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2007 ARPCT Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada

Mark your calendars now for the 2007 ARPCT Conference to be held at the Green Valley Resort in Las Vegas (Henderson), Nevada on April 30 – May 3, 2007. Once again ARPCT will be able to take advantage of the generosity of SkillSoft and conduct its conference within the larger SkillSoft's Perspectives 2007 conference.

As in past years, ARPCT members will have a reduced conference fee of approximately \$200.00, which is an exceptional value. Conference hotel room rates will be approximately \$160 per night at the four-diamond Green Valley Resort, but food costs will be minimal once the conference begins. Conference registration fees include a cocktail reception, three breakfasts, two lunches, refreshment breaks, an awesome awards dinner, and a special event. There will be no additional cost to attend ARPCT portion of the conference since SkillSoft provides meeting rooms to ARPCT at no cost. In addition to the food and special



events, ARPCT members will have an opportunity to learn from leading industry experts in a program designed for SkillSoft's corporate customers. It is an opportunity rarely available to most ARPCT member programs. See the article "2006 ARPCT/SkillSoft Conference Recap" for excerpts on the value of the conference to ARPCT members.

Additional information regarding the SkillSoft Perspectives and ARPCT 2007 Conference will be provided in a spring newsletter and on the ARPCT website as it becomes available. You are encouraged to set aside travel funds now to attend and network with others dedicated to providing premier training programs for individuals with disabilities.

2006 ARPCT Awards for Outstanding Achievement

By: Janis Krohe

ARPCT announces its 2006 awards. Although all member programs are worthy of recognition for their efforts this past year, we would like to recognize the following:

Outstanding ARPCT Member Program of the Year

- **Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center**, Fishersville, Virginia has provided IT training and been a model program for ARPCT for more than 20 years. Its TRAIN IT program offers flexible and individualized home and community training in partnership with Virginia Department of Rehabilitation Services, other Workforce partners, and corporate sponsors. WWRC is often recognized by Virginia's Division of Rehabilitation Services and highlighted for its success with the Governor of Virginia.

Outstanding ARPCT Business Advisory Council Member of the Year

- **Nancy Zylla, Smith Micro Technologies, MRC BAC Member**, Minneapolis, Minnesota has been instrumental in developing job shadows and permanent employment in the technology field for the students graduating from the MRC Computer Technician Training course. She has also taken an active role in facilitating training sessions in the areas of customer service and employer expectations for MRC students.

Outstanding ARPCT Student of the Year

- **Ron Pennington, Salt Lake Community College Skills Center**, Salt Lake City, Utah, graduated from the program with A+ certification and was hired as a Projects With Industry Coach.

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President's Message

This is my first communication to the ARPCT membership since assuming the President's position at the annual ARPCT Conference held in May 2006. I want to thank Trevor Van Eerden for his leadership over the past year and his willingness to assume the secretary position that became vacant. I look forward to serving the membership in the next year and hope that I will be able to meet many of you in person at the ARPCT annual conference to be held in May 2007. Look for the 2007 conference announcement elsewhere in this issue.

I have a personal goal of increasing communication among members through publication of the newsletter. If you have newsletter articles or brief announcements, please submit your ideas to me or other Board members. The Board also seeks to increase communication through an update of the ARPCT website. The last website update occurred over three years ago and it is time for a new look. We are asking members to make certain we have correct contact and program information so this can be

included. Also, members can have greater impact on the organization by serving on the Executive Committee. Please note that a Vice President position on the Executive Committee has not been filled and will remain vacant until next year's conference. Please consider nominating yourself or someone else for this position.

Lastly, the greatest value of this organization is the networking and sharing of ideas among its members. I encourage you to share the value of ARPCT with your colleagues and encourage them to join this group and attend the next conference. I have always found the annual conference to be energizing, and bringing more agencies with a common interest of providing computer training programs for individuals with disabilities into the fold will help us all learn more from one another.

Best regards,
Janis Krohe
ARPCT President

ARPCT Website Undergoes Redesign

At the 2006 ARPCT Conference conducted in Miami in May, the ARPCT Board voted unanimously to provide funds for a redesign of the ARPCT website. The current website has been in existence since 2002. The Board approved funds for a graduate student from the University of Michigan to develop a new ARPCT logo and a more user friendly website that will better serve current members and help to recruit new members. Continue to watch for the new ARPCT website at www.arpct.org. A launch of the new website is anticipated by the end of 2006.



2006 ARPCT/Skillsoft Conference Recap

By: Bob Leneway

Soft warm sea breezes, steel drums, umbrella drinks, great food and the buzz of the top learning products and experts in online learning greeted this year's ARPCT conference attendees at the Grand Hyatt, Miami Beach at the 2006 ARPCT conference, May 1-4, 2006. For the second year in row ARPCT held a joint annual conference with Skillsoft Inc. For ARPCT attendees this arrangement provided both the opportunity to network with employees and corporate trainers and to learn about the best practices and common issues in training students with disabilities. It was four days of opportunity to learn about the use of Skillsoft by both other ARPCT members along with over 400 of the world top corporate, government and educational online learning leaders. After a sumptuous opening reception, Skillsoft's top executives shared Skillsoft's exciting new directions in learning in I.T., business, compliance, professional and personal development learning in a renewed effort to keep it rated as the world's top provider of corporate

quality online learning. This was followed by three days of both keynote and concurrent sessions on how exciting new products such as Dialogue will reinvent the classroom.

At the ARPCT session, the attending programs continued the long tradition of sharing their successes and challenges. Janis Krohe, VP of Employment Services of the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation, was selected by the membership to become ARPCT's President for the next two years. After two outstanding years as ARPCT President, Trevor Van Eerden stepped aside to assist President Krohe in a new role as ARPCT's Secretary. After thanking Van Eerden for his dedicated service to ARPCT, newly elected President Krohe outlined her goal of increasing membership and services, such as a new ARPCT website and republication of the ARPCT newsletter, *VIEWPOINT*.

Based on this year's successful partnership with Skillsoft, arrangements are already



being planned for ARPCT to be part of the 2007 Skillsoft Perspectives conference, which is returning April 30 to May 3, 2007 back at Green Valley Resort Ranch near Las Vegas. If you missed this year's ARPCT conference, you need to start planning how to be a part of next year's exciting conference. Please forward your ideas for what you would like the conference to include or if you would like to make a presentation to Janis Krohe at janisk@cprf.org. So, get ready for some high stakes fun at the 2007 ARPCT/Skillsoft Perspectives Conference.

ARPCT Newest Member is A Familiar Face

By: Janis Krohe

South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department becoming the newest member to join ARPCT is like re-connecting with an old friend. SCVRD was one of the early members of ARPCT some 20 years ago. As staff changed, the connection to ARPCT became lost. Jim Williams, SCVRD Project Administrator, found ARPCT once again when conducting a web search. ARPCT is happy to welcome SCVRD back.

The SCVRD Information Technology Training Center completes its 22nd successful year of preparing and placing South Carolinians with significant physical disabilities in computer-related fields. As many of the early ARPCT members, the SCVRD program evolved from its initial mission of training people with physical disabilities to work as mainframe computer programmers, into a multifaceted program that trains individuals in (1) Computer Systems Technology/Programming, (2) Computer Aided Drafting and Design/Geographic Information Sys-



tems, (3) Business Applications Plus, and (4) Personal Computer Repair/Help Desk.

The Information Technology Training Center uses a highly selective process of screening applicants to seek out enthusiastic, ambitious trainees capable of facing the challenge of the rigorous classroom schedule designed to prepare them for job readiness in their prospective field. In addition to

the technical skills offered through the curriculum, students receive training in other skills necessary to succeed in the business world through SCVRD's Center for Comprehensive Programs. The Evaluation Center, the Muscular Development Center and the Rehabilitation Technology Center all provide services as needed. The program's modern facilities are adjacent to an 18-room, 24-bed dormitory used by trainees from across the state.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department takes pride in its Information Technology Training Center graduates and the contributions they make to their employers because of their training. In the past 22 years, the program has put 89.1% of its graduates into competitive employment.

For further information contact:
Jim Williams, Project Administrator
Email: jwilliams1@scvrd.state.sc.us

The Power of the Possible

By: Dot Kret

"For people without disabilities, technology makes things convenient; for people with disabilities, technology makes things possible." -Judy Heumann

ARPCT helps to make things possible. By providing training, assistance and support to people with disabilities, rehabilitation agencies teach the technology which makes employment possible.

Who would have thought that someone who can't speak and can barely walk could get a job... much less become a valued employee? Emily did.

As she faced a life in which her ability to function would be gradually and steadily diminished due to neuromuscular dystonia, Emily chose to enter the world of work. She could have stayed home and collected Social Security and the myriad of benefits available to people with severe disabilities, but she chose to attend Dorothy Kret & Associates computer training program, came to class – and went to work - instead.

As Emily attended the computer training program every day, DKA staff was impressed by her diligence, intelligence and sparkling personality. Her positive attitude affected everyone and resulted in an infectious epidemic of good will throughout the office!

DKA nominated Emily for the 2005 ARPCT Outstanding Achievement Award to honor a woman who epitomizes courage, strength and hope; who works hard and earned the success she so richly deserves. And we were not surprised when she won.

But we won as well. The knowledge that each DKA staff member played a role in helping Emily achieve the possible made it a shared success. The morale boost for the organization was palatable as we were all re-committed to the concept of recognizing the possible and achieving the potential. In addition, the recognition for Emily and DKA through an *Arizona Daily Star* newspaper article entitled, "Silence Speaks: Worker Can't Utter a Word But Earns Respect of Others," helped to spread the word about the organization and further its mission.

There is only one Emily. But there are others like her... in our program and yours. People who face life with courage... who have hope... and who dream of working and being successful. We encourage you to nominate them next Spring for the 2007 Student of the Year award. You will be glad you did!

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Ron has become a strong advocate for people with all kinds of disabilities and has expanded his coaching skills to be inclusive of all those within the program. He prepares students to test and pass the IC3, A+, and MOS certification, and excels at motivating and encouraging students.

Plan now to nominate your program (or a colleague's program), BAC members, students, and individual members for the 2007 Awards to be presented at the 2007 annual conference in Las Vegas. Look for Award Nominations to be distributed in the Spring.

Member Perspective: ARPCT Conference is a Valuable Resource

By: Mary Carter

ARPCT, Oakland, CA - 2003

In 2003 when I attended my first ARPCT conference in Berkeley, CA, I was newly employed with the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas, Inc as instructor/assistant director of the School of Adaptive Computer Training in Atlanta. My project at the time was to redesign the training curriculum and investigate the role e-learning might have in it. Hello EditU and the SkillSoft partnership of web-based learning! Workshops were available for users at every level including mine, "The Beginner." Along the way, I also learned about the Rolling Quads and the origin of curb cuts. After all we were in Berkeley.

ARPCT, Tucson, AZ - 2004

By now I had a whole library of e-courses, simulations, SkillBriefs and so on in my head, but how to make them a piece of our instructor led curriculum? The answer was blended learning. Many members spoke about Projects With Industry (PWI) grants, sharing their own stories. Now, these were things I needed to know this time around. Both blended learning and PWI survival were part of the Berkeley conference, but I hadn't been ready to hear about it. ARPCT Conferences are informative, personal, and thorough. When I was ready to learn, I could find the help I needed.

ARPCT/SkillSoft, Las Vegas, NV - 2005

After the SmartForce/SkillSoft merger, the big question was would SkillSoft continue to support ARPCT in the manner to which we had become accustomed – free courseware, tech support, participation in the ARPCT conferences. And the answer was, "Yes", in a big way. This was one of the most productive conferences I've ever attended. All of the ARPCT Conference advantages I experienced in Berkeley and Tucson were simply embedded into the SkillSoft annual conference of global network for e-training. Within the SkillSoft Conference, ARPCT members had plenty of networking and project-sharing time and ARPCT was given conference meeting room space as well as breakfast, lunch, dinner, receptions, and break refreshments. An added benefit of the ARPCT conference

held in conjunction with the SkillSoft conference was the opportunity to listen to well-known speakers, participate in break out sessions conducted by SkillSoft trainers and business partners experienced in e-training, and rub shoulders with the corporate world.

ARPCT/SkillSoft, Miami, FL - 2006

I remember this part of the ARPCT mission statement, "ARPCT member programs develop partnerships among businesses, government and private rehabilitation service organizations, people with disabilities, and education and training facilities." What an opportunity we had to develop such partnerships. I've listed the SkillSoft events below because none of them was designed to sell a product. Rather each one provided up-to-date successful models related to learning and learners in the business world. I hope this gives you the flavor of what you might see if you attend next year's conference.

SkillPort® Lab: SkillPort for Administrators

Hands-on experience with several new SkillSoft capabilities with plenty of SkillPort experts for Q&A.

Dorman Woodall Panel on Generational Learning Solutions

Panel-led discussion of developing learning that will appeal to the newer generations in the workplace.

Using KnowledgeCenters and Blended Learning to Provide Targeted Training Solutions

Xerox with SkillSoft created an integrated, e-learning infrastructure. These learning programs are targeted to the needs of diverse learning population.

Bringing On-Demand Learning to Work

Donna Whartenby
Program Manager of e-Learning@IBM
A focus on solving business challenges by creating new learning behaviors.

Classroom Simulations: The New Generation

Candy Haynes,
Dir. Global Consulting Learning, Deloitte
Simulating reality provides a great context for learning, and a coaching model leads to better retention of information and better development of skills

Learning Growth: Having a Vision

Roy Kriesel
IS Systems Analyst, Mayo Clinic
E-learning has evolved from an Ad Hoc library of web-based content to a complex blended learning model to integrate multiple learning and delivery methods. What stage is your organization in?

Catch their attention and hold it!

Terri Holly
Instructor, Computer Science Department
Indian River Community College
Catching the attention of your e-learning students and keeping it.

The Development Plan Connection

Andrew Bowen
Training Specialist CNP University
CenterPoint Energy
CenterPoint Energy said 91% of this company's e-learning population says they will be able to apply knowledge and/or skills gained from SkillSoft courses to help perform their jobs better. Find out how.

***Networking Special Interest Groups**

Educational Best Practices: Presented by University of Tennessee; University of North Carolina; and Indian River Community College

ARPCT/SkillSoft, Las Vegas, NV - 2007

I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity ARPCT members have to experience training in the corporate world. Hope to see you there.

If you would like to contribute an article to an upcoming issue, please email Janis Krohe at janisk@cprf.org.