“ROPE’N AND RIDE’N ON THE EMPLOYMENT TRAIL”

Region VIII
Employment Conference
October 17-19, 2006

Holiday Inn and Convention Center
Spearfish, SD
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CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Musical Entertainment provided throughout the conference by:
- Brock Finn
- Hank Harris and Ricky Jacobsen
- Sissy & Cedric Goodhouse

Employer Luncheon (NDEAM)
- Chuck Wagon Meal
- Brock Finn will provide entertainment
- Keynote by Denise Bissonnette

Western Social - Tuesday October 17th, 2006
Ponderosa & Oak
- Cash bar & hors d’oeuvres at 6pm
- Entertainment by Hank Harris and Ricky Jacobsen will start at 6:00pm

Deadwood Night - Wednesday, October 18, 2006
- Shuttle Service to Deadwood - $10.00 per person round trip
- Meet in the lobby at 5:45pm, bus will leave right at 6:00pm
- Must sign up at the registration table by 10:45am on Tuesday October 17th
- Will receive a coupon book worth $12.00
MAP OF CONVENTION CENTER
Special Thanks to our Partners and Co-Sponsors

SD Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies
Region VIII CRP RCEP at CTAT
General RCEP at UNC
Black Hills Special Services Coop
SD RehabACTion
SD Council on Developmental Disabilities
Board of Vocational Rehabilitation
Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired
Freedom To Work Project and Leadership Council

Committee Members

Bernie Grimme
Dan Rounds
Janet Ball
Gayann Brandenburg
Jude Printz
Rena Thompson
Lori Linco
Lisa Werlinger
Angela Podhradsky
Debra Whitehead
## Agenda at a Glance
### Tuesday, October 17, 2006

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am-9:30am</td>
<td><strong>Cedar &amp; Cottonwood</strong>  Welcome and Opening Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am-10:15am</td>
<td><strong>Cedar &amp; Cottonwood</strong> Beyond Traditional Job Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Denise Bissonnette</strong></td>
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<td>10:15am-10:45am</td>
<td><strong>Lobby Concourse</strong> Break</td>
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<td>10:45am-11:30am</td>
<td><strong>Cedar &amp; Cottonwood</strong> Beyond Traditional Job Development (continued)</td>
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<td><strong>Denise Bissonnette</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30am-12:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Willow, Oak, Ponderosa &amp; Aspen</strong> Employer Luncheon</td>
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<td>12:30pm-1:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Willow, Oak, Ponderosa &amp; Aspen</strong> Rekindle the Flame</td>
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<td><strong>Denise Bissonnette</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm-2:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Lobby Concourse</strong> Break</td>
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<td>2:00pm-3:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Cedar &amp; Cottonwood</strong> Cultivating the Spirit to Work</td>
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<td><strong>Denise Bissonnette</strong></td>
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<td>3:30pm-5:00pm</td>
<td><strong>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cedar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cottonwood</strong></td>
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<td>Matthew &amp; Bob</td>
<td>Gayann Brandenburg</td>
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<td>Markve</td>
<td>Tyler Paris</td>
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<td>*The Meat &amp;</td>
<td>Dan Rounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potatoes of Rural</td>
<td>Stake Your Claim: Supporting People with Disabilities to Build Personal</td>
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<td>Job Placement</td>
<td>Wealth and Resources</td>
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<td>Dr. Greg Cooch</td>
<td>Bev Petersen</td>
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<td>Bev Petersen</td>
<td>Dave Halverson</td>
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<td>Changes are “In the Wind” in Transition</td>
<td>Ron Sasso</td>
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<td>The Big Round Up: Brain Injury On the Western Prairie</td>
<td>Assistive Technology Demonstrations</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Social &amp; Songs of Deadwood by Hank Harris &amp; Ricky Jacobsen</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30am</td>
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| 8:30am-9:30am     | Settling in Uncharted Territory of Youth Inclusion  
| Cottonwood & Cedar| Betsy Valnes                          |
| 9:30am-10:00am    | Break                                 |
| Lobby Concourse   |                                       |
| 10:00am-11:30am   | **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**                 |
| **Cedar**         | **Cottonwood**                        |
| Kathy West Evans  | Betsy Valnes                          |
| Barn Raising:     | Exploring New Frontiers on Old Terrain: Finding Ways for Adults Who Know What to Do to Teach Young People the How-To Via Mentorship |
| **Willow**        | Jeff Bathke                           |
|                   | Issues, Impediments and Strategies Dealing with the Recovery and Rehabilitation of Meth Users |
| **Aspen**         | Dr. Robert Arnio                      |
|                   | Tricks of the Counseling Trade: Specific Techniques to use with “Difficult Clients” |
| **Spruce**        | Assistive Technology Demonstrations    |

| 11:30am-1:15pm    | Luncheon - Inspirational Expressions  
| Ponderosa & Oak   | Sissy & Cedric Goodhouse             |
|                   | Dream It, Dare It, Do It!            |
|                   | Elaine Doll Dunn                     |
| 1:15pm-1:30pm     | Pick Your Session                    |
| Lobby Concourse   |                                       |

| 1:30pm-3:00pm     | **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**                |
| **Cedar**         | **Cottonwood**                       |
| Kathy West Evans  | Nancy Freeman                        |
| Barn Raising:     | Getting Out of the Valley of Unemployment: Finding Success and Happiness through Work for the TBI Survivor |
| (Continued)       |                                       |
| **Willow**        | Esther Medina                        |
|                   | Employment: The Great Frontier; How Work Impacts SSA Disability |
| **Aspen**         | Dr. Robert Arnio                     |
|                   | Assessment and Interventions for Individuals with Learning Disabilities |
| **Spruce**        | Assistive Technology Demonstrations  |

| 3:00pm-3:30pm     | Break                                 |
| Lobby Concourse   |                                       |
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<td>Cedar</td>
<td>CTAT Youth Corps Project</td>
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Session Descriptions
Tuesday, October 17, 2006

9:30am-10:15 am  General Session  Cedar & Cottonwood

**Beyond Traditional Job Development**  Denise Bissonnette

Based on her book of the same name, Denise offers a practical, innovative, and proactive approach to job development and challenges the job developer to look beyond traditional methods for achieving placement results. Delivered with numerous real-life examples, this workshop is as inspiring and mind-opening as it is relevant and timely to the needs of today's employment professional.

10:45am-11:30am  General Session  Cedar & Cottonwood

**Beyond Traditional Job Development**  Denise Bissonnette

Continued from the opening session, Denise expands on job development and challenges for the job developer.

12:30pm-1:30pm  General Session  Oak & Ponderosa

**Rekindle the Flame**  Denise Bissonnette

Designed to re-ignite the power, passion, and purpose which originally drew people to their work, this keynote presentation intertwines poetry, parables, and practical applications to put soul back into the everyday realities of life on the job. With warmth, humility, and humor, Denise delivers ideas and insights from the world's great wisdom traditions in a way that is easy to understand, process and apply to the 21st century workplace. It is said that the coal that has been an ember is easily kindled. This keynote provides the gentle but deliberate breath that can set the fire within the heart and spirit of the working person aglow.

2:00pm-3:00pm  General Session  Cedar & Cottonwood

**Cultivating the Spirit to Work**  Denise Bissonnette

In this dynamic presentation, Denise Bissonnette will present a unique and inspiring framework around the critical and often elusive issues of motivation, self-esteem, and the challenges of transition as they relate to preparing people for the work of the world. This compelling presentation enlightens and equips the employment professional to strengthen an individual's spirit to work.
Tuesday, October 17, 2006 Continued

3:30pm–5:00pm  Break Out Sessions

The Meat & Potatoes of Rural Job Placement
Matthew Markve  Bob Markve  Cedar
This father and son duo of cattle rustlers will provide an analysis of current issues in rural job development and how a truly rural area views job development efforts.

Stake Your Claim
Gayann Brandenburg  Tyler Paris  Dan Rounds  Cottonwood
Supporting people with disabilities to build personal wealth and resources. Back in the 1800’s homesteading or mining for gold required passion, abilities and skills and a variety of resources and tools. To be successful in the Old West each person had to fulfill their role and seek support when needed. This session will focus on the need for self-awareness, self-advocacy and self-efficiency to be successful in life in the New West. Employment staff have a critical role to play in supporting job seekers through training and counseling in these areas. The presenters will share teaching tools and resources to help employment staff guide job seekers to their pot of gold.

Changes are “In the Wind” in Transition
Dr. Greg Cooch  Bev Petersen  Dave Halverson  Willow
Yes, it’s true – times are a changin’ and so is transition! With IDEA 2004, several changes have taken place in the area of serving transition-age students. It seems as though the intent of the law is for the special education field to demonstrate results, especially post-school results for students with disabilities. VR will play a big role in the potential success of many students!

At this session, expect to learn more about the following topics:
• Changes in the law that impact transition age students
• New requirements in IDEA 2004 such as “Summary of Performance”, follow-up studies of students one year out of school, and highly qualified teacher requirements
• How we can all work together to make transition successful for students and families!
• Follow-up studies of students one year out of school, and
• Highly qualified teacher requirements
3:30pm–5:00pm     Break Out Sessions (continued)

The Big Round Up: Brain Injury on the Western Prairie
Ron Sasso Aspen
This presentation will discuss specific challenges of working with people with brain injuries, especially in rural areas. It will discuss different types of supports and services needed for both short term and long term success. This presentation will also discuss the future of tele-rehab.

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

8:30am-9:30am             General Session
Settling in Uncharted Territory of Youth Inclusion Betsy Valnes
Cottonwood & Cedar
This presentation will focus on the impact of first-hand youth empowerment and inclusion. It will focus on the role(s) played by Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals and activities associated with the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in the professional and personal development of emerging leaders.

10:00am-11:30am     Break Out Sessions
Barn Raising: Building the National VR Business Network Kathy West-Evans Cedar
A two-part session describing the development of the national alliance between the public vocational rehabilitation (VR) system and business. Session one will include the background information on why and how the national network is being developed based on a dual customer model which incorporates the needs of business and people with disabilities who are VR consumers.

Exploring New Frontiers on Old Terrain Betsy Valnes Cottonwood
Finding ways for adults who know what to do to teach young people the how-to via mentorship. This session will focus on specific activities and practices for Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors and service providers to use when working with young people with disabilities. Procedures, details, focal points/topics and methods determined by young people who utilize VR services around the country will be emphasized.
10:00am-11:30am  Break Out Sessions (continued)

**Issues, Impediments and Strategies**
Jeff Bathke  Willow
Dealing with the Recovery and Rehabilitation of Meth Users

This presentation will discuss what methamphetamine is, how it has affected citizens of South Dakota and other states. This presentation will also discuss current initiatives in South Dakota.

**Tricks of the Counseling Trade**
Dr Robert Arnio  Aspen

Although counseling can be defined in many ways, to a large degree it is human problem solving. This is particularly true in the vocational rehabilitation setting. This workshop will provide the counselor with specific techniques to help the consumer with their problem rather than letting the consumer become the problem. Using methods from the cognitive behavioral and solution focused counseling approaches, ways to help the consumer collaborate with the counselor to efficiently develop a vocational intervention plan will be discussed.

**Assistive Technology Demonstrations**
Spruce

11:30am-1:15pm  Luncheon  Ponderosa & Oak

**Inspirational Expression**
Sissy & Cedric Goodhouse

**Dream It, Dare It, Do It**
Elaine Doll Dunn

The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all the world needs dreamers who do. Life is a rodeo folks; chap up and ride. Ms. Doll Dunn’s motivational presentation will challenge us all to take risks to accomplish our dreams.

1:30pm-3:00pm  Break Out Sessions

**Barn Raising: Building the National VR Business Network**
Kathy West-Evans  Cedar

Continued from the first part, session two will include an overview of the work plan and applications at the regional and state level. The second session will include a discussion with the audience about leveraging the benefits of the national network to support rural employment opportunities.
1:30pm-3:00pm  Break out Sessions (continued)

Getting Out of the Valley of Unemployment  Nancy Freeman  Cottonwood

In this session you will learn how to find success through employment for the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Survivor including where to find quality, fulfilling work. This exciting training will focus on compensation strategies and accommodation strategies for the TBI Survivor giving the attendee tools, tips and hands on techniques, while focusing on the latest, most professional employment practices specific to TBI. Come learn how to increase quality of life and find happiness through work for the TBI Survivor.

Employment: The Great Frontier  Esther Medina  Willow

This session will be an overview of Social Security Administration (SSA) work incentives under Social Security Disability (SSDI), including recent changes in policy and under Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Working while receiving disability benefits is scary for many individuals who are fearful they will lose their benefits, especially health insurance. Understanding how work can impact their benefits is similar to exploring the great frontier. There is so much “unknown” territory. Having the correct information leads to the ability to conquer fear and explore with confidence.

Assessment & Interventions for Individuals with Learning Disabilities  Dr. Robert Arnio  Aspen

Learning Disabilities are one of the main diagnoses for which consumers seek vocational rehabilitation assistance. This presentation will focus on recent research findings in the field of learning disabilities and the relevance of this information to vocational rehabilitation.

3:30pm–5:00pm  Break Out Sessions

Accessing Employment through Community Service Learning Opportunities  CTAT Youth Corps  Cedar Project

This presentation will focus on engaging youth with disabilities in meaningful service opportunities within their communities to develop the skills and habits that lead to successful paid employment. Through a brief panel presentation and then small group discussions, we'll share various ways this approach is being implemented in demonstration projects in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.
Wednesday, October 18, 2006 Continued

3:30pm–5:00pm  Break Out Sessions (continued)

Meth and I on the Lonesome Trail  Jeremy Buchholz  Cottonwood
The session will provide education, symptoms, and understanding the mind of a meth user first hand through his personal story.

Working with a Dual Diagnosis  Caseload  Matthew Markve  Willow
This session will provide an overview to current issues in working with a dual diagnosis caseload. Information on assessment tools, rehabilitation models specific to the dual diagnosis population, strategies for counseling individuals with dual diagnoses and vocational strategies will be among the topics available to the audience. The presenter will focus on key issues facing this population as well as provide information on where to find additional resources.

A Cowboy's Worst Enemy  Run Away Blood Glucose  Helen Nichols  Aspen
This Presentation will be an overview of the current trends in diabetes management.

Assistive Technology Demonstrations  Spruce

Don’t forget the Deadwood Night. Make sure to meet in the Lobby at 5:45pm Wednesday October 18,2006.

Bus leaves promptly at 6:00pm
8:00am-9:30am        Break out Sessions

**Following a Faint Trail to your Employment Destination**  
Mike Callahan  
Cedar

This session will feature a discussion of the concept of **Discovery** as a tool to guide job development efforts. Often job seekers with significant disabilities give us confusing or minimal direction as to their perspectives regarding an ideal job. Discovery is a qualitative process that allows us to avoid the negative results of most vocational assessments by engaging individuals in an intensive exploration of their lives. Even when the trail to the job market is faint, discovery can guide your way.

**Shoot Your Horse or Die and Other Ethical Dilemmas of the Old (and new) West**  
Debra Whitehead  
Cottonwood

In this highly active and interactive program we'll use sample, old west dilemmas along with our real ethical dilemmas. Please enter this program with some ethical puzzlers! We'll explore how we deal with not only the tough decisions we sometimes encounter, but the seemingly ordinary choices as well.

**Cultural Considerations for Providing Vocational Rehabilitation & Job Placement for Native Americans**  
Sissy Goodhouse  
Willow

This session will discuss strategies and considerations that employment specialists and rehabilitation counselors should consider when working with Native Americans with disabilities.

**Cowboy Beans and Other Tips for Managing Blood Glucose**  
Helen Nichols  
Aspen

This Presentation will be an overview of the current recommendations for diabetes self management for optimal blood glucose control.

**The Client Assistance Program: A Partner in Employment of Persons with Disabilities**  
Kyle Kircher  
Spruce

This presentation will provide an overview of South Dakota Advocacy Services, and how the Client Assistance Program can be an asset in the employment process. I will share some of the challenges that CAP encounters, as well as some of the more positive outcomes due to a partnership type of role as opposed to an adversarial role.
Thursday, October 19, 2006 Continued

9:45am-10:45am      General Session
Customized Employment: Don’t be just another Cow in the Herd       Mike Callahan   Ponderosa & Oak
This session will feature the next logical step in the evolution of supported employment – customized employment. In 2001 the US Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) created a new initiative that extends the reach of supported employment. This concept allows each job seeker with a disability to customize their own relationship with an employer instead of joining the “cattle call” at the personnel office.

10:45am-11:45am      General Session
Hi-Ho Silver, Magic Keith Rides Again                    Keith Raymond   Ponderosa & Oak
Have you ever wondered what life is like when there are no rules? Prepare to suspend reality for just a moment. Magician Keith Raymond will show you what happens when chaos meets confusion. Vegas style illusion blends with comedy in a show that has the Minot Daily News saying “It is immediately obvious that he is no amateur at entertaining the audience.”

11:45am-Noon         Closing
Ponderosa & Oak

Thanks for attending the Region VIII Employment Conference!

“Rope’n and Ride’n on the Employment Trail”
Brock Finn

Brock was born and raised in Wyoming, and he's real proud of that. He took a liking to music at a young age. He always sang along with his mother's Elvis records. He played the piano, and then later switched his efforts to the guitar. He began writing songs in his early years of high school. Brock often had dreams of forming a great metal hair band. He wanted to write rock anthems and power love ballads. Then came that Kurt guy from Seattle, and that ruined Brock's dream of becoming the next glam rock god. As the years rolled on, Brock went away to junior college, where he flunked out twice and dropped out once. However, he was throwing some awesome parties off campus, and this gave Brock a chance to share some of his original music. As legend has it, it was during these times that Brock began to perform some of the songs that would lead to his infamy. Songs that make you laugh, yet at the same time, one can not deny the simple genius of this songster from Wyoming. Since then Brock went back to college, and finished! He lives in the hills with his woman and three young ones. He takes pride in living off the land in his custom built tipi! No running water or electricity. Just a camp fire in the middle of the tipi. Now that's country living!
**Hank Harris**

Born into an Air Force family with stops in Florida, Washington DC, Hawaii, Detroit, Virginia, and Guatemala City. College in Georgia, more travel to California, Washington, and Colorado before finally settling in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

With styles ranging from Western Swing, Bluegrass, Rhythm & Blues, Jazz, Pop, and Rock. Hank's various bands have included the Lonesome Prairie Playboys, Red Willow Band, R&B Supply, Sherman & the Waybacks, The Shades, Hank & Christy, D.D. & the Fayrohs, and solo work. Hank continues to tour and occasionally shows his artwork (photography & multimedia) and has a catalog of over 400 songs. Hank is now working as a musical archivist with the Adams Museum and House in Deadwood South Dakota. He is also on The South Dakota Arts Council’s Touring Arts roster, giving him the ability to take The Deadwood Songbook on the road. More information on Hank Harris can be found at his web site: [http://www.hankharris.com/](http://www.hankharris.com/)

**Sissy Goodhouse & Cedric Goodhouse**

To the Lakota people, the drum holds the spirit of ever-present natural energy. The drum lives as the heartbeat of the Lakota. There are four circles surrounding the beat of the heart. The drum is the First Circle; a sacred element which commands deep respect. The rhythm we all dance to comes from the sacred drum. The men sitting around the drum make up the Second Circle and bring forth life. The Third Circle is the Wicaglata; the women singers. The Lakota people believe that women add power to their music. This particular collection of traditional and recently composed Lakota songs can only be described as forceful and stirring. There is an earthy, raw quality to The Third Circle that makes for truly compelling listening. Sissy Goodhouse and Cedric Goodhouse provide us with hypnotic renditions using nature sounds and some spoken word. Their voice is haunting and mild; clear and sad at times.
PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Denise Bissonnette

Her extraordinary success as a job developer led to requests for her to share her expertise with other practitioners and organizations. Soon, as a partner in the firm of Milt Wright & Associates, Denise was in demand throughout North America - delivering seminars to Job Developers and Employment Specialists throughout the Employment and Training field. For over 15 years Denise has been designing and conducting Seminars, through North America, on topics related to employment, job search, career development and workforce diversity. Tens of thousands of Career Development professionals and Employment and Training professionals have been empowered by her programmatic strategies and inspired by her passion and vision. Denise’s presentation will include “Beyond Traditional Job Development”; “Rekindle the Flame”; and “Cultivating the Spirit to Work”.

Matthew Markve

Matthew E. Markve is a Training Specialist for the Region VIII Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program at the University of Northern Colorado. Currently, Matt is conducting research for his doctoral dissertation in Human Rehabilitation at UNC. His dissertation topic is Assistive Technology. In addition to his training duties and educational pursuits, Matthew also serves as an adjunct professor at UNC. Prior to these academic affiliations, Matthew worked as a Substance Abuse/Rehabilitation Counselor at Creative Counseling LLC in Greeley, Colorado. He also has experience as a job coach and residential staff member during his seven-year tenure with Black Hills Special Services. Matthew has experience working with clients in substance abuse programs, supported employment services for adults with developmental disabilities, one-on-one consumer community integration, overcoming physical and attitudinal barriers, as well as multicultural experience working with South Dakota’s Native American population.

Mr. Markve is a professionally trained counselor with a Master of Arts degree in Human Rehabilitation from the University of Northern Colorado in 2002. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of New Mexico in 2000. Matt has also completed collateral studies in Educational Technology / Distance Learning.
Robert (Marshall Bob) Markve

Bob Markve is the Project Director for “Dakota Data” at the Black Hills Special Services Cooperative, Sturgis, SD. He has developed numerous innovative community based vocational options for individuals with disabilities. Mr. Markve’s current work with Dakota Data has developed web based employment opportunities for persons with cognitive disabilities. He has presented at various national conferences on developing employment in rural services and transition services for students with disabilities. He has authored articles including “The Entrepreneurial Model of Supported Employment”, and most recently has done consulting with Rehabilitation programs in the Virgin Islands. Mr. Markve has made significant contributions in the field of vocational rehabilitation services in expanding the diversity of employment options for persons with disabilities.

Gayann Brandenburg

Gayann Brandenburg is a champion of employment for people with disabilities. She works tirelessly to bring the message of employment to all sectors: job seekers with disabilities, staff, business, and bureaucrats. Her beliefs are: quality of life begins with disposable income and collaborative efforts are the foundation of successful employment opportunities.

Gayann has worked in the disability field for over twenty-five years in South Dakota, Minnesota, Alabama, and Colorado. Gayann has an eclectic background in community employment, transition, family support, grant writing, management, and behavioral supports. She currently is the Director of the Region VIII CRP RCEP (Regional Continuing Education Program for Community Rehab Providers, a collaborative agreement with Rehabilitation Services Administration) and the Director of CTAT, Creative Training ~ Accelerating Talent in Denver, Colorado.
Tyler Paris

Come saddled up and ready to ride. Tyler’s career has fashioned a unique perspective on employment for people with disabilities, job development, Social Security benefits and supported employment management. His experiences and creative spirit produces a training style which is concise, easily followed, worthwhile and fun. Regardless of the topic, persons attending Tyler’s training leave with a deeper, fuller and clearer understanding of the topic and the skills necessary to complete the task with greater confidence and effectiveness.

Tyler particularly enjoys taking difficult, complex subjects and transforming them into information everyone can enjoy. Win Social Security’s Money, Maximize Your Slice, Social InSecurity and Social Security Quick Guides cut the complexities of Social Security down to reality. Since coming to CTAT in 1997 Tyler has provided innovation, creativity, humor and entertainment to his customers and colleagues. He has developed numerous trainings, managed CTAT’s Mini-Grant program, directed the Supported Employment Incentive Project, editor of the Field Report and collaborated on many projects requiring creativity, imagination and flair. For the past 12 years Tyler’s commitment to Supported Employment includes serving on state chapter APSE boards in Wyoming and Colorado and is the past president of the Wyoming Association for Persons in Supported Employment (WYAPSE).

Tyler’s previous experience includes insurance agent, radio advertisement salesperson, security guard, low income weatherization project director, self-employed bicycle repair shop owner, consultant and jeweler. He received B.S. and M.P.A. degrees from the University of Wyoming and is a graduate of Stewarts International School for Jewelers.

Dan Rounds

Dan works for the Black Hills Special Services Cooperative and is the Training Coordinator for the Freedom to Work project. He is a 1984 graduate of Northern State University in Aberdeen South Dakota, with a BS degree in Education. Dan has over 18 years of experience working with youth and adults with various disabilities. His positions have consisted of: coordinator of a mental health vocational training program, director of a community based adjustment training center, job developer and training coordinator for state wide systems change projects. Currently, Dan is coordinating the development and delivery of training and technical assistance on work incentives for people with disabilities to various service agencies, employers, consumers and their families.
Dr Greg Cooch

Dr. Greg Cooch is an education professor at the College of Education at Black Hills State University. Dr. Cooch is currently working collaboratively with the South Dakota Office of Special Education to collect data for school districts to determine the post school outcomes of students exiting the K-12 system who were served under IDEA. This process was developed to address Indicator #14 of the SPP/APR which is designed to measure educational and vocational outcomes of students on Individual Education Plans (IEP). School districts are now being required to report these types of findings to comply with the No Child Left Behind legislation.

Bev Petersen

Bev Petersen is a Transition Liaison with the Transition Services Liaison Project (TSLP) since 2001. She graduated from Dakota State College in Madison, SD.

Bev has had the pleasure of working for and with people with disabilities of all ages since graduating from college in 1983. She worked with adults with disabilities at an adjustment training center from 1984-1994; first in residential living settings, then as a case manager for six years. From 1994-2001 she worked for the State-Wide Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center, first as a parent trainer, and the last three years as the Executive Director. The PTI center works primarily with families of children with disabilities from birth-age 21, providing education, training and resources to families.

Now as a Transition Liaison, Bev focuses on families whose children are 16-21 yr. old. The TSLP provides technical assistance and training to students, families, schools and adult service agencies in the area of transition to adulthood issues.
Dave Halverson

Dave Halverson has worked with South Dakota’s Transition Services Liaison Project (TSLP) for the past 4 years. He was a Pilot Site Coordinator for South Dakota’s Transition Systems Change Project from 1997-2001. Prior to starting with TSLP, Dave spent a year providing contract transition services to high schools in the Black Hills Area.

Dave was a Job Developer placing VR Clients from 1995-1997. From 1992 to 1995 he worked as an Employment Specialist at the Rapid City Career Learning Center, specializing in assessments and career counseling for youth dropouts. Dave started in the Business Office at Black Hills Special Services Cooperative in 1990 (after leaving Independence One Bank) and has enjoyed his various assignments with BHSSC over the past 15 years.

Ron Sasso

Ron attended The College of New Jersey and in 1988 received a BA in English. He later received an MS in Counseling and Human Resource Development at South Dakota State University in 1997. Ron has been a Licensed Professional Counselor since 2003. He is a member of the American Counseling Association and is also a National Board Certified Counselor since 1997. Ron is currently the Director of Community Transitions brain injury rehabilitation program. He supervises and coordinates cognitive rehabilitation of persons with brain injuries. His responsibilities also include consulting with interdisciplinary teams, agencies, groups and individuals. He is a past recipient of the Citizen of the Month Award for Rapid City in 1997 for his human services work.
Betsy Valnes

Betsy Valnes currently serves as the Executive Director for the National Youth Leadership Network (NYLN), a national non-profit organization for young people with disabilities. NYLN supports and educates young leaders to work toward increasing the voice of young people in national policy, program development, and youth empowerment. She also serves as an Ex Officio/Mentor with the National Council on Disability Youth Advisory Council. On an international level, she has contributed to inclusion efforts and program planning in Norway, Bosnia-Herzegovina, England, Scotland, Barbados and Canada through programs associated with the World Bank and the United Nations. Betsy contributes to state programs such as the State Independent Living Council, the Traumatic Brain Injury Alliance, and the Youth Leadership Forum. Her primary disability-related interests and skills include education, employment, transition services, cultural diversity, community participation and self-advocacy -- all of which serve as core topics for her inclusion trainings and public presentations.

Kathy West-Evans

The CSAVR Director of Business Relations is from the State of Washington. Kathy has her MPA from Seattle University, a BS from the University of Washington and is a CRC who is fluent in American Sign Language. She has been in the field of rehabilitation since 1978. She started her professional career working as a vocational consultant and manager of the Projects with Industry (PWI) program at the Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center in Seattle. She moved into the Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) in 1983 as a VR counselor for consumers who are deaf, deaf-blind or hard of hearing. Kathy held a number of positions within DVR during her 14-year tenure with the state agency. In addition to her time as a VR counselor, she worked as an assistant regional administrator, a regional business relations specialist, and the Statewide Manager for Business Relations and Marketing. In 1997, Kathy moved to the federal level with the Region X Office of Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) where she worked until July 2005. Kathy was employed as a RSA VR Program Specialist, serving as the State representative to Oregon and Alaska as well as the regional specialist in the areas of employment and business development, the ADA, training, CSPD, PWI, and services to individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind or hard of hearing. She served on the planning committee for the RSA – CSAVR National Employment Conferences in 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004. Kathy is the co-founder of the ACCESS - conference, job fair, technology and resource expo for business and people with disabilities, held annually in the Seattle area since 1994.
Jeff Bathke

Jeff Bathke earned his bachelors degree from the University of South Dakota in 1995 in Psychology with a major emphasis on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Since that time he has been employed in a variety of alcohol and drug abuse programs in the role of a counselor, supervisor, and director. Currently Jeff is employed as a Program Administrator for the South Dakota Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Mr. Bathke is currently an Advisory Board Member for the University of South Dakota, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Department. Jeff lives in Mitchell and enjoys spending time with his wife, Michelle, and their three children.

Robert H. Arnio, Ph.D

Robert H. Arnio, PhD, is a licensed psychologist and marriage and family therapist. He is a Clinical Professor at University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Assistant Professor at South Dakota State University. He has been a consultant for South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services for over fifteen years.

For the past twenty-five years, Dr. Arnio has been in private practice in the Rapid City area where he is the founder of Psychological Associates of the Black Hills and more recently, Learning Solutions. Throughout his career Dr. Arnio has earned multiple awards for outstanding service and leadership from the South Dakota and American Psychological Associations, including the Karl F. Heiser Award for Advocacy in 1995. In 1997, he was awarded Outstanding Health Care Professional by the Governor’s Advisory Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.
Elaine Doll-Dunn

Elaine has earned four degrees, and a reading specialist endorsement, run 111 marathons, climbed Devils Tower, climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, ran from the Atlantic to the Pacific, (sixty miles across Panama) to celebrate her sixtieth birthday, and fought cancer to a draw. She has taught in the Spearfish school system for twenty-eight years while concurrently teaching nights and weekends for South Dakota State University, Black Hills State University and The University of Mary. She started the cross-country running program for women at BHSU, and coached them for six years. She also coached the junior high program for two years. She does consulting and inspirational speaking nation wide, and has presented at the international level in Toronto, Canada and Niehaus, Germany. Elaine will be presenting to the audience inspirational ways to accomplish life’s goals.

Nancy Freeman

Nancy believes in people and encouraging them to reach for the extraordinary. She finds success in encouraging those around her to excel, to always become the best in their chosen fields. As a progressive, creative manager, director, recruiter, business owner, consultant, and vice-president she has trained people for over 20 years. She has extensive experience in Sales, Marketing, Human Resources, Education, and Community Employment for people with disabilities, Program Services specializing in Traumatic Brain Injury survivors, and Political and Military Liaison work, in for-profit and not-for-profit fields.

Her success in training comes from a passion for learning. These trainings incorporate accelerated learning that empowers the mind, the body and the soul in a fun environment meant to help you retain and utilize vital information. Attending one of her trainings will give you important principles, strategies and a high level of energy. You will receive creative tools that will enhance your work and your life so that you can soar to new heights and achieve success.
Esther R. Medina

Esther Medina has a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and has worked for the Social Security Administration for 16 years, serving people with disabilities. She is currently the Area Work Incentives Coordinator (AWIC) for Area I of the Denver Region (North and South Dakota, Montana and Utah). She serves as an expert on SSA work incentives and promotes through education, the understanding and use of SSA employment support programs. She conducts and/or coordinates training for the public as well as other SSA employees. She is located in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Jeremy Buchholz

Jeremy has in-depth personal knowledge of Methamphetamine, including its manufacturing, distribution and use. Jeremy has served prison time and been associated with prison gangs as a result of his familiarity with this highly addictive and illegal drug. Jeremy was appointed by Governor Rounds in 2004 to serve on the Governor’s Statewide Methamphetamine Task Force.

Jeremy co-authored an in depth manual concerning all aspects of Methamphetamines in 2002 with Mathias E. Stricherz, Ed.D of the University of South Dakota. They presented this information to the South Dakota Governor’s Conference for Methamphetamines and the staff and consumers at the Wakpala treatment center in Mobridge, S.D. Jeremy offers detailed information concerning his personal drug use and the dangers of Methamphetamines.

Jeremy continues in his recovery and now leads a sober lifestyle. He currently works for Capital Area Counseling Service, Inc. in Pierre, S.D. as a case manager for adults who have serious mental illnesses. He provides in-service training to the Capital Area Counseling clinical staff and to staff at the Central South Dakota Teen Court.
Helen Nichols

Helen Nichols is a Registered Dietitian, Licensed Nutritionist, and a Certified Diabetes Educator. Ms. Nichols graduated from South Dakota State University in 1986 and did a three year pre-planned dietetic work experience at the South Dakota Developmental Center in Custer, SD. She is currently a consulting dietitian for several organizations in the Black Hills area, including the Northern Hills General Hospital and the Black Hills Special Services Cooperative. She is the president of the Mount Rushmore Chapter of Diabetes Educators. She is an active member of the American Diabetes Association and several other organizations that are committed to preventing diabetes and improving the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

Ms. Nichols enjoys exercise and is an ACE certified fitness instructor. She uses her expertise in fitness during sessions with clients. For exercise she likes to ride bike; Helen and her husband ride one long road bike ride a year, (a 7 day trip held this year in New York State). She also enjoys cross country skiing, running, and mountain biking. Her dog often joins her for exercise, too.

Ms. Nichols also likes to cook and sometimes can be found on the schedule at “Someone's in the Kitchen” in Rapid City for a healthy cooking class. You can find some of Ms. Nichol’s recipes on the KOTA Territory News website.

Michael Callahan

Michael has consulted throughout the US, Canada and Europe in the area of supported employment for the past twenty-three years. He has worked with Marc Gold & Associates (MG&A) since 1979 and has served as president of the organization. MG&A is a network of consultants that provides technical assistance to systems, agencies and families interested in insuring the complete community participation of persons with severe disabilities.

Mike also studied vocational rehabilitation while at Syracuse University in a doctoral studies program. He is an editor of a popular “how-to” book on employment for persons with severe disabilities, Getting Employed, Staying Employed (1987) and co-author of Keys to the Work Place (1997) a text on systematic instruction and natural supports in supported employment. He has written numerous articles, chapters, manuals and curriculums pertaining to employment of persons with disabilities. Michael is the vice-president of Employment for All.
Debra E. Whitehead

Debra's trainings sparkle with the excitement that comes from participants being active and sharing their profound epiphanies along with their humorous observations of life as it relates to working and living with others. Since 1979 Debra has worked with people from all levels of for profit, nonprofit, union, and nonunion environments, facilitating processes for individuals and groups to help them become more effective in working together. Through her work as a special education teacher, a human resources director, a consultant, and a trainer, she has been helping people to become inspired, discover their powerful gifts, and make positive changes for themselves, their teammates, and their customers. Debra also brings insights from being a full time step-parent for a young man with disabilities.

In September 2000, Debra became a member of the CTAT Training team. Working with individuals and groups, she specializes in coaching and training leaders and teams to create effective and positive change. She uses training techniques that create fun and gentle, yet powerful, opportunities for personal discovery and change.

Sissy Goodhouse

Sissy Goodhouse is the Director of the 121 Native American Vocational Rehabilitation Program for Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Ms. Goodhouse’s program provides services in both South Dakota and North Dakota. Section 121 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998 authorizes discretionary grants to governing bodies of Indian Tribes located on Federal and State reservations for the provision of vocational rehabilitation services for American Indians with disabilities residing on or near such reservations.
Kyle R. Kircher

Kyle has been with South Dakota Advocacy Services since July 2000. He works specifically in the areas of Special Education, Rehabilitation, Employment, Housing and Abuse and Neglect, and spends a lot of time working on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Kyle has and continues to make himself available to present disability related information to South Dakotans with disabilities, their families, friends and other service providers. He currently serves as Vice-chair on the Governor’s Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, and is a member of a National Abuse and Neglect Work Group. Kyle has also volunteered with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Black Hills, CASA, and provides some pro-bono investigations for victims of abuse and neglect, and is a life time member of the DAV.

Kyle has an Associate in Specialized Technology degree in Investigation and Security, a Bachelor of Science degree in Paralegal Studies and a Master of Science degree in Social Work. Kyle is a Black Hills native. He was born and raised in the rural Sturgis area, which he still calls home. He retired from the US Army in 1996, and he and his wife make Rapid City their home. Kyle spends his hobby time golfing, fishing, and camping in the Black Hills.
Booths / Exhibitors

- Black Hills Special Services Cooperative-Benefits Specialist
- Community Transitions
- CSD (Communication Services for the Deaf)
- CTAT Training
- Dakotalink
- Learning Solutions of the Black Hills
- Fischer Farm
- Region VIII General RCEP at UNC
- SD Council on Development Disabilities
- Social Security Administration
- South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities/ FTW Project/SILC/State Rehabilitation Council / DBTAC
- Transition Services Liaison Project (BHSSC)
- Youth Services - CTAT
Thank You for Your Support!!

Watch for the Upcoming MID WINTER Conference scheduled for March 5, 6, & 7, 2007 in Pierre SD