



President's Message – Spring, 2011

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It is time for the 2011 ARPCT/SkillSoft annual conference, *What Works Now, What Comes Next*, which will be in Orlando, FL from May 9 through the 12th.

SkillSoft is once again hosting ARPCT at its Perspectives Conference and giving us the opportunity to learn from many expert thought leaders and to participate in their educational modules, seminars and lectures. 'Perspectives' enables learning professionals from across business, government and education to gather and discuss how to link learning to business value and other relevant topics.

Attendees will enjoy presentations from guest speakers, including:

Jeanne Meister, an internationally recognized leader in creating innovations in operations and management who has just published her newest book, *The 2020 Workplace: How Innovative Companies Attract, Develop, and Keep Tomorrow's Employees Today.*

Tim Sanders, whose book, *Today We Are Rich*, shows how to build and maintain total confidence through simple changes in lifestyle. He teaches how positive thinking can help, even in the face of economic, social or personal adversity.

This year's content covers areas of employee engagement, leadership, social networking, alignment, custom solutions, blended learning, global programs, talent management and much more.

Our members will meet each other and the other more than 700 conference attendees at a welcome reception/mixer and will participate in the popular Project Sharing segment, wherein we learn about and from each other. We will have a social media workshop, elections for officers for next year and network, network, network!

SkillSoft will be announcing upgrades and improvements to their offerings – keep your eyes peeled for our next newsletter wherein we will let you know what exciting things are in store for our members!

Best regards,
Dot Kret, ARPCT President

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Honda a Good Fit for South Carolina VR Department Training Grad

Michael Hewitt describes himself as a “glass half-full” kind of guy. So when he began to have issues with his back and had to leave his job at the Honda plant in Timmonsville, he was ready to explore other employment options. The Honda plant manufactures all-terrain vehicles and personal watercraft. Hewitt worked in engineering support but could no longer do his job making sure the machines worked properly.

The folks at Honda referred him to the South Carolina Vocational Department’s Florence office. Tameka Brockington, his counselor, said Hewitt initially wanted to go to Florence-Darlington Technical College for training in AutoCAD, a computer drafting and design software. “From day one, he was eager to go back to work,” she said. “He just needed a little guidance and assistance.”

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2010 ARPCT Awards

At the 2010 ARPCT Conference the following were recognized for their extraordinary work and commitment to individuals with disabilities:

- Alex Tabony was named as Outstanding ARPCT Individual Member of the Year
- Outstanding Member Program of the Year went to Able-Disabled Advocacy’s CareerLink program
- The Pima County Attorney’s Office (PCAO) was honored by ARPCT with the Outstanding Business Partner of the Year Award

Thinking Ahead - 2012 ARPCT Awards!

How many of the people you work with are remarkable and you wish you could let them know how much you admire their dedication and perseverance? Who among the clients you have served deserves special recognition for a job well done, for their great attitude and/or for being successful in their job?

The deadline for submitting 2011 Award nominations has already passed, but it is not too late to consider nominations for 2012.

Nominating a program participant or a staff member sends a message - to the individual, to your team, to your other clients and to the community - that you acknowledge accomplishments and value hard work.

The Association of Rehabilitation Programs in Computer Technology (ARPCT) presents awards at each ARPCT/SkillsSoft Conference and they are awarded for the following:

Outstanding ARPCT Student of the Year – Who has done well in your program and has made you proud? Promote your agency and the people you serve with a well-earned nomination!

Outstanding ARPCT Member of the Year – Who has earned your thanks and appreciation for being an outstanding staffer, member of your Business Advisory Council or Board of Directors? What better way to show your gratitude than with a national nomination?

Outstanding ARPCT Program of the Year - Pat yourself on the back! What wonderful things has your agency accomplished this year? Promote your positive outcomes and congratulate your team for a job well done!

When the award nomination period begins for 2012, ARPCT will contact you to ask you to submit your nomination. After award nominations are received, a review committee appointed by ARPCT Executive Committee will judge the nominations and determine the award recipients.

Thank you, Dot Kret, President ARPCT

Honda a Good Fit *(continued from Page 2)*



SCVR Grad, Michael Hewitt, at his AutoCad Workstation

Two New Members

The Association of Rehabilitation Programs in Computer Technologies (ARPCT) would like to welcome two new members to ARPCT. They include Brent Kautto of the Rehabilitation Services, State of Minnesota in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, and Michigan Ability Partners in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The mission of Michigan Ability Partners is to help people with disabilities and veterans find safe housing and a safe and productive life.

Brockington told him about SCVRD's Information Technology Training Center and referred him to the Evaluation Center in West Columbia for a full evaluation. He enrolled in the Pain Management Program and utilized the pool at the Muscular Development Center as therapy for his back. He qualified for the Information Technology Training Center and started the 11-month course to become an AutoCAD technician.

"He's an extremely intelligent man—you could tell how much he loved to work," said former ITTC supervisor Jim Williams. "He'd earned all sorts of certifications at Honda. He wants to improve so he can offer more to the employer. That's the attitude you want in an employee."

The AutoCAD training "was totally different from what I had done," Hewitt said, "but the knowledge (of mechanics) I had overlapped. There are some really good instructors at VR,"

said Hewitt, 47. "This (AutoCAD) knowledge has opened a lot more doors, led to a lot more opportunities." Williams said Hewitt "quickly took off learning" and soon earned a reputation for pushing the envelope. He was one of the few candidates to pass the national AutoCAD certification test on the first try.

In June 2009, a Pawleys Island company that serves the metal casting, recycling/recovery and manufacturing industries, was looking for an AutoCAD detailer to draw plans for recycling equipment. "We found out about the VR [ITTC] program and it was of great interest to us," said Paul Hanna, president of MetalTech Systems. Hanna said the company had made a commitment to "give back as much as we could. The VR program was of interest because we could integrate it with what we do here."

Rob Amrine, SCVRD business

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