



A division of the Council for Exceptional Children

# NETWORK

Division on Career Development and Transition

Volume 40, Issue 1

Spring 2017

## Inside This Issue

Message from the President . . . . 1

Update from NTACT . . . . . 2

Regional & State Subdivision News . . . . . 2

Advice on Planning a Statewide Transition Office . . . . . 3

DCDT Committee Update . . . . . 4

2017 DCDT International Conference . . . . . 5

2016 Awards . . . . 6

Why Leadership in DCDT Matters . . 8

Parents' Corner . . 8

DCDT WEBSITE  
[www.dcdt.org](http://www.dcdt.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Throughout this edition of our newsletter, you will find descriptions of several national, state, and local activities DCDT leaders and members are engaged with in a continued effort to identify and implement effective practices directed at improving the transition process and outcomes for young adults with disabilities. Given our Fall 2016 International DCDT Conference and current events it seems so like much has transpired since the dissemination of the Fall Newsletter. There are two topics I would like to speak directly to as well as encourage you to review updates provided by DCDT Committee members as well as representatives from our state divisions appearing throughout the newsletter. The first topic provides an update on DCDT's Fall 2016 conference and the second speaks to a call for continued advocacy and vigilance around issues impacting transition-focused education and services across postsecondary education, employment, and other community environments.

First, on behalf of the DCDT board, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the DCDT Fall conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We received very favorable feedback regarding the quality and diversity of sessions as well as conference logistics. Sessions were well attended by the over 640 conference participants despite the lure of the outstanding weather and beachfront location.

There are also several individuals deserving of special recognition, whose investment of time and resources to DCDT and our annual conference helped to enhance the conference experience for attendees. I would like to thank DCDT's conference planner, Dr. Cindi Nixon and the SC local planning committee led by Ms.

Joy Ivester and the SC DCDT subdivision for all of their conference related work over the last 16 months. The nine vendors who provide resources or services for the transition field have always been strong supporters of DCDT conferences and we thank them for their continued support. Thanks are also extended to Transition coordinator, Ms. Jackie Bryant, and the work of students from Horry County (SC) Schools for operating their school-based business on conference premises and sharing their experiences with attendees. Many attendees also had opportunities to interact with Judy Thorne, Jerry and Leanne Junkins, Donna Willis, and former DCDT president, Dr. James Heiden, who staffed our registration booth. The "app man", Dr. Al Daviso, for developing and providing technical assistance related to DCDT's conference app, also deserves some special thanks for responding to last minute changes to our conference program and countless questions.

The DCDT Conference also provides an opportunity for us to acknowledge the extraordinary work of transition professionals. During the 2016 conference, the following individuals were acknowledged for their efforts:

- **Aiken Discount Tire**, in Aiken, SD received DCDT's Employer of the Year Award;
- **Mr. Wayne Fogelson**, Principal of the Miller Career and Transition Center, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles California recipient of The **Marc Gold Innovative Practices in Transition Award**;
- **Ms. Joy Ivester**, USC Center for Disability Resources, SC DCDT President, received the **Donn Brolin Award for State/Province Leadership and Services**;

*(continued on page 9)*



## UPDATE FROM NTACT

NTACT continues to share its resources online at [www.transitionta.org](http://www.transitionta.org). Now you'll find a new feature there that may take some getting used to . . . a login!

To access many of NTACT's resources we're now asking that you create a login. This is not to be difficult or inaccessible. It is so, in the long run, we can better serve you! By gathering a little bit of information about the roles of the individuals that access certain resources, we can tailor our resources to best meet your needs. Like any new feature, it's likely to have a bug or two. Please email us at [ntactmail@uncc.edu](mailto:ntactmail@uncc.edu) if you need to login multiple times during a visit to the site, or have any difficulty accessing some of your favorite resources. We can't fix it if we don't know that it's broken! Thanks for your help in this new endeavor.

Since the last DCDT newsletter you should notice over 20 new practice descriptions of effective practices to teach academic skills in middle and secondary settings on our website. A complete list of predictors and practices is here: **Effective Practices and Predictors Matrix** (<http://transitionta.org/effectivepractices>). You'll also find an updated Executive Summary of Evidence-Based Practices and Predictors **Executive Summary** ([http://transitionta.org/system/files/effectivepractices/EBPP\\_Exec\\_Summary\\_2016\\_12\\_13\\_16.pdf](http://transitionta.org/system/files/effectivepractices/EBPP_Exec_Summary_2016_12_13_16.pdf)).

We're also beginning to develop "Top Resource" lists for different audiences, such as administrators, transition coordinators, teachers, vocational rehabilitation counselors, parents, students, and more. These will be populating our website under "News" and in our Transition Planning Resources sections over the next couple of months.

Check some of them out below:

- Top NTACT Resources for Teachers
- Top NTACT Resources for New Special Education Teachers
- Top NTACT Resources for Transition Specialists

Stay tuned for several toolkits from NTACT on school completion, preparing for competitive integrated employment, and preparing for postsecondary education and training coming online this spring. Finally, NTACT's Capacity Building Institute for interdisciplinary state teams will be May 16–18 in Kansas City, Missouri. An agenda and registration information are under events at [www.transitionta.org](http://www.transitionta.org). Please continue to follow us and like "transitionta" on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest—and now—Teachers Pay Teachers—and of course, through DCDT!

---

## REGIONAL & STATE SUBDIVISION NEWS

### Northeast Region



**Clare Papay**  
*NE Regional Representative*  
[clare.papay@umb.edu](mailto:clare.papay@umb.edu)

Greetings from the Northeast!

The CEC Convention will be in Boston April 19–22. This is a great time for our state DCDT members to connect. I hope to see many of our Northeast members there!

DCDT's Northeast region includes the states of: Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin. We currently have approved chapters in Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, and New York. If you are interested in starting a chapter in your state, get in touch and I will explain the benefits and process. I would love to highlight the great work that is happening in transition in the Northeast, so send me an email if you have something to share in future DCDT newsletters!

### Southeast Region



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

**FLORIDA DCDT:** The Florida Division on Career Development and Transition has been busy planning the annual **VISIONS conference SURVIVOR Edition—**

**College, Career, Community.** The conference will be held at the Sirata Beach Resort and Conference Center in St. Pete Beach from May 3, 2017 until May 5, 2017. FL-DCDT continues to work with Project 10 and the combined efforts have paid off with graduation rates for students with disabilities is on the rise in Florida! We are also collaborating with Florida Consortium on Postsecondary Education and Intellectual Disabilities which is expanding postsecondary opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to study alongside same-aged peers on a college campus. The

(continued on page 3)

### Subdivision News, continued from page 2

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 will host a Transition Conference. This two-day event, with a pre-conference session, is focused on providing best-practices practices that result in a smooth transition from school to adult life for youth with disabilities. Conference attendees come from all over the state of Virginia and include educators, transition specialists, vocational coordinators, service agency representatives, and youth with disabilities and their families. Check out our full schedule and register now at <http://vadcdt.org>. Contact Mr. Rodriguez at [rodri3jm@jmu.edu](mailto:rodri3jm@jmu.edu) if you have further questions.



**WASHINGTON DC DCDT:** Exciting news from the nation's capital. Jessica Queener is leading the charge to establish a DCDT chapter in Washington, D.C. If you want to get in on the ground floor of chapter formation, contact Jessica at [JQueener@cscn.org](mailto:JQueener@cscn.org)

### Northwest Region



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

**IOWA DCDT:** Iowa is gearing up to host the 2018 International DCDT conference. We are looking forward to seeing all the cool things happening in Iowa.



**OREGON DCDT:** DCDT members in Oregon are preparing for the statewide transition conference. Some highlights include Karen Gaffney a self-advocate, the Younique Boutique, which includes the items for sale manufactured or produced by youth from school-based enterprises in Oregon. This year the conferences will be held in Portland, Oregon. Strands include educational practices for transition-aged youth, vocational rehabilitation and youth, and research and evidence-based practices.

The Northwest region consists of Alaska, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming.

I know there are awesome things happening in your states. Please reach out if you would like to share success or if you are interested in starting a new subdivision or revitalizing an existing subdivision. If states have any questions regarding this process, please do not hesitate to give me a call or send me an email.

## SOME ADVICE ON PLANNING A STATEWIDE TRANSITION CONFERENCE

### Tara Dunning

*Conference Co-Chair & Registration/Financial Committee Chairperson*

*Financial Manager  
Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois*

Planning a conference is no small feat, especially one that hosts over 600 people annually. This is not a task for the meek and you must have a strong planning committee in place to accomplish all that is necessary for a successful event. The Illinois Statewide Transition Conference Planning Committee consists of members from state agencies, universities, schools and disability organizations each with their particular strengths to check all the boxes on the never-ending To Do List. Planning meetings begin 12 months in advance of the conference. We have found that meeting via monthly conference calls increases participation. After all, we all have other duties in our "real jobs". It is necessary to divide and conquer by establishing smaller work groups for items such as marketing and promotions, logistics and equipment, speakers and program. Assigning specific tasks to committee members or work groups helps to divide the work into manageable pieces.

Advice I have for groups planning large events:

- 1) Recruit capable committee members with varying skills;
- 2) Start the planning early;
- 3) Draft a timeline and stick to it;
- 4) Take the participants feedback seriously and try to make improvements each year to keep everyone satisfied.

Remember, not everything goes as planned during the event but as long as the audience doesn't see crisis and drama behind the scenes they will think it went off without a hitch. Keep your cool, smile and be flexible when something goes wrong and work to fix it for the next year's conference.

## DCDT COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Policy and Advocacy Committee

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



Talk about a crazy last year and even crazier beginning to 2017! There has been a lot going on in DC and many new faces arriving on The Hill. Advocacy is essential now, and I encourage everyone to tap into their right as a citizen to be heard.

Final regulations came out for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) after two years of the law being in place. Workforce and Vocational Rehabilitation agencies have now been trying to put into place new policies, contracts, services, and partnerships to meet the many new requirements. Betsy DeVos was confirmed as the Secretary of Education. We have yet to hear when and if the IDEA will be considered for reauthorization in the next couple of years. The current administration may even put a hold on some regulations that were released on other laws prior to January 2017 (read more at <http://www.appliedpolicy.com/2017/01/trump-administration-hold-similar-to-past-admins/>). So, all we can do for now is continue to work toward crafting our language and getting things in place for when IDEA is on the table.

And speaking of IDEA, there was significant concern when the IDEA.ED.GOV website was no longer working. AUCD's Disability Policy News In Brief: February 20, 2017 shared this information regarding the website:

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos issued a statement on Feb. 17 promising that the website dedicated to resources for the IDEA special education law had not been scrubbed, rather the site is being moved to a new, more stable server (see Wash Po article for more details on this issue).

### Upcoming Dates of Interest

*Each of these events provide you an opportunity to stay current on legislation and movement on The Hill, learn what your partners in other states are doing, share your information and ideas, build connections, and more.*

- April 2–4, 2017, The National Rehabilitation Association holds its annual Government Affairs Summit, in Alexandria, VA <https://nationalrehab.org/>
- April 3–5, 2017, Council for State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation Spring Conference in Bethesda, MD <http://www.rehabnetwork.org/>
- May 16–18, 2017, The National Technical Assistance Center for Transition holds its annual Capacity Building Institute, in Kansas City, MO <http://transitionta.org/events-details>

- July 7–9, 2017, CEC's Leadership Institute, followed by the CEC\CASE Special Education Legislative Summit is July 9–12, 2017, in Alexandria, VA <http://www.specialeducationlegislativesummit.org/>

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 what comes out of the HELP Committee in DC, you can visit this link. <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/committees/SSHR>

The DCDT Policy and Advocacy Committee will be holding a meeting at the CEC Conference in Boston in April. We hope you'll plan on joining us. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please email Kimberly Osmani, Chair, at [kosmani@okdrs.gov](mailto:kosmani@okdrs.gov) or call at 405-635-2768.

### Research Committee

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

The purpose of the DCDT Research Committee 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 Research Committee has a number of active subcommittees that are engaged in several initiatives (if you want to get involved, please email me!). There are currently a number of exciting activities that are being led by the research committee.

One new initiative that we are very excited about is the DCDT Graduate Research Scholarships. DCDT and the DCDT Board recognizes the importance of supporting the next generation of leaders in the transition field, and allocated funding to support an annual competition to support graduate student research (i.e., thesis, pre-dissertation, dissertation) projects in the area of transition. The FIRST annual call for applications recently closed, and a strong subcommittee led by the leader of the Research Committee Subcommittee on Early Career Scholars and Graduate Students, Allison Lombardi from the University of Connecticut, is currently leading a systematic review of the applications. We will be excited to announce winners later this spring, and were very impressed with the number and quality of applications. We anticipate that the funds will support students who will go on to present their findings at DCDT conferences, in CDTEI, and make a significant impact on the field. Look for opportunities to

*(continued on page 5)*

### DCDT Committee Updates, *continued from page 4*

meet and interact with student and early career leaders in the field at the upcoming CEC conference!

The Research Committee also has new, and growing subcommittees on (a) developing strategies to increase linkages and to infuse transition education practices into other systems (i.e., general education, mental health, vocational rehabilitation, etc.) 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 as well as ongoing groups on (a) secondary analysis of NLTS2 and other databases, (b) personnel preparation in transition, (c) postsecondary education, and (d) dissemination research. To those of you that have already volunteered—THANK YOU—for those of you that are interested in getting involved, feel free to email me at [shogren@ku.edu](mailto:shogren@ku.edu) and/or attend our DCDT Research Committee Meeting at the CEC Annual Convention.

### Publications Committee

**Amber McConnell, Chair**

[ambergmcc@ou.edu](mailto:ambergmcc@ou.edu)



Check out the new Transition in Practice articles are featured in the February 2017 CDTEI.

- *A Guide to Addressing Multiple Priorities in Core Content Instruction for Students with Severe Disabilities* by Jenny Root, Victoria Knight, and Pamela Mims,
- *Annotated Bibliography of Strategies for Infusing Transition Skills in Academic Instruction* by Debra Holzberg and Dana Rusher.

Transition in Practice provides opportunities for: (a) authors to submit manuscripts that translate 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 Career 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 Transition in Practice section through the online portal (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cdtei>). Author guidelines can be obtained at the log-in page of this site under the Resources head; click on the link “Instructions & Forms.” Further inquiries may be sent to Val Mazzotti, Transition in Practice associate editor, via email ([vmazzott@uoregon.edu](mailto:vmazzott@uoregon.edu)).

The Publications Committee is working to redesign the DCDT website. Look for an updated look soon. The DCDT fast facts are updated and available on the website. The publications committee has several exciting projects in the works including a transition specialist competencies guide and an administrator handbook to secondary transition. If you interested in becoming involved in the publications committee please email Amber McConnell, publications chair, via email ([ambergmcc@ou.edu](mailto:ambergmcc@ou.edu)).

As a committee, we are working diligently to ensure we have useful and pertinent publications for researchers, practitioners, families, and youth. If you have ideas for publications, please feel free contact us.

## “Revving Up for Transition” – October 12–14, 2017

Join us October 12–14, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee for the DCDT International Conference!



**Make your hotel reservations now!**

**Link:** <https://aws.passkey.com/go/DCDTFall2017>

**Phone:** 1-888-421-1442

**Presentation proposal deadline is 4/24/17. Go to the DCDT website ([www.dcdt.org](http://www.dcdt.org)) for guidelines and link to submit a proposal.**

## 2016 Awards



### Employer of the Year—2016 Winner: Aiken Discount Tire

Aiken Discount Tire invests in students with disabilities by teaching how to do various jobs and providing them with hands-on, real world work experiences. The students worked side-by-side with employees to obtain skills in tire repair, replacement and other job related requirements. After school hours, the students would come by the shop or work on Saturdays on top of their assigned weekly hours.

### The Oliver P. Kolstoe Award— 2016 Winner: David W. Test

Professor Test's accomplishments have shaped the field of transition and career development. He has published books, over 20 book chapters, over 100 journal articles in peer reviewed journals, and has had numerous grants funded including (a) the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC), (b) National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT), and (c) the North Carolina Postschool Outcomes Project (NC PSO). He has also served as the co-editor of the Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals since 2003.



### Donn Brolin Award for State/Province Leadership and Services—2016 Winner: Joy Godshall Ivester

Joy Ivester has been involved in transition since 1997. She was instrumental in working with school districts to improve transition services for all students with disabilities. Through her persistence and determination to make a difference, Joy has pulled together a working transition advisory team of state leaders to move forward with best practices in transition. Joy is a true leader in our state and been a positive influence for everyone in South Carolina who works in this field.



### Patricia L. Sitlington Emerging Researcher Award—2016 1st Place Winner: James Sinclair

James presented information on the implementation feasibility, acceptability, and potential efficacy of the *Think, Be, Do* curriculum (a mental health curriculum) for transition age students in special education classrooms. The *Think, Be, Do* curriculum is a teacher delivered, ten-session mental health curriculum, based in cognitive behavioral and ecological theory, that promotes behavior activation and cognitive reframing of negative thoughts.

## 2016 Awards

### Patricia L. Sitlington Research Award— 2016 Winner: Paula Kohler

On DCDT's 35th anniversary, a special issue of CDTEI included an article ranking the top researchers. Number one on the list of the most published authors was Dr. Kohler. Her research-based Transition Taxonomy has lasted the test of time and has defined transition education practices and services since its publication in 1996, and a recent update ensure it relevance well into the future.

She has lead efforts to improve transition education services across the country—state by state. One of her articles was also the first to coin the term transition education.



### Iva Dean Cook Educator of the Year Award—2016 Winner 2016 Winner: Teresa Pena

Ms. Pena offers a wide variety of options for her students' future careers matching their personalities and abilities to what is most productive. She works with parents and students to discuss long-term planning together. Teresa spends time in the community setting up tours at different places of business so that her students can gain awareness of other types of jobs. These and many other traits demonstrate why she deserves to be DCDT's Iva Dean Cook Educator of the Year.

### Marc Gold Innovative Practices in Transition Award—2016 Winner: Wayne Fogelson

Mr. Wayne Fogelson is the principal at Miller Career and Transition Center, which is the first career center for the Los Angeles Unified School District. He has taken this special education vocational center to another level. Many years ago, Wayne had a vision that many students could reach for the stars and beyond. To make this happened, he opened the doors to teachers allowing them to create the curriculum at Miller Career and Transition Center. His efforts have results in community-based quality job experiences and paid job for Miller Center students.



### Andrew Halpern Early Career Practitioner Award—2016 Winner: Amy Quebbem

Amy is an incredible educator and passionate about her students and advocating for their success. Amy Quebbeman has increased student participation in career development and transition goals by creating digital surveys in the areas of post-secondary goals, interest profilers, and life skills inventory. Amy has helped her students have more access to the community by teaching her students public transportation skills, and by bringing the community into her classroom.

## WHY LEADERSHIP IN DCDT MATTERS

### Judy Shanley

*DCDT President-elect*

[jshanley@easterseals.com](mailto:jshanley@easterseals.com)



A very long time ago, while I was in my doctoral program at the University of Florida, my advisors encouraged me to be active in DCDT at the national level. My involvement has mattered, personally and professionally throughout my career. And this is why. . . .

- A board position provides me with opportunities to discuss, debate, and decide with some of the most brilliant researchers in the youth transition field. I am part of decision-making, along with these famous professionals—they value my perspectives—my perspectives—wow!
- Fellow board members are colleagues you can count on. When I need career advice, when I am challenged by an educational issue, when I look for partners to write grants, my DCDT colleagues are the first place I turn.

- I am in the know regarding educational policy and practice issues because CEC Divisions often get first-hand information from governmental affairs professionals. Divisional leadership gives you access to CEC staffers and communication platforms that provides real-time access to current issues and events in youth transition.

I am so proud to hold a leadership position within DCDT. It may seem like a lot of work at times, but, the return on investment is well worth it, personally and professionally. I am not a university researcher, and therefore, I may not be a traditional division board member—but, my contribution and participation are highly valued. I encourage you all to consider a leadership position within your state or nationally, it matters!

Annually, DCDT acknowledges the outstanding contributions individuals and groups make in improving and providing transition education opportunities through research and practice. From time-to-time special or lifetime awards are also given.

## PARENTS' CORNER

### Life After High School: How to Prepare



### Michelle Doty

*DCDT Family Representative*

[mddoty@lcsc.edu](mailto:mddoty@lcsc.edu)

Transitioning to life after high school can be a stressful time for many families. There are so many decisions to be made. Once a child turns sixteen, transition planning becomes an important part of the IEP Process. Parents are still their child's best advocate and should be well informed of what the school can do to help prepare a student for this transition journey. I found a wonderful resource for parents, which includes successful tips in preparing for the creation of the transition IEP.

*The Journey to Life After High School: A Roadmap for Parents of Children with Special Needs* is a great resource and can be found at [AbilityPath.org](http://AbilityPath.org). [AbilityPath.org](http://AbilityPath.org) is an online resource for parents and professionals and its mission is to build a community to bring professionals and parents of children with special needs together to learn, share, and

strengthen the process of supports for children and youth with disabilities.

The Journey to Life After High School is one of many resources available for transitioning youth. The resource tool includes tips for planning for a successful IEP meeting to discuss transition planning and goal setting whether your student is planning to go on to college or seek employment. Additional resources include six-steps for exploring housing options, securing health and medical care and establishing life-long supports.

Having resources that help build quality transition IEPs and set life-long goals may ease the frustration some parents feel when their child hits the onset of those transition years. As a parent of an almost 30-year-old son, I craved those resources many years ago and they were not readily available so I thought this one was worth sharing with my readers. I encourage you to reach out to me if you have questions about your young adult's transition planning at [mddoty@lcsc.edu](mailto:mddoty@lcsc.edu).



**Message from the President**, *continued from page 1*

- **Dr. Paula Kohler**, Executive Director for the Florida Center for Students with Unique Disabilities at the University of Central Florida received the **Patricia L. Sitlington Research Award**;
- **Ms. Teresa Pena**, special education teacher received the **Iva Dean Cook Educator of the Year Award**;
- **Ms. Amy Quebbem**, special education teacher received the **Andrew Halpern Early Career Practitioner Award**;
- **Mr. James Sinclair**, doctoral candidate, University of Oregon, received the **Patricia L. Sitlington Emerging Researcher Award**; and
- **Dr. David Test**, professor Special Education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and Co-Project Director of the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition, and co-editor of *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals* received the **Oliver P. Kolstoe Award**.

Detailed descriptions of 2016 award recipients can be accessed at <http://community.cec.sped.org/dcdt/dcdtawards>

The second topic serves as more of a request for assistance in advancing specific aspects of DCDT's mission, beyond what most of us engage in as part of our day-to-day transition focused education endeavors. The language I am referencing within DCDT's mission speaks to our need ". . . to influence policies affecting career development and transition services for persons with disabilities.". Given the volatile political climate and forthcoming decisions and deliberations surrounding the Supreme Court case *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School Dis-*

*trict*, IDEA reauthorization, and school choice it is critically important to stay engaged in the discussions and advocate for, and on behalf of, the individuals we serve.

Special education evolved from strong advocacy efforts by parents of children with disabilities as well as disability providers and advocacy organizations. We have an expanding evidence-base to draw from when speaking to the successes and challenges in advancing transition-focused education, competitive integrated employment, and access to postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities. This evolution in policy and practice must continue. It is critically important we continue to inform and educate our colleagues and public policy makers on decisions having potentially negative or adverse impact for young adults with disabilities or transition-focused education. To support these efforts, DCDT will work to disseminate this information through our email distribution system as soon as information becomes available. Ms. Kimberly Osmani chairs DCDT's policy and advocacy committee and works with the committee to keep our membership informed about policy and legislative issues relevant to DCDT's mission. If you are interested in becoming more actively involved in these efforts, please contact Kim directly at [kosmani@okdrs.gov](mailto:kosmani@okdrs.gov)

We will be meeting at the CEC Conference in Boston so those interested in getting more involved with DCDT please feel free to join our committees. Please know all DCDT committees are open to all DCDT members. Hope to see at our meetings or the DCDT reception!

Best,  
**Darlene Unger**  
[ddunger11@gmail.com](mailto:ddunger11@gmail.com)

## 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 website).
- 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 website (<http://www.dcdt.org>).