

## INSIDE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
2008-2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	2
DON'T FORGET	2
WHAT'S IN THE STIMULUS LAW FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	3
AND THE WINNERS ARE	3
MOVIES FILMED IN CHICAGO	3
TENTATIVE 2009 ARPCT AGENDA	4
CHICAGO FUN FACTS	4

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## 2009 ARPCT Chicago Conference Promises Learning and Fun

By: Janis Krohe



The 2009 ARPCT Conference is near. On May 4-7, 2009, ARPCT members will have the opportunity to rub shoulders with learning industry experts at the SkillSoft Perspectives Conference at the Hilton Palmer House in Chicago, Illinois. ARPCT members *usually* pay a discounted \$200 registration fee which includes a cocktail reception, three breakfasts, two lunches, refreshment breaks, an awesome awards dinner, and a special event. **This year, however, SkillSoft has waived all registration fees for those who stay at the conference hotel.** SkillSoft writes, "In light of the current economic environment, we'd like you to attend Perspectives but recognize the burdensome cost of the Palmer House room rates. In order to subsidize the cost of the hotel rooms, this year's conference fee is being waived for those attendees staying at the Palmer House hotel." Now the conference is an even greater value!

The SkillSoft portion of the conference will feature keynote speaker: **Jay Conger**, author of *The Practice of Leadership* and prolific writer on management and leadership development; and a *live event with Don Tapscott*, author of the *Growing Up Digital*. You'll have many opportunities to network with other ARPCT members beginning with a fabulous opening reception which

includes plenty of free food and drink. ARPCT activities will occur during the conference on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning and will include the ever-popular member sharing and presentation of awards. For many, the networking and sharing of ideas with other ARPCT members is the most important part of conference. To register for the ARPCT/SkillSoft conference, go to <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=696206>. Make sure you check the "ARPCT" category. More information on the SkillSoft Conference can be found at: <http://perspectives.skillsoft.com/2009/>



The venue for the 2009 SkillSoft/ARPCT conference is the luxurious Hilton Palmer House. It's a lively destination, steeped in tradition, within walking distance of the best attractions the city of Chicago has to offer like Millennium Park, Grant Park, Lake Michigan, the Art Institute of Chicago, the theater district, and the Magnificent Mile.

This conference will indeed be an opportunity to learn and experience many of the great things Chicago has to offer. Hope to see you there!

## President's Message

It's time for the 2009 ARPCT/SkillSoft annual conference in Chicago! You should have received e-mail communication from me in March regarding the conference. We have now had four joint conferences with SkillSoft, each taking on its own flair based on the conference city. All four previous conferences have been in warm locales so this will be the first located in the north. I'm told that in Chicago this time of year the average high temperature is around 70° F, with lows around 50° F, so it should be an enjoyable time.

And there is late-breaking news regarding the conference. In an effort to make the conference more affordable during these tough economic times, SkillSoft is waiving the registration fee for those who stay at the conference hotel. So for ARPCT members, the deeply discounted conference registration of \$200 is now FREE. It

was a bargain at \$200 and is now definitely an incredible value. I hope this news will help persuade you to join us for some learning and great fun. I can tell you I have developed some great friendships from all across North America because of ARPCT and there are great networking opportunities available. Everyone is always willing to share solutions to the challenges we all face.

Note that we are still accepting 2009 award nominations for Program of the Year, Business Advisory Council Member of the Year, Student of the Year, and Member of the Year (for an individual). You should have received e-mail communication from me on that as well, but in case you missed it, e-mail me at [janisk@cprf.org](mailto:janisk@cprf.org) to request nomination forms. Your nominations should be e-mailed to me by April 17, 2009. Awards will be presented at the conference but

you do not have to be present to receive an award.

ARPCT is seeking nominations for a vice president on the Executive Committee. Members can have greater impact on the organization by serving on the Executive Committee. Please consider nominating yourself or someone else for this position. Voting will take place at the conference.

The greatest value of this organization is the networking and sharing of ideas among its members. I encourage you to attend the annual conference to network with others with a common interest of providing computer training programs for individuals with disabilities. Hope to see you in Chicago!

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 2<sup>nd</sup>  
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, MN*

## Don't Forget!

It's not too late to submit award nominations for ARPCT Program of the Year, Business Advisory Council Member of the Year, Student of the Year, and Member of the Year (for an individual). Your program could be recognized like last year's recipient, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, as highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter. If you need award nomination forms, send a request to: [janisk@cprf.org](mailto:janisk@cprf.org) Nominations should be submitted by April 17, 2009.



# ARPCT

*Training People with Disabilities  
for Careers in Technology*

## What's in the Stimulus Law for Persons with Disabilities

By: Charles Harles, Inter-National Association of Business, Industry, and Rehabilitation (I-NABIR), Executive Director

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 in Denver. The final version of the bill includes \$787 billion in new spending to grow and protect jobs. There are two areas of the bill that could impact persons with disabilities and providers of employment related services to them.

Training and employment services under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) will increase \$3.95 billion under the new law. This will include \$500 million for adult services, \$1.2 billion for youth activities, \$1.25 billion for dislocated worker programs, \$50 million for Youth Build activities, and \$750 million for a program of competitive grants for worker training and placement in high growth and emerging industry sectors. Energy efficiency, renewable energy and health care were three of the sectors identified for special emphasis.

At the Department of Education, basic state grants for special education under

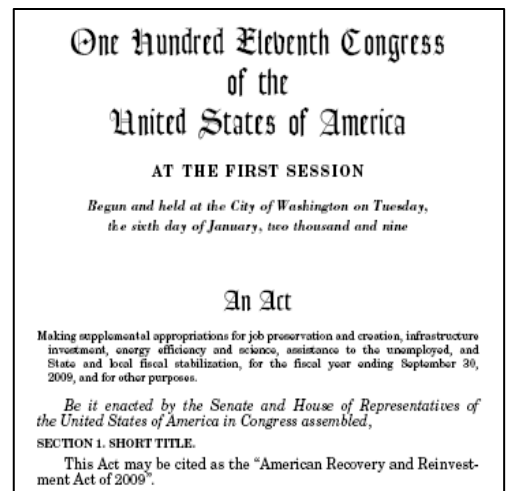
IDEA would increase by \$11.3 billion. Other special education programs would bring the total to \$12.2 billion. State grants for vocational rehabilitation (VR) will get \$540 million. Independent living programs will get a boost of \$140 million.

There are also increases in programs of interest to persons with disabilities such as aid to states for Medicaid, a one time payment of \$250 to person with disabilities getting SSI, SSDI, and veteran's benefits, some housing improvements, and help for the Social Security Administration to reduce the backlog of disability claims and to replace antiquated computer systems.

It should be remembered that these funds must be spent quickly and are only available for two years in most cases. States will probably look for projects that can be accomplished quickly and get the most results in terms of new employment and job creation. Service providers should act quickly to work with state agencies, state legislatures, and state and local

workforce boards to identify possible projects and programs they could help with, and may want to target some of their placement efforts to industries that will be targeted in the stimulus activities.

*Special thanks to Charlie Harles of I-NABIR for allowing ARPCT to use this article.*



## And the Winners Are....

By Janis Krohe



We announced in the Fall 2008 ARPCT Newsletter that we were going to award two \$1,000

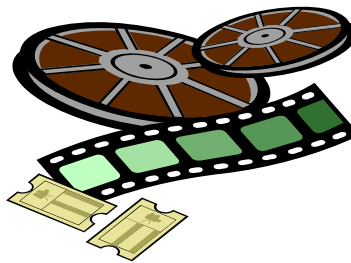
stipends to the 2009 ARPCT/SkillSoft Conference in Chicago. The winners of these stipends are:

Pine Lake Fund/Michigan Career and Technical Institute  
Plainwell, Michigan

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Suffolk; Hauppauge, New York

**Congratulations to these winners!**

## Movies Filmed In Chicago



A League of Their Own

Bad Boys

Barbershop

Chicago: The Musical

Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Home Alone I, II, III

Miracle on 34th St.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

Ocean's 11 and Ocean's 12

Sixteen Candles

Stir of Echoes

The Fugitive

What Women Want

When Harry Met Sally



If you would like to contribute an article to an upcoming issue, please email Janis Krohe at [janisk@cprf.org](mailto:janisk@cprf.org).

## It's Still Not Too Late To Register For This Year's Conference In Chicago

2009 ARPCT Conference Program - **TENTATIVE**

The Hilton Palmer House – Chicago, Illinois

May 4 – 7, 2009

**\*\*\*ARPCT Activities in Blue\*\*\***

### MONDAY, MAY 4

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Registration

2:00 – 5:00 PM **Half-Day Workshops**

5:30 – 6:00 PM **Welcome and Orientation**

6:00 – 9:00 PM **Reception**

### TUESDAY, MAY 5

6:45 – 7:45 AM Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 12:00 PM Conference Activities  
Live Event  
Perspective Exclusive

12:30 – 1:30 PM Lunch *(in conjunction with SkillSoft Conference)*

1:30 – 3:20 PM **Project Sharing/SkillSoft Update**

### TUESDAY, MAY 5, CONTINUED

3:35 – 4:35 PM Keynote:  
Jay Conger

6:00 – 7:00 PM Reception

7:00 – 10:00 PM Awards Dinner

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

7:30 – 8:45 AM Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:15 AM **Annual Business Meeting Election of ARPCT Officers**

10:15 – 10:45 AM **Awards Ceremony**

10:45 – 11:00 AM **Closing/Farewell**

11:10 AM – 12:00 PM Conference Activities

12:10 – 1:30 PM Lunch *(in conjunction with SkillSoft Conference)*

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, CONTINUED

1:30 – 5:00 PM Conference Activities

5:00 PM Conference Closes

6:30 – 10:30 PM Special Event

### THURSDAY, MAY 7

6:45 – 8:00 AM Continental Breakfast

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Half-Day Workshops

12:00 PM Conference Ends

**Hope to  
see you  
there!**

## Chicago Fun Facts



- Chicago is the third largest city in United States
- Chicago houses three of the world's tallest buildings, Sears Tower, Amoco Building and John Hancock.
- Roller skates, steel frame skyscraper, elevated railway, cracker jacks, zipper, window envelope, hostess Twinkie, pinball game and spray paint were invented in Chicago.
- Chicago is home to the largest building in America (excluding the Pentagon), The Merchandise Mart, with 90 acres of floor space.

- Oceanarium, in Chicago, is the largest indoor marine mammal pavilion in the world.
- Contrary to popular belief, the Fire of 1871 burned less than one quarter of the area of the city.
- The airport baggage abbreviation for O'Hare International Airport, "ORD," derives from the location's earlier name, Orchard Place.
- Chicago's first major civil disturbance on April 21, 1855 was the Lager Beer Riot, a protest against the Sunday closing of taverns and saloons.
- In 1900, Chicago successfully completed a massive and highly innovative engineering project reversing the flow of the Chicago River so that it

- emptied into the Mississippi River instead of Lake Michigan.
- Each year, the Chicago River is dyed green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.
- Four states are visible from the Sears Tower Skydeck (Indiana, Illinois, Michigan & Wisconsin).
- The first regulation baseballs and bats used by professional players were manufactured by Chicago entrepreneur (and former pitcher) Albert G. Spalding.
- The world's largest gum manufacturer, William Wrigley, Jr. Company, produces more than 20 million packages a day. It was also the first U.S. manufacturer to give its employees Saturdays and Sundays off of work.