2016 Employment First Summit

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Trailblazing: Charting Our Employment Path

April 21 & 22, 2016
Topeka Capital Plaza Hotel and Conference Center

Over 20 educational breakout sessions will feature and highlight state of the art and best practices in disability employment designed to inform self advocates, families, providers and policymakers.

Registration for this event is $50.00 which is refundable upon attendance.

Self advocates and families who live more than 50 miles away can apply for a lodging scholarship when registering for the summit to cover hotel costs. Space and scholarships are limited and are awarded on a first come, first serve basis.

To register, simply go to http://employmentfirstsummit.com, fill out the electronic registration form, and send your refundable deposit to the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities.

National 2016 Apse Conference

The 2016 National APSE Conference - "Soaring to Employment First" - will be held in Cincinnati, OH and features:

Students for APSE and Families (Sunday, June 19 to Monday, June 20 - registration coming soon),

Pre-Conference (Monday, June 20 - registration coming soon),

General Conference (Tuesday, June 21- Thursday, June 23).

Have Questions?
Contact Us:
info@apse.org * 301-279-0060

• 2.5 days of 100+ breakout sessions on Innovative Practices in Integrated Employment, Transition from School to Adult Life, Public Policy & Funding, Leadership for the Future and Family & Self Advocacy

• Gain valuable perspectives from the 3 conference keynotes and hundreds of presenters and panelists
Sheltered workshops:
A path to competitive employment for people with disabilities?

Kansas Health Institute recently featured an article on sheltered workshops and the role of being a transition step to community employment. Judith Gross, former Special Education Teacher, now an assistant research professor at the Beach Center on Disability at the University of Kansas does not feel sheltered workshops are a stepping stone to community employment.

"Overwhelmingly, research has borne out that that's not typically what happens — that typically people who go into a sheltered workshop don't transition out into competitive, integrated, community employment; that they aren't learning transferable skills," she said. But Gross said when the right supports are in place, people with disabilities are not only able to have integrated, competitive employment, they tend to increase their skills beyond what friends and family thought possible. "Other states have begun, or plan, to shut down their sheltered workshops, and they've found that that has increased their rates of employment," she said. "For example, Vermont shut down their sheltered workshops in 2002, and now the employment rate for people with developmental disabilities there is twice the national average."

Michael Donnelly, who oversees vocational rehabilitation programs for the Kansas Department for Children and Families, concedes that there is a segment of the population whose disabilities are so severe that the state hasn't yet figured out how to successfully support them in jobs. Donnelly agrees, however, that the number of Kansans in sheltered workshops is too high. "People that we thought 20 years ago would not be able to work in a competitive, integrated environment today are. Technology has made a huge difference. The types of supports we're able to provide folks today are different than what they were 20 years ago," he said. "The largest majority of those people working in sheltered workshops could be working out in the community in a real job." Donnelly said state funding streams for these programs need to be redirected. "And I do think OCCK is one of those that knows, and has for years tried to emphasize, the option for people to work in the community in real jobs for real wages. I think the challenge is that we have to move from it being an option to an expectation," said Donnelly.

NOTE: Judith is our Kansas APSE board president.

To read the whole story: http://www.khi.org/news/article/sheltered-workshops-a-path-to-competitive-
Developing a Meaningful Day Via the Use of Person-Centered Planning and Community-Focused Support

When: Tuesday, May 3rd 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm EST  
Cost: $25 - APSE members $50 - Non APSE members

Webinar Description
The type of supports people are asking for is changing, and the funding and regulations for support arrangements are changing too. Now is the time for service providers to start adapting their service array to provide the supports that people want and need to achieve community-based outcomes. This session will focus on helping people with disabilities achieve active, full, and respected lives as valued members of their community through very individualized Person-Centered Planning processes. “Getting great services” is obviously not the ultimate goal for people with disabilities – “GETTING A GREAT LIFE” is! Self-directed supports will be discussed, including how Community Living Services, a large service agency in Michigan, has paired Person-Centered Planning with individual budgets in a Medicaid-funded environment. Audience members will hear inspirational success stories and will be encouraged to think outside the box when assisting people with disabilities in planning for their futures.

Presenter: Annette Downey
Annette Downey has 23 years of experience working with both children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She is frequently an invited speaker at conferences throughout the state of Michigan and nationally on topics including Person-Centered Planning, Self-Determination, Income Generation for All, and Community-Focused service provision. Annette is a tireless advocate for systems change aimed at promoting people with disabilities’ right to choose their own life paths and to control who, what, when, where, and how their supports are provided. Annette is a trainer and consultant for the National Center for Self-Determination, and is also the Executive Director of Community Living Services of Oakland County, in Michigan. Contact Annette Downey: adowney@clivsers.com.
APSE OFFERS CERTIFICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

The CESP program is the first in the nation to create national guidelines to validate and support the training currently provided in the field and is the only certification program for employment support professionals. Certification shows colleagues, supervisors and the individuals that you serve that you completed a rigorous process to earn your national professional credential. For employers, hiring certified professionals increases credibility with community business leaders and opens the door to new employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Exams are held throughout the country year-round.

Learn more about the CESP™ program by signing up for our free monthly information webinar.

Tuesday, April 19, 2016 - 3:00-4:00 pm EST

Learn about certification, accreditation and their benefits

- Review the development of the CESP™ certification exam
- Review exam eligibility requirements
- Learn how to prepare for the exam
- Find out what to do before, during and after the exam

Candidates for CESP certification must meet educational, experience and ethical requirements in order to be eligible to sit for the examination. The benefits of the CESP certification do not end once an individual has passed the exam. The CESP certification, through renewal requirements, supports ongoing professional development. All CESP holders must recertify every 3 years. The recertification process provides CESP holders with the opportunity to demonstrate the reinforcement, retention, and maintenance of their knowledge and skills of current practice. Recertification also provides encouragement to, and acknowledgement for, participation in ongoing professional development activities. To support this purpose, recertification requires continuing education and professional activities.

Earning and maintaining the CESP certification shows colleagues, clients and supervisors that you have continued commitment to Supported Employment and that your knowledge and skills are unparalleled. Additionally, the CESP certification shows that individuals have met strict professional standards which increases their credibility with community business leaders, fulfills personal and professional career goals, and opens the door to new employment opportunities for both the CESP holder and people with disabilities.
Save the Date!

November 9, 2016, 1-5pm

Kansas APSE 2nd Annual Virtual Conference