

Viewpoint



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Viewpoint

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2004 ARPCT Conference in Tucson, AZ March 3-5 “Creating Possibilities”

By Joseph Quinn

We are excited to announce that this year’s ARPCT Annual Conference will take place in Tucson, Arizona March 3-5, 2004 at the Marriott Tucson University Park.

The Conference will also be held in conjunction with the CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) National Conference. ARPCT member Dot Kret and Associates will be the conference host.

“Creating Possibilities” will be the theme of this year’s conference. Inspired by a quote from Judy Heumann,

a life-long disability rights activist and a good friend of the ARPCT.

“For people without disabilities, technology makes things convenient.” Judy said in her 2002 keynote address to ARPCT members, “for people with disabilities, technology makes things **possible**.”

We want to carry this theme throughout conference presentations, from creating possibilities in curriculum development through advances in e-learning, to creating new models to “stay in business,” to new funding sources, online mentoring, technology innovations, IT



2004 Conference Hotel will be the Marriott Tucson University Park

careers and more.

March is a spectacular time of the year for our conference host city, Tucson. Baseball spring training sea-

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2003 ARPCT Outstanding Achievement Award Winners

By Trevor Van Eerden

The following awards were presented at this year’s conference in Oakland, CA. Each of the nominations this year contained stories of dedication, perseverance,

diligence and success. However, the following award winners were selected not only for their individual contributions and successes, but for their influence and exemplary support of their communities, organizations, programs, and

classmates.

Program of the Year

- Computers PLUS! – San Francisco Vocational Services

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Tucson, AZ host city for March 2004 ARPCT Annual Conference

continued...

(Continued from page 1)

son begins, and the desert is in bloom. We are planning a special dinner and private star show at the Flandrau Planetarium for Thursday eve. Check out www.ARPCT.org for updates about the conference program and special events.

The conference will be held at the Marriott Tucson University Park, and rooms will be available at a special conference rate of \$134/night for a double or single room. Room reservations can be made by calling Marriott reser-

vations at 800.228.9290.

The conference registration fee will be \$395 for ARPCT or CARF members, with an "early registration" fee of \$295 if you register for the conference before 1/19/04. The fee for non-ARPCT members will be \$495. Other discounts are available. See the ARPCT website for Conference registration forms and discount information.

The International Association of Rehabilitation Programs in Computer Tech-

nology (ARPCT) and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) will coordinate schedules to offer you valuable information and learning opportunities.

In addition, there will be opportunity for member programs of both organizations to learn more about SkillSoft online training and administration.

We look forward to seeing you in the desert in March!

2003 Outstanding Achievement Awards continued...

(Continued from page 1)

Student of the Year –

- Ms. Juanita Esqueda - Computers PLUS! – San Francisco Vocational Services

BAC Member/s of the Year

- Ainsley Nies, Hewlett Packard, BAC Chairperson for the Computer Technologies Program (CTP), Berkeley
- Bill Beyer, Louisiana State

University, BAC President for the Computer Rehabilitation Program (CRT), LSU

ARPCT Member of the Year

- Joe Quinn, ARPCT Vice President, Director of Training, Computer Technologies Program (CTP), Berkeley

ARPCT would like to extend congratulations to all of our 2003 outstanding award recipients!



ARPCT 2003 Award Winners: John Peterson and Rachael Flynn, SF Voc Services (Program); Juanita Esqueda (Student, SF Voc); Kim Seeger for Bill Beyer (BAC-LSU); and from CTP-Berkeley, Joe Quinn (Member) and Ainsley Nies (BAC)

EditU Migration of My SmartForce to SkillPort Announcement

by Robert Leneway

ARPCT members who have been using My SmartForce online learning will need to be re-enrolled in the new, improved Skillsoft SkillPort multi-modal online learning system. Access to EditU/My SmartForce will be terminated as of January 12, 2004. If you still qualify as a person with a disability and/or a professional that serves and/or instructs adult learners with disabilities,

and have not already been enrolled in the new EditU/Skillport online learning management system, you need to contact your local training manager/instructor to enroll in Skillport.



Current My SmartForce training data and reports will not migrate to the new system. If you need to document your online learning progress, you may want to either print out or download your personal learning report by January 12. For more information, please contact Dr. Robert Leneway, EditU Chief Administrator (and ARPCT Treasurer) at bob.leneway@wmich.edu.

SkillSoft Offers ARPCT Graduates Exciting Online Training Opportunity

By Robert Leneway

As of September, 2003, Graduates from an ARPCT Member Program may be-



come Associate Members for only \$50 per year. Membership entitles you access to the New SKILLPORT courses. SkillSoft offers hundreds of courses in Information Technology, and Business Skills, including most IT certification areas. Browse the web catalog at www.skillsoft.com.

If you have alumni/graduates interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please let them know they should do the following:

Send a \$50.00 check to:
ARPCT Treasurer
3210 Sangren
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Include the alumni/graduate's name, email address, mailing address, ARPCT Member Program Name and graduation date.

If a graduate contacts ARPCT directly, the program that they have graduated from will be contacted for verification. The local program staff will maintain the administrative control of their ARPCT Associate Members, such that if the associate membership is dropped, the local training member program is responsible for removing their access to SkillPort courses.

Graduate Associate Members are encouraged to share their experiences with online learning with both you and the EditU staff (bob.leneway@wmich.edu).

2004 ARPCT Outstanding Achievement Awards Now Accepting Nominations

By Kimberly Seeger

Time sure flies when you're having fun and keeping busy and so many ARPCT members have been extremely busy the past few months. It is at these times that our MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS need to be recognized. Take a few minutes to nominate those individuals or programs that deserve appreciation for their efforts.

Awards will be presented at the next International ARPCT Conference Awards Luncheon in Tucson on March 4, 2004.

Nominations are being accepted for:

Outstanding ARPCT Member Program of the Year

Outstanding ARPCT Member of the Year (for an individual)

Outstanding ARPCT Business Advisory Council Member of the Year

Outstanding ARPCT Student of the Year

To submit a nomination, you must be an ARPCT member or BAC member. You may nominate your own program or any other ARPCT program. Nomination forms are available on the website at www.arpct.org or send/email a note describing the nominee to:

Kimberly Seeger
ARPCT Executive Committee
Secretary
KSeeger@Eatel.Net

Nominating your program, students and BAC members is a great way to gain recognition for your program and honor its achievements!

Or 18677 Old Cypress Circle
Prairieville, LA 70769

Deadline for submission is February 15, 2004.

For more information contact Kim at 225.677.9588.

Golf Tourney Proceeds Creative Way to Help Maintain Denver Program

Adapted from "Inside CCD (Community College of Denver) on the Web" article

The 17th Annual Computer Classic held on June 23, was not just another charity golf tournament. There's golf and there's fundraising, but there also are 30 people facing significant and seemingly insurmountable challenges to employment every year who get computer training, job skills and eventually a job through the Computer Training for People with Disabilities program at Community College of Denver.

One of that program's most successful graduates played in the tournament, using orange golf balls. Rita Raines came to CTPD after a congenital abnormality effected her eyesight and ended her nursing career. Using software that makes the computer accessible for someone who is visually impaired, Rita learned some new job skills and gained self-confidence. She now works for Kaiser Permanente – no longer as a nurse, but as an administrative assistant. She will work part-time while she pursues her bachelor's degree.

Huck Sawyer had a promising career and a passion for music. He had a bachelor's degree and was recording music. Then one day, multiple sclerosis changed everything Huck loved to do.

He couldn't walk and he could no longer play the guitar. Without the training he got from CTPD, Huck



Rita Raines, CTP-Denver graduate and staff member, Rie Kenkel, trade golf tips

might still be unemployed. Instead, he is self sufficient, working for VICORP on the computer help desk and mulling over his options for the future.

Rita challenges other golfers to challenge themselves. Going blind halfway through her life was scary. Rita learned everything she knew how to do all over again, including golf. CTPD gave her the skills and the self-confidence to get a job and continue her education. Rita placed her orange golf ball on the tee in honor of her fellow students and the

ones to come, most of whom never expected they would need a program like CTPD. Golf tournament proceeds help keep the program running in a slow economy.

The annual Computer Classic raises thousands of dollars each year that buy computers, specialized software and pay for instructors to teach this unique population of adult students. The current economic slump and state budget cuts have jeopardized community college programs across Colorado. This year, the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will match the golf tournament proceeds and help keep CTPD going.

CTPD has benefited from the community's and its own Business Advisory Council's support. "Everyone associated with CTPD has a huge passion for trying to get people with disabilities into the workforce. That passion is what keeps this program going," said CTPD Director Rie Kenkel.

Last year, Rie said the golf tournament earnings paid for a high-speed scanner that instructors use to import textbooks into computers with Digital Screen Reader software that speak the text to visually impaired students.

ODEP Awards National Mentoring Grant to Partners for Youth with Disabilities

Partners for Youth with Disabilities (PYD) was recently awarded a grant from the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). At the 2003 ARPCT confer-



PYD will discuss funding for mentorship programs at the Tucson Conference

ence in Oakland this year, Boston-based Partners gave a presentation and live demonstration of PYD's Partners On Line (POL) mentorship program.

ODEP, itself another 2003 ARPCT conference presenter, awarded the grant so that PYD can establish a National Disability Mentoring Coun-

cil and award funding to organizations throughout the country that are starting, sustaining or expanding mentoring programs for youth with disabilities. PYD will make a return visit to the ARPCT conference in Tucson to recruit members as potential POL test sites and to give info about the grant RFP's.

Reviews are in: ARPCT's 25th Anniversary Conference in Oakland at Hit!

By Joseph Quinn

The 25th Anniversary ARPCT Annual Conference held at the Waterfront Plaza Hotel in Oakland was "fantastic," "a great overall conference experience," had "cutting edge info," "set the bar for future conferences" and was "one of the best, most interesting conferences I've ever attended," according to evaluations from ARPCT members. The Computer Technologies Program (CTP) in Berkeley was proud to be the host program for this year's conference.

The conference got off to a rousing and inspirational welcome by the founder of the Computer Technologies Program, Neil Jacobson, current Executive Vice President at Wells Fargo Bank and Linda Pratt, CTP's Board President and Computer Resource Manager at UC Berkeley. Neil's message was that 25 years ago when he was one of the founding members of the ARPCT, he never dreamed that the organization would still be needed in 25 years. But indeed, he finds in the current economic and political climate, the ARPCT is needed now more than ever to insure that people with disabilities have the opportunity to move into the economic mainstream of society. Linda, a CTP graduate, gave a personal account of how valuable and life-changing the training provided by ARPCT member organizations can be.

SkillSoft presentations were a conference highlight, especially as presented by the tag team of Dennis Brown, founding Member of SkillSoft and John Peterson of San Francisco Vocational Service. Dennis gave a talk about the importance of SkillSoft's strategy of making e-learning accessible to all, and John gave a very effective first person account of how this ARPCT member

organization is successfully integrating SkillSoft e-learning into its curriculum.

The "Project Sharing" was noted as a particular favorite by many of the con-



Joan Breves accepts the 2003 Willard Scott Award from Willard Scott, himself!

ference participants, who were pleased that this part of the program was moved to the first day, allowing members to follow-up with each other over the course of the conference. Other conference presentations included Corporate Coaching, On-line Mentoring, The Lift Model, Putting Pizzaz in the Classroom, The Future of the Disability Rights Movement, and a luncheon meeting with Russell Harris of the Office of Disability Employment Policy.

A Gala 25th Anniversary Reception was held at the rooftop Panoramic Room of the landmark Gaia Building in Berkeley to celebrate this important ARPCT milestone. ARPCT members were dazzled by the panoramic view of the Bay and Golden Gate Bridge, while dining on "Nuevo Latino" food from Berkeley's Café de la Paz. Music was provided by the "Blues Daddies." Bob Leneway gave a hilarious rendition of ARPCT's storied history via his particular slant of the game show "Who wants to be an ARPCT Millionaire?". Werner Schultz of the Vancouver BC

project proved that Canadians are indeed the smartest people on the planet by winning the ARPCT "millions". Joan Breves, CTP's Executive Director, was this year's recipient of the "Willard Scott Award," presented by Willard himself, for her contributions to ARPCT and particularly for her encouragement and support of new members over the past 20 years.

The final day of the conference brought together panelists representing Silicon Valley and other West Coast Technology companies to discuss industry trends and what the future holds for the Information Technology world, and how that might impact our programs and students. Many attendees said they found the information presented in this panel to be extremely helpful, "great input from a diverse group," as one evaluator put it. Many asked that this kind of program become a fixture of future conferences. We ended the conference by gathering members to envision ARPCT's own future, capturing ideas that the ARPCT Executive Committee will follow up on during meetings as we plan next year's conference.

Our thanks to all those who gave presentations, our volunteers and for those who participated as attendees at this year's exciting conference. See you at the 2004 Conference in Tucson!



Members celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ARPCT at a Gala Reception in the Panoramic Room atop Berkeley's landmark Gaia Building.



Viewpoint

Viewpoint is published quarterly. This publication is designed to provide news and information about technology, issues that effect the disability community and ARPCT member programs.

Are you interested in contributing articles? Share your program's successes and innovations? Email your articles to: jquinn@ctpberk.org

To become an ARPCT Member

Please contact Bob Leneway, ARPCT Treasurer at 269.387.2053 or Email: bob.leneway@wmich.edu

Notes from the Editor

In the face of increasing funding, marketing and employment challenges, many of our ARPCT member programs continue to successfully "create possibilities" in technology-related careers for our graduates. One of the great benefits of ARPCT membership is being able to learn about the best practices and innovations of other programs, and share the successes of our own program with others. Participants at the annual conference always note the remarkable camaraderie and generosity among members.

So...considering a trip to Tucson? Here's what members had to say about their 2003 ARPCT Conference in Oakland:
"a great overall conference experience"
"cutting edge info" "one of the best, most interesting conferences I've ever attended"
"fantastic!"

If you are a "regular" at the annual conferences, you know what an excellent opportunity to learn and share it presents. If you've never been to an ARPCT Conference, or it's been a while since you attended, come to Tucson this March and help to "Create Possibilities" of your own!

Joe Quinn, Viewpoint Editor

Letter to the Members from the President

by Steve Lawrence

Dear ARPCT Members and Colleagues:

Twenty six years ago a dedicated group of educators, disability professionals and corporate business people worked to build a model for a computer training program for people with disabilities.

Today ARPCT represents more than 65 diverse career-oriented members in North America. We've come a long way! ARPCT's 26th Annual Conference will be held in Tucson, Arizona on March 3rd through 5th, 2004. Mark your calendar and register now! The

agenda will be jam-packed with important information. We will also feature a hands-on wireless SkillSoft user training session.

The cost of air fares is very low right now. Our hotel for the conference is located in the heart of Tucson and just a few blocks from great sightseeing and restaurants. You can call the Marriott Tucson University Park now at 800.228.9290 to book your room at special ARPCT Conference rates (\$134/night). Go to our website at www.arpct.org for registration information and updates about this exciting

conference.

We appreciate your support for ARPCT's mission to provide an exchange of ideas and tools among members for the benefit of our students, and I look forward to seeing you in Tucson.



Steven C. Lawrence, President, ARPCT
 Email: steve@arpct.org