too long IDEA will come up for reauthorization, and the Policy and Advocacy Committee has been working in collaboration with CEC to represent DCDT interests.

Prior to the start of this year’s conference, the DCDT Executive Committee, recent past presidents, current and past CDTEI editors, and current and past committee chairs met for two days to develop a DCDT Strategic Plan. Following are the Ad Hoc and Standing Committees working on advancing the plan. A report of committee developments will be presented at the DCDT Business Meeting at the CEC conference in St. Louis this April. If you would like to become involved with one of the committees, contact the chair. The full strategic plan can be found at the DCDT website.

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## UPDATE FROM NTACTION

The National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) is busy developing and updating resources that help put research into practice. (Some of that work happens in partnership with the *Publications Committee* of DCDT. Contact Valerie Mazzotti [[vmazzott@uoregon.edu](mailto:vmazzott@uoregon.edu)] if you're interested in this committee work.) At the website [www.TransitionTA.org](http://www.TransitionTA.org) you'll find a comprehensive list of Effective Practices and Predictors. The Practice Descriptions, Predictor Descriptions, and Lesson Plan Starters are also available in the Resources sections of the website under Transition Planning or Post-School Success.

As mentioned in the fall issue of DCDT's newsletter, NTACT's website does have a new look. Resources and guidance are organized within 4 major topic areas:

- **Transition Planning**—transition planning, education (instruction), and services
- **Graduation**—school completion, re-engagement, dropout prevention, graduation
- **Post-School Success**—practices and programs correlated with post-school education, employment, or independent living success

- **Data Analysis and Use**—system- to student-level quality data collection and use (including OSEP Indicator data guidance)

Additionally, resources specifically developed from NTACT and other organizations' research analysis efforts are organized as evidence-based, research-based, and promising practice resources. This section of the website also includes NTACT's Annotated Bibliographies and Quick Guides.

Finally, NTACT monthly webinars, as well as upcoming and archived recordings, are listed in the Events section at the NTACT website.

Please keep in touch with us by commenting on what's useful, what's not, and what's missing via this email address ([ntactmail@uncc.edu](mailto:ntactmail@uncc.edu)). Complete the evaluations for the events in which you participate. If you're not yet receiving NTACT's bi-monthly e-newsletter, *NTACT Notes*, or weekly e-blasts, [sign up here](#).

## UPDATES FROM THE NATIONAL YOUTH TRANSITIONS CENTER

The **National Youth Transitions Center (NYTC)** provides a single location in the nation's capital for modeling organizational collaboration and improving the transitions services available to youth and

young people with disabilities, their families, and communities. The **Youth Transitions Collaborative (YTC)** is a community of organizations that

share the goal of empowering youth and young adults with disabilities to create a self-directed path to adulthood and employment, and to participate in and contribute to society. Collaborative members provide critical input to help shape and direct the NYTC's planning and programming. Existing as an innovative "collaborative community," the YTC and NYTC provide opportunities for nonprofits serving youth and young people to build capacity, create new partnerships, and benefit from its national agenda. This national agenda comprises policy and advocacy efforts, innovative research, and cross-sector collaborations that stimulate new thinking and learning across the country.

national  
youth  
transitions  
center

**YOUTH  
TRANSITIONS  
COLLABORATIVE** | Because  
the future  
needs everyone

The NYTC is the focal point of the Youth Transitions Collaborative community. This by-invitation-only membership group, facilitated by **The HSC Foundation**, is comprised of **50 regional and national organizations** with a commitment to serving youth and young adults with disabilities. These organizations are united by shared values and a desire to be stronger together, providing direct services, expertise, and guidance for the Center. The Collaborative also serves as the basis for the Foundation's efforts to build the capacity of non-profit organizations serving the disability and youth communities as well as to create a cohesive community among these organizations. They also participate in working groups that provide further opportunities to partner on a variety of topics, including advocacy, career preparation, and employment.

"Work Early, Work Often" is a video-based campaign created by the Youth Transitions Collaborative career preparation and management workgroup. This three-part video campaign highlights the importance of work and work-based experiences in an individual's transition to adulthood, particularly for young adults with disabilities. Each storyline focuses on a different subject and narrative, told from the perspective of key audiences that are part of the transition journey. Video topics include the following:

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## Updates from NYTC, continued from page 2

- **Young Adults with Disabilities:** Hear from a young professional how her early work experiences helped lead to long-term success.
- **Employers of Adults with Disabilities:** Listen to employers discuss how exposing young adults with disabilities to real work experiences can help to meet the needs of businesses and improve their bottom lines.
- **Parents/Caregivers of Young Adults with Disabilities:** Watch a powerful story unfold as a mother describes “letting go” when her son entered the world of work.

Career preparation is critically important for all young people but especially for young people with disabilities. To be ready to enter the workforce, young people with disabilities need to gain as many real work experiences as they can, as early as they can. This message isn't just important for the young person with a disability—it's equally important for family members, caregivers, and employers.

To watch the videos individually or as a series, visit [youtube.com/thenytc](https://www.youtube.com/thenytc). Please also follow us on social media ([www.facebook.com/thenytc](https://www.facebook.com/thenytc)) and ([twitter.com/The\\_NYTC](https://twitter.com/The_NYTC)). If you have any questions about the NYTC and/or the YTC, please contact **Jessica Queener** ([jqueener@cscn.org](mailto:jqueener@cscn.org)).

## MOBILITY MANAGEMENT:

### Connecting with Community Transportation Networks to Support Youth Transition



**Judy L. Shanley, PhD**, *Assistant Vice-President, Education & Youth Transition, Easter Seals, Inc.*  
[jshanley@easterseals.com](mailto:jshanley@easterseals.com)

As transition professionals, we know firsthand that students who leave high school frequently lack the knowledge and skills to access community transportation options. However, as educators we may not be aware of the various mobility options that would be appropriate for our students. **Mobility management** can address these challenges. Mobility management and the professionals who work in this role (mobility coordinators or mobility managers) can do the following:

- Promote coordination among various transportation systems (e.g., transit, ride share, bike share) to increase mobility and efficiency

- Connect the community with existing transportation resources through One-Call/One-Click and other systems
- Provide “travel training” to teach people to use their community transportation resources
- Ensure public involvement in transportation planning
- Create new services to meet community needs

By getting to know the mobility managers and mobility management services in their community, transition professionals and other educators can potentially have a strong impact on transportation services. For example, a Texas school district participated in the community mobility management system to influence bus routes in the community, enabling more students to access community-based experiences and improving post-school outcomes. Educators can learn about mobility management by obtaining free resources through the **National Center for Mobility Management**.

## President's Message, continued from page 1

### Committees (Standing\* and Ad Hoc)

- Expand DCDT Membership\* (Darlene Unger, Chair)
- Infuse Transition Education Practices (Mary Morningstar, Chair)
- Clarify and Disseminate DCDT's Purpose and Mission and Modify Transition Language (Stacie Dojonovic, Chair)
- Transition Education Preparation and Certification
  - Pre-Service and In-Service (Kendra Williams-Diehm Chair)
  - Transition Certification (Jane Razeghi, Chair)

- Transition Education Research\* (Karrie Shogren, Chair)
- Advocate for Legislative and Regulatory Changes\* (Kim Osmani, Chair)
- Supporting Effective Transition (Judy Shanley Chair)
- Marketing Committee\* (Stacie Dojonovic, Chair)
- Human Rights and Cultural Diversity\* (Laurie Kahn & Tiana Povenmire-Kirk, Co-Chairs)
- Publications Committee\* (Val Mazzotti, Chair)

Once again, plan now on attending the 20th DCDT International Conference in Myrtle Beach on Oct. 19–23, 2016!

**Jim Martin**  
[jemartin@ou.edu](mailto:jemartin@ou.edu)

## REGIONAL & STATE SUBDIVISION NEWS

### Northwest Region



**Dawn Rowe**  
NW Regional Representative  
[drowe3@uoregon.edu](mailto:drowe3@uoregon.edu)

**IDAHO DCDT:** Idaho has a cool site called Idaho Training Clearinghouse (<http://www.idahotc.com/Topics/N-Z/Secondary-Transition>). This site includes information regarding secondary transition in the state of Idaho.



**IOWA DCDT:** Iowa is also reaching out to teachers and other professionals via the web. The Transition Iowa website includes valuable information related to living learning and working. Check it out (<http://transitioniowa.org/>).



**OREGON DCDT:** Oregon successfully hosted the 2015 DCDT conference in Portland and had a great attendance by teachers, families, students, and transition specialists. They even scored a few more new members! Thanks again to the local planning committee members for their hard work.

Oregon DCDT also recently published a course page through ObaVerse for its members to use to provide professional development in transition and facilitate networking across teachers, transition specialists, and researchers in the state. In other Oregon news, The Youth Transition Program will be hosting the annual Statewide Meeting to learn more about evidence-based practices for secondary transition. Many teachers and transition specialists will also join together for the Oregon Association for Vocational Special Needs Conference in Hood River.



Several DCDT members in Northwest states have expressed interest in starting a new subdivision or reenergizing an existing subdivision. If you have any questions regarding this process, please do not hesitate to give me a call or send me an email. I would like to do a shout out to all members in states in the Northwest Region: If something cool is happening around transition in your state, let us know so we can spotlight you in the newsletter!

### Southeast Region



**John McNaught**  
SE Regional Representative  
[mcnaugjt@jmu.edu](mailto:mcnaugjt@jmu.edu)

Life in the southeast has been very busy for our DCDT chapters!

**MARYLAND DCDT:** The Maryland chapter of DCDT is reorganizing! If you are interested in helping build the chapter and get in on the ground floor, contact **Christy Stuart** ([christy.stuart@maryland.gov](mailto:christy.stuart@maryland.gov)).



**FLORIDA DCDT:** The Florida Division on Career Development and Transition has been busy planning the annual **VISIONS conference**. The conference is scheduled to take place **April 27–29** at the Westin in Lake Mary, Florida. The FL-DCDT continues to expand our membership and look for ways to bring in new members. The FL-DCDT website is up and running and the board continues to guide and collaborate with agencies to establish best practices in transition across the state.



**VIRGINIA DCDT:** VA-DCDT has been very busy since June 2015. The 2015 VA-DCDT Awards were given out at the Youth Summit on June 19 at James Madison University in Harrisonburg. The winners were

1. **Employer of the Year:** St. Francis Medical Center and their partnership with Chesterfield County Public Schools, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services in Project Search;
2. **Leader of the Year:** Amanda Randall and her strong leadership with the VDOE I'm Determined Project from JMU T/TAC; and
3. **Youth of the Year:** Annie Downing, who is devoted to her dreams, selfless in assisting others, an advocate for all, a leader in everything she pursues, vibrant, enthusiastic, a role model, passionate, and committed.

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## Regional & State Subdivision News, continued from page 4

**Transition: The Future Is Now Conference** was held in Staunton, June 22 and 23, with our partners Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Virginia Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals (VECAP), and Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC). The keynote speakers from Colorado were very informative in their discussion of IEP Triangulation. Along with the keynote speakers, the first day included an agency panel discussion at lunch and break-out sessions that included information about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Transition 101, Navigating the Employment Puzzle and Vocational Assessment, Legislative Advocacy, and Assistive Technology. Speakers on the second day covered Aligning the IEP and IPE Goals, and Employment First. A big hit was a tour of the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center. Thank you to the committee members, vendors, speakers, and participants for an enlightening conference!

The president of VA-DCDT had the opportunity to attend the DCDT conference **Blazing New Trails in Transition** in Portland, Oregon, reporting that it was powerful, full of intriguing sessions, and—most important—offered session material to share and utilize within our Virginia communities.

Our VA-DCDT fall Conference, **School Wise—Career Ready!** was held at the Roslyn Center on December 7 and 8, 2015, and offered wonderful presentations. Participants took the opportunity to discuss presentations from the international DCDT conference and how it relates to Virginia, plus they heard information about Workplace Readiness Skills Assessment/Career and Technology (CTE), Applied Studies

Diploma, Credentialing, Career Readiness Certificate, Medicaid Waiver, Project Search, and more.

As 2016 gets underway, the VA-DCDT Board and members are moving forward on plans for hosting another conference this summer. Exciting times in Virginia!

## Northeast Region



**Clare Papay**

*NE Regional Representative*

[papayc@arcadia.edu](mailto:papayc@arcadia.edu)

Hello from your Northeast regional representative! I have two updates to share.

**NEW YORK DCDT:** The New York State Chapter of DCDT would like to announce the date for their fifth statewide conference. **Talking Transition: Partnerships to Leverage Success; A Collaborative Forum** will take place **November 8–10, 2016**, at the Gideon Putnam Center in Saratoga Springs. For more information see the following websites ([www.nydcdt.org](http://www.nydcdt.org) and [www.gideonputnam.com](http://www.gideonputnam.com)).



**ILLINOIS:** The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)'s Project Seamless Effective Transition (SET) is currently accepting its last cohort of individuals interested in the Transition Specialist Program as the final stage of an OSEP grant. More information is available at the following website (<http://projectset.ed.uic.edu>). Interested individuals can also obtain information via email ([projectset.uic@gmail.com](mailto:projectset.uic@gmail.com)) or phone (312-996-3014).

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## DCDT COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Publications Committee

**Valerie Mazzotti, Chair**  
[valmazzotti@gmail.com](mailto:valmazzotti@gmail.com)

The DCDT Publications Committee has some interesting updates! The most exciting news is that the first article for the Transition in Practice section of *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals* (CDTEI) was published in the February 2016 issue. The article, titled “**Collaborative Assessment in Employment Plan-**



**ning: Transition Assessment and the Discovery Process,”** was authored by **Bradley S. Stevenson** and **Catherine H. Fowler**. Transition in Practice provides opportunities for (a) authors to submit manuscripts that translate their secondary transition research into practice and (b) practitioners to publish information about secondary transition research-based strategies, programs, and assessments to inform professional practice and improve outcomes for youth with disabilities. As the official journal of the Division on Ca-

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**DCDT Committee Updates**, *continued from page 5*

reer Development and Transition, CDTEI is a member benefit that provides the latest research and position papers on the activities, programs, and issues in the field of secondary transition. CDTEI is INVITING SUBMISSIONS for the section through its online portal (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cdtei>). Author guidelines can be obtained at the login page of this site under the Resources head; click on the link “Instructions & Forms.” Further inquiries may be sent to me as the Transition in Practice associate editor, via email ([vmazzott@uoregon.edu](mailto:vmazzott@uoregon.edu)).

The Publications Committee is also working on a Youth with Disabilities section for the DCDT website. This section will have its own tab on the site and provide student-friendly information and resources (e.g., videos, e-mentoring, links to helpful transition-focused websites) related to transition for youth and young adults with disabilities. Finally, the Publications Committee will be partnering with the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) to develop “How To” modules and resources focused on implementation of specific secondary transition predictors. The intent will be to provide practitioners and transition personnel with “how to” information related to implementation of the predictors as a means to improve and strengthen secondary transition programs and practices.

As a committee, we are working diligently to ensure we have useful and pertinent publications for researchers, practitioners, families, and youth. If there are ideas that you have for publications, please feel free to email me. We have some ideas in the works related to resources for youth with disabilities and families. We are also partnering with the DCDT Research Committee to identify pertinent publications that should be available to researchers in secondary transition.

**Research Committee**

**Karrie Shogren**, *Chair*  
[shogren@ku.edu](mailto:shogren@ku.edu)



The DCDT Research Committee’s purpose is to support rigorous research in secondary education and transition that makes a real difference in the lives of young people with disabilities and their families. The committee has a number of active subcommittees that are engaged in several initiatives (if you want to get involved, please email me!). Because of the importance of supporting the next generation of leaders in the transition field, one highly ac-

tive subcommittee is Early Career Scholars and Graduate Students, led by **Allison Lombardi** from the University of Connecticut. This subcommittee organizes a number of activities to support graduate students and early career scholars, with a particular focus on networking and educational opportunities at the DCDT and CEC conferences.

One activity that the subcommittee supports is the **Students Engaging Transition Scholars (SETS) Mentorship Program**. **Adam Lawlor**, DCDT graduate student representative, has taken a leadership role over the last two years in facilitating meetings at the DCDT conference between graduate students and senior scholars in the transition field from different universities. At the last two DCDT conferences (Cleveland and Portland), 20 graduate student/senior scholar matches were made. The student and scholar schedule a time to meet at the conference for unstructured dialogue about graduate studies, career opportunities, and research activities. Currently, there are no formal conference activities outside of this meeting; however, the personal connection and networking opportunity has been rated as a program strength. In a recent survey of mentor and mentee experiences, mentees noted that having one-on-one time to ask questions and get advice was invaluable, as was getting a different perspective from someone in the field who was not a current mentor or advisor. The program will continue, and the subcommittee is looking at possible expansions as well as ways to open it up to additional students (the available slots filled very quickly at the Portland conference!). Overall, the program is bringing together new and established leaders and creating opportunities for ongoing work to make a difference in the lives of young people with disabilities. If you have any feedback or thoughts on the program, feel free to contact Adam ([adam.lawlor@uconn.edu](mailto:adam.lawlor@uconn.edu)).

Finally, the Research Committee will be initiating new subcommittees this year related to the DCDT strategic plan. The focus will be on (a) developing strategies to increase linkages and to infuse transition education practices into other systems (e.g., general education, mental health, vocational rehabilitation) and (b) identifying needs and resources related to the development and use of data-based decision making and fidelity processes to improve transition practices and outcomes. To those of you who have already volunteered—THANK YOU—for those of you who are interested in getting involved, feel free to email me and/or attend our joint **DCDT Research and Publications Committee meeting at the CEC Annual Convention on Thursday, April 14, at 1 p.m.**

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DCDT Committee Updates, continued from page 6

## Policy and Advocacy Committee

**Kimberly Osmani**, *Chair*  
[kosmani@okdrs.gov](mailto:kosmani@okdrs.gov)



The DCDT Policy and Advocacy Committee is excited about the work ahead. Recent legislation has significant implications for transitioning youth with disabilities. The **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** replaced No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and the **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** replaced the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Both of these laws provide new guidance related to transition activities and outcomes. In addition, reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) is pending. If you are interested in policy, advocacy, and legislation, we welcome you to join us in our efforts to help align various laws, propose draft wording for future reauthorizations, and disseminate model projects. There are actions taken daily, and if you'd like to track current activities that stem from the HELP Committee in Washington, DC, you can visit this link (<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/committees/SSHR>).

## DCDT Supporting Effective Transition (SET) Committee Launched

Through a strategic planning process at the fall 2015 DCDT Board meeting, members identified key transition topics that—although they are important to successful student outcomes—may not be fully addressed in the planning process. The SET Committee was developed to focus on topics such as transportation, healthcare transitions, financial literacy, and civic engagement and advocacy. DCDT members representing higher education, school districts, human services, and state educational agencies volunteered to contribute their expertise to this important topic.

The SET Committee will work closely with DCDT standing committees, including Family Engagement and Research, to explore how best to integrate this work and further the DCDT mission. For information about this committee, or if you are interested in joining, please contact **Judy Shanley**, DCDT vice president, via email ([jshanley@easterseals.com](mailto:jshanley@easterseals.com)).

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## DCDT STUDENT UPDATE



**Adam R. Lawlor**,  
*Student Representative*

[adam.lawlor@uconn.edu](mailto:adam.lawlor@uconn.edu)

Student DCDT members had a strong attendance at the 2015 conference in Portland, Oregon. From the conference sessions and poster presentations to the Graduate Student Social and Students Engaging Transition Scholars (SETS) Mentorship Program, the level of engagement was fantastic. I hope you enjoyed the programs as much as I did!

The **Pat Sitlington Emerging Researcher Poster Competition** took place at the 2015 conference. The quality of the research was excellent, and I extend congratulations to all presenters on a job well done! In particular, please join me in congratulating winner **Marcus Poppen** (*Washington State University*) and runners-up **Joanna Keel** (*University of Illinois at Chicago*) and **Kara Hirano** (*University of Oregon*).

The DCDT Graduate Student and Early Career Faculty Social was a tremendous success. More than 45 student members and DCDT scholars enjoyed an evening of networking and socializing at the Yard House. I had such a wonderful time getting to know everyone, and I hope you did, too! Thank you to all attendees.

I am also pleased to share that the second SETS Mentorship Program was held at the conference. Eleven DCDT student members had the opportunity to chat one-on-one with DCDT scholars about research and the profession. Feedback about the program has been positive. Thank you to all program mentors and mentees for participating.

As the CEC 2016 Convention approaches, plans are being made for the Graduate Student and Early Career Faculty Social. Please plan to join us for the **social on Wednesday, April 8, at 8:30 p.m.** Watch for emails detailing the location and how to RSVP. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in St. Louis!

## 2015 DCDT AWARDS

*DCDT is proud to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to our field. The awards were presented in November 2015 at the DCDT International Conference in Portland, Oregon.*

### Donn Brolin Award for State/Province Leadership and Services

**Susan Loving**, *Education Specialist for Transition  
Utah State Office of Education*

This award honors 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. As author of the Life Centered Career Education curriculum he was influential in the career development and early transition movement.

### Iva Dean Cook Teacher of the Year Award

**Louise Yoho**, *Transition Teacher  
Corona-Norco Unified School District, California*

This practitioner honor is awarded to an educator, including a higher education professional, 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

**Christiana Care Health Care Systems**, *Wilmington, Delaware*

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

### Marc Gold Innovative Practices in Transition Award Transition Coalition (Drs. Mary Morningstar & Dana Latin)

*University of Kansas*

This award honors an individual who—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 significant disabilities.

### Andrew Halpern Early Career Practitioner Award

**Joshua Pulos**, *Instructional Supervisor  
Oklahoma City Public Schools, Special Education Services*

This award honors a secondary teacher who is in his or her first 5 years of teaching and has demonstrated outstanding, innovative, and committed services to the career education and transition of secondary students with disabilities. The award is named in recognition of Andrew Halpern, a DCDT past president whose research and publications significantly shaped the field of transition.

### Patricia L. Sitlington Research in Transition Award

**Audrey Trainor**, *Associate Professor of Special Education  
NYU Steinhardt, New York*

This 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 contributed significantly to knowledge in the field through research.

### Oliver P. Kolstoe Award

**Cindi Nixon**, *Associate Professor  
Francis Marion University, South Carolina*

The Oliver P. Kostoe Award is given 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. Following are a few words from the nomination letter for Dr. Nixon:

*Dr. Nixon has served both the national and state DCDT Boards in multiple capacities, including the role of president for both organizations. In addition, Dr. Nixon currently coordinates conference planning for both SC-DCDT and national DCDT. Dr. Nixon is well known for her expertise in the field and her ability to convey essential information in a way that is both approachable and practical. She is regularly called upon to provide training and technical assistance to districts in need. However, Dr. Nixon is more than a trainer and TA provider. Dr. Nixon is well known for her investment in the lives of youth and young adults. She is an advocate for schools, families, and students.*



**Oliver P. Kostoe Award recipient  
Cindi Nixon and DCDT past presidents**



## 2016 DCDT International Conference

Grab the flip flops and join us at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, for the 2016 DCDT Conference!

**RIDING THE TIDE  
OF TRANSITION**

**DCDT - 2016**

**October 18 - 23**

Embassy Suites Myrtle Beach  
At Kingston Plantation  
9800 Queensway Boulevard  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29572

For Hotel Reservations:  
<http://tinyurl.com/DCDTHotelSC>

**Proposals:** There is still time to submit your proposal. Guidelines can be found on the DCDT website. To submit a proposal go to: <http://tinyurl.com/DCDT2016Proposal>. **Submission Deadline: April 22, 2016.**

**Hotel Reservations:** Make your reservations early, using this link (<http://tinyurl.com/DCDTHotelSC>). Choose between the oceanfront Embassy Suites or a villa nestled under the sprawling live oaks and palmetto trees.

**Questions:** Contact Cindi Nixon ([cnixon@fmarion.edu](mailto:cnixon@fmarion.edu))