

INSIDE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
2008 - 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	2
BALK ELECTED TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	3
EDITU NOW INCLUDES NETg COURSES	3
2008 ARPCT/SKILLSOFT CONFERENCE RECAP	3
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	4
SKILLSOFT OFFERS SUPPORT AT ARPCT CONFERENCE	4
WIN \$1,000 CONFERENCE STIPIEND	4

EDITOR

Janis Krohe, Ph.D.

CONTRIBUTORS

Janis Krohe, Ph.D.
Robert Leneway, Ph.D.
Rachelle Garcia

VIEWPOINT

Janis Krohe
ARPCT
Phone: 316 688 1888
Fax: 316 688 5687
Email: janisk@cprf.org

WEBSITE

www.arpct.org

2009 ARPCT Conference Planned for Chicago, Illinois

By: Janis Krohe

Plans are underway now to continue the partnership ARPCT has had with SkillSoft in conducting its own conference within the larger SkillSoft's Perspectives 2009 conference. The 2009 ARPCT Conference will be held at the Hilton Palmer House hotel in Chicago, Illinois on May 4-7, 2009.

ARPCT members should have a reduced conference fee of approximately \$200.00 which will cover all conference meals and 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. Last year as part of the registration fee, SkillSoft



even provided tickets to Blue Man Group as the last night's entertainment. It was the same show seen in Las Vegas. So, don't miss out on this opportunity rarely available to non-profit organizations. It is one that you will never forget.

As soon as arrangements are finalized, a conference announcement will be distributed by e-mail. More information regarding the SkillSoft Perspectives and ARPCT 2009 Conference also will be provided in a Spring newsletter and on the ARPCT website as it becomes available. Set aside travel funds now to attend and network with others dedicated to providing premier training programs for individuals with disabilities.



2008 ARPCT Awards for Outstanding Achievement

By Janis Krohe, Ph.D.

ARPCT announces its 2008 awards presented at its annual conference held in Orlando. This year there were two very deserving Business Advisory Council (BAC) members, so two awards were given in this category. Although all member programs are worthy of recognition for their efforts this past year, we would like to recognize the following:

Outstanding ARPCT Business Advisory Council Member of the Year

- **James Eccles, Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI) BAC Member**, Plainwell, Michigan was recognized for his 32 years of service, including serving as a found-

ing BAC member. He also serves as Secretary and Treasurer of the Pine Lake Foundation, which has raised millions of dollars on behalf of the Institute and students with disabilities that it serves. His expert investment advice has provided considerable leverage for the Pine Lake Foundation's nonprofit investments, and allowed much more to be done than otherwise possible for thousands of people with disabilities in Michigan. As a former MIS manager for James Rivers Inc,

Continued on page 2

President's Message

Where did the summer go? The year is flying by and several exciting events have happened behind the scenes for ARPCT. First, the annual conference in Orlando held April 29 – May 4, 2008 at the fabulous Royal Pacific Resort adjacent to Universal Studios was an outstanding success. Read more in the 2008 conference recap article. The networking among ARPCT members was great as usual. Several members presented program challenges that were discussed by all. These programs could leave the conference with actual solutions to implement back home. Some participants had never been to an ARPCT conference and for some it had been a long time since attending. We'll look forward to seeing all return next year and hope a few new faces will be able to attend in 2009.

ARPCT membership continues to grow every year. Goodwill International is encouraging many of its constituency to join.

These members have found the benefits of ARPCT and encourage other Goodwill affiliates to join. CARF also encourages member organizations to join. All members will be pleased to learn that a 3-year agreement with SkillsSoft has just been signed to enable ARPCT members continued access to e-learning. Special thanks to Bob Leneway in negotiating this agreement. New this year will be access to NETg courseware. See the article elsewhere about these new course offerings.

Next year, whether you can attend the conference or not, consider a nomination for an ARPCT award. You don't have to be present to receive an award and it's a great way to recognize outstanding programs and those individuals who are responsible for successful programs. Now is the time to be thinking about those nominations. Look for the call for nominations in early Spring.

Lastly, it was great to see many of you at this year's conference. For those of you who were unable to attend, think about attending next year's conference and learning from your colleagues. Meeting with other ARPCT members is always energizing, and we encourage you to share your accomplishments with other members at the 2009 conference.

Best regards,
Janis Krohe
ARPCT President



2008-2009 Executive Committee

Janis Krohe, ARPCT President
*Vice-President, Employment Services
Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of
Kansas, Inc.,
Wichita, Kansas*

Dr. Robert Leneway, ARPCT Treasurer
*EditU Administrator
Associate Professor, Educational
Leadership, Research and Technology
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Michigan*

Dot Kret, ARPCT Vice President
*President, Dorothy Kret and Associates
Tucson, Arizona*

Rachelle Garcia, ARPCT
2nd Vice President
*PWI Coach, Salt Lake Community College
Projects With Industry
Salt Lake City, Utah*

Lena Balk, ARPCT Secretary
*Training and Employment Services
Manager
MRC
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Continued from page 1

Mr. Eccles personally hired some of the first graduates of the program, and helped find jobs for many others. His keen insight and continual dedication has served as a constant force of support and guidance making MCTI only one of three programs that have continued to be ARPCT members since it began 30 years ago.

Outstanding ARPCT Business Advisory Council Member of the Year

- **Patrick Stone, MRC – Minnesota Resource Center BAC Member**, Minneapolis, Minnesota was recognized for his 20 years as a volunteer and BAC member. He currently is a Human Resources Vice President at Wells Fargo Bank. Mr. Stone has assisted MRC with work readiness, hiring, fundraising, curriculum development, and financial support. He exemplifies someone who believes in bettering the community he resides in and understands the need to give in order to receive. Because of

his tireless work, clients gain the interpersonal skills necessary to become successful in the workplace. He directly affects the lives of almost 1000 individuals with barriers each year.

Outstanding ARPCT Student of the Year

- **Jane Fedyk, Access Human Resources, Inc.**, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, successfully increased the administrative and technological infrastructure of Access Resources by creating a very informative and professional website. Through the availability of ARPCT and EditU, Ms. Fedyk was able to learn all about websites and in so doing, increased the agency's exposure and enhanced people's opportunity to learn more about Access Resources. The website has assisted individual's with developmental disabilities to stay more connected to their community and be aware of what events, activities and opportunities are available to them.

Balk Elected to Executive Committee



At the 2008 annual conference, ARPCT members elected Lena Balk, Training and Employment Services Manager of MRC in Minneapolis, Minnesota to fill its Secretary position.

SOURCE, as an Employment Specialist creating and establishing employer partnerships for individuals with disabilities, immigrants, veterans and others with barriers to employment. Since then, she has become the Manager of Training and Employment Services. Lena is responsible for all fee-for-service programs and grant-funded projects which include training and job placement services.

Lena has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a minor in Social Welfare from the University of Minnesota at Mankato. Last year, she received the Member of the Year Award from ARPCT for her work in establishing MRC's successful Tiers to Careers program. ARPCT is pleased to welcome Lena Balk to its Executive Committee.

Lena has worked with individuals with barriers to employment since 1995. She first began working in the non-profit sector with persons with disabilities and sex-offender backgrounds in both community and residential programs. In 1997, Lena began her position with MRC, the Minnesota Resource Center a division of RE-

EditU Now Includes NETg Courses

This summer, the EditU/SkillSoft library has been updated from version 6.1 to 6.5. This upgrade improves accessibility, navigation, and administration. Also, for the first time, EditU/SkillSoft should work on the Mac platform as well as the PC platform. Finally, many of the courses acquired in last year's SkillSoft corporate acquisition of NETg are included. Some

of the many new NETg learning modules include: Communication, Customer Service, Leadership, Management, Team Building, Microsoft Desktop Applications, Internet Explorer, SAP Desktop Applications, Consumer/Home Office Applications, QuickBooks, Microsoft Small Business Server, Web Development, Adobe Applications, and E-Business.

2008 ARPCT/SkillSoft Conference Recap

By: Janis Krohe

Warm weather and palm trees greeted this year's 2008 ARPCT conference attendees at the Royal



Pacific Hotel adjacent to Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida on April 28 – May 1, 2008. The Hawaiian theme of the hotel made it feel like paradise to many who had endured a long winter, as did the royal treatment typically found at a SkillSoft conference.

For the fourth straight year, ARPCT held a joint annual conference with Skillsoft. It is an unbelievable opportunity for ARPCT attendees to rub shoulders with e-learning experts of the corporate world. After a lavish opening luau reception with Hawaiian dancers, held indoors because of uncharacteristic winds, Skillsoft's top executives shared Skillsoft's vision for the company. The conference included a personal lecture by management guru,

Tom Peters, co-author of "In Search of Excellence".

At the ARPCT session, the attending programs continued the long tradition of sharing their successes and challenges. During the Business Meeting, ARPCT Treasurer, Bob Leneway, presented those present with a list of ARPCT members which now numbers about 70 members with new members adding monthly. Lena Balk, Training and Employment Services Manager of MRC, became the newest member of the Executive Committee as she was elected to serve as secretary for the next two years. Janis Krohe, Bob Leneway, and Dot Kret were re-elected to continue their respective positions on the Committee. Finally, ARPCT Awards were presented to three individuals as detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.



SkillSoft continued its tradition of providing excellent food, drink, and entertainment along with great opportunities to learn. The Awards Dinner recognized leading companies in e-learning. The conference culminated with an opportunity to see Blue Man Group at Universal Studios all paid with a single conference registration. Arrangements are already underway for ARPCT to be part of the 2009 Skillsoft Perspectives conference which is being planned for Chicago, Illinois on May 4-7, 2009. If you missed this year's ARPCT conference, start planning to be a part of next year's exciting conference. Please forward any ideas for what you would like the conference to include to Janis Krohe at janisk@cprf.org. Presentations are also always welcome. Also, look for an exciting announcement elsewhere in this newsletter on how you might be one of the lucky ones to receive a \$1,000 stipend toward travel to next year's conference.

Welcome New ARPCT Members

By Dr. Robert Leneway

Welcome to 20 new members who have joined the ARPCT Community in the last year. This is the direct result of a new marketing effort by our CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) partner. New members include:

Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center; Dothan, Alabama
 Options San Francisco State; San Francisco, California
 Social Science Services, Inc.; Bloomington, California
 Behavioral Health Services; Gardena, California
 Pomona Valley Workshop; Montclair, California
 Sound Community Services; New London, Connecticut
 Goodwill Industries of Western Connecticut; Bridgeport, Connecticut
 Goodwill Industries Suncoast Inc, St. Petersburg, Florida
 Goodwill Industries of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida
 Union Mission, Inc.; Savannah, Georgia

Creative Enterprises; Lawrenceville, Georgia
 Sycamore Services, Inc, Danville, Indiana
 M-Power, Inc.; Roxbury, Massachusetts
 Tri-County Patriots For Independent Living; Washington, Pennsylvania
 Rehabilitation Institute of Miami Valley Hospital; Dayton, Ohio
 Remed Recovery Care Centers; Paoli, Pennsylvania
 Peace Rehabilitation Center; Greenville, South Carolina
 Veterans Industries/CWT VA Medical Center; Washington, DC
 Tacoma Goodwill Industries; Tacoma, Washington
 Goodwill Industries of Alberta; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

We hope that representatives of these new member organizations will become active participants in ARPCT by contributing to the newsletter, communicating questions and interest to ARPCT executive officers and other member programs, and definitely consider

attending the 2009 ARPCT conference in Chicago, Illinois.



ARPCT total paid organizational membership now stand at 64 member programs, with another 30 associate members and/or organizations that have not yet paid their membership dues for 2008. ARPCT members who go for more than 12 months without paying their annual dues of \$395 per year will be removed from the ARPCT members list, and access to EditU will be discontinued. An audit of administrators is currently being conducted to update the SkillSoft Administrator list as well.

SkillSoft Marketing Manager Offers Support at ARPCT Conference

By: Rachelle Garcia

The SkillSoft conference has proven to be an excellent source of information, food, and fun – but where the conference shines is the wonderful opportunity to network with others sharing goals, ideals, problems and solutions. Information and sharing come from others working in similar situations and positions as ourselves, as well as those within the SkillSoft Corporation.

During the 2009 Conference, ARPCT members had the good fortune of meeting SkillSoft Product Marketing Manager Russ Howard. Russ works on SkillSoft accessibility issues and with Section 508 compliance requirements. The 508 requirements insure that Federal websites and others receiving federal funding are accessible to those

with disabilities. It also requires that when Federal agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology, Federal employees with disabilities must have access to and use of information and data comparable to those without disabilities.

Russ joined us for the ARPCT closing meeting and discussed his work in the area of 508 compliance. ARPCT members discussed the role ARPCT plays in the disability community and its contract renewal with SkillSoft. Russ expressed his willingness to help and emphasized that we contact him with any accessibility issues regarding SkillSoft products. Russ can be reached at: russ_howard@skillsoft.com.

Win a \$1,000 Stipend to the 2009 ARPCT Conference!

The ARPCT Executive Committee and conference attendees unanimously approved the awarding of two \$1,000 stipends to be applied for expenses to attend the 2009 ARPCT/SkillSoft conference in Chicago, Illinois on May 4-7, 2009. ARPCT member organizations are eligible for the stipend if they have not had a representative attend an ARPCT conference in the last 20 years. All eligible organizations will be entered into a drawing **if ARPCT dues are paid by February 28, 2009**. Winners will be notified in early March 2009.

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