



# MO-AHEAD Newsletter

Missouri Association on Higher Education and Disability

March 2004

Volume 13, Number 3

NEW MOAHEAD  
Executive Board  
Members! Introducing:



Mary Rutherford, K-12  
Representative at Large

Lindy Mullins, Historian, was  
unavailable for capturing on  
film! Look for her debut in the  
next newsletter!

Welcome!

*In this issue:*

- *Transition Training updates*
- *Professional Development Opportunities*
- *National News*
- *Membership*
- *Student perspective*
- *Call for News*

## Thrilling Response to Transition Training

Members of MOAHEAD are making an impact on all of Missouri. Several Transition Training sessions designed for high school counselors and Special Education teachers, have been successful. Transition Training assists high school counselors and teachers understand the differences between high school and higher education disability services. The training also equips participants with information about how they can be most effective in preparing students for the higher education experience. Responses to the training are extremely positive. Here are just a few of the comments.

- "This is the most informative workshop I have attended recently."
- "The Guidebook is going to be very useful in developing my transition program at school."
- "Really great workshop and structure, full of information."
- "I recommend this for all secondary teachers & for parents."

### Kansas City Transition Training a HIT!

On September 24, 2004, Maple Woods Community College in cooperation with Ozarks Technical Community College hosted the first MO-AHEAD Transition Training to be held in Kansas City. Approximately 20 local special education teachers and disability service personnel were in attendance. The participants agreed that the presentation, provided by Julie Edwards, was very beneficial and informative. Thanks, Julie, for all of your hard work!

### Missouri Learning Disabilities State Conference

On October 1, 2004, Suelaine Matthews and Julie Edwards were presenters at the Missouri Learning Disabilities State Conference. The team presented an abbreviated version of the Transition Training Module to a very diverse group including parents, secondary teachers, post-secondary administrators and representatives from the prison system. The presentation was very well received by the audience and one of the secondary teachers expressed interest in hosting the day-long training at her school in Gainesville, MO.

**Send in  
membership dues  
by January 1!**

**Membership Chair**

Smither, Ellen  
Missouri Western State College  
4525 Downs Dr. St. Joseph, MO 64507  
(816)271-4280  
smither@mwsc.edu

**Membership  
Benefits**

- Professional Development opportunities
- Tall Oaks Conference
- Networking and professional community support
- And so much more.....

*Next MOAHEAD Executive Board meeting will be held January 27 & 28, in Columbia.*



## Upcoming Transition Training – Are you interested in becoming a facilitator?

### St. Louis Community College – Forest Park campus, Oct 27<sup>th</sup>

There will be transition training for St. Louis Special School District on October 27, 2004. This will be led by Sue Matthews. This is a call for another trained presenter who would like to join Sue in that presentation. It is also a call for any MOAHEAD members who would like to sit in on this session to be trained to present. That training would involve observing the day and then a separate processing of the day after the session.

If interested contact Jan Eudaley, M.A., Acting Manager, ACCESS Office, 314.644.9039

### Park Hill, Professional Development Day, February 4<sup>th</sup>

Transition training will be offered on February 4th, during the Professional Development Day for Park Hill school system. Presenters will be Suelaine Matthews and Julia Edwards. If you would like to sit in on this session to be trained to present, please contact Julia Edwards, 417-895-7936 (voice), 417-895-7235 (TTY), or email [edwardsj@otc.edu](mailto:edwardsj@otc.edu).

### Southeast Missouri training coming

Good News!! For those of you in the Southeast corner of Missouri, there will be a Transition training next Spring in conjunction with Southeast Missouri State University. The Acting Director of the ACCESS office, Melanie Thompson, is in the process of surveying area high schools to determine need and numbers. More information will follow as soon as the date, time, and place is set.

Check out the Transition Guidebook, the basis of transition training, at <http://www.stlcc.cc.mo.us/fv/moahead/>

## Building a Stronger MOAHEAD

On Thursday, October 14, 2004, St. Louis AHEAD met again after a two year hiatus. Almost all of the Universities and Colleges in St Louis had representatives from their disability service offices meet at Maryville University.

It is our goal that more MOAHEAD members will host similar meetings in their local areas so that more networking can take place in the disability service profession. This will make MOAHEAD stronger and will provide support for professionals who may not be able to attend the Tall Oaks conference.

## ***From the STUDENT PERSPECTIVE:***

*Going to college and being legally blind was pretty scary, but my high school counselor took me to Missouri Western herself and introduced me to staff there. I decided to go and lived in the residence halls.*

*Things got a little easier when I got my service dog, Daisy. She and I were pretty noticeable going around campus. We had to educate everyone about the proper etiquette about being around a service dog.*

*My father died in high school and my mother died during my freshman year in college, but I found support through my social work department and many other people I met at college. I graduated in May 2003 and got hired to work at the YWCA at the Women's Abuse Shelter. It's not been easy, but definitely worth the hard work.*

## **Professional Development Opportunities**

### **Josh Blue puts the cerebral in Cerebral Palsy**

Mark your calendars now for the 2005 Disability Awareness Day at St. Louis Community College, Meramec:

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

SLCC—Meramec theatre

2:00—3:30 p.m.

Open and free of charge to the community

Using his wit and humor to laugh at his own disability, Cerebral Palsy, Josh Blue will entertain and educate the audience. He has the ability to help people overcome their stereotypes about people with disabilities by making them laugh at their own preconceived notions. His passion for making people laugh comes from the belief that we all need more laughter in our lives and that nothing brings people together like humor.

Josh Blue has performed all over the country and won numerous awards for his comedy. He is also a member of the U.S. Paralympics Soccer Team. For more information, call or email Candi Feller at [314-984-7582/cfeller@stlcc.edu](mailto:314-984-7582/cfeller@stlcc.edu).

## **Helpful Hints for Professionals**

Did you know about these resources?

Since 1991, your local **Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs)**<sup>\*</sup> have been providing information, materials, technical assistance and training on the ADA. In 2001, their responsibilities expanded to include providing those same services in the area of accessible information technology. This includes building accessible web pages, assuring that distance learning programs are accessible and assuring that technology purchases are those which are best able to work with assistive devices used by people with disabilities.

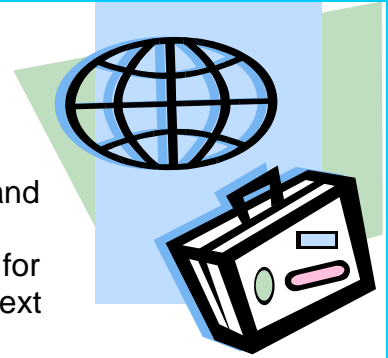
The DBTAC's work in the area of accessible IT is supported by the new National Center on Accessible Information Technology in Education, known as [AccessIT](http://www.accessit.org). The National Center was funded to increase awareness of the need for, and availability of, technology which makes the educational experience accessible to all users. <http://www.adata.org/index.html>

**Educational Testing Service** has a specific site for students requesting accommodations: <http://www.ets.org/disability/index.html>

This site provides information to applicants with disabilities who seek approval of reasonable testing accommodations. Application forms may be obtained by linking to the specific testing program.

## National News

Members of MOAHEAD were invited to National AHEAD this summer to present a ½ day Transition Training Expo. MOAHEAD members who prepared and presented are: Julia Edwards and Suelaine Matthews. Great Job! Thanks for representing us at the National Conference. Look for tips from the National AHEAD conference in the next newsletter!



### WIN AHEAD: Look Who's Going International

The Fifth International Conference on Higher Education and Disability was held in Innsbruck, Austria, July 27-30, 2004. This conference, organized by the University of Innsbruck and the University of New Orleans, is a forum for college and university staff worldwide to share best practices regarding working with students with disabilities. **Lisa Kramme, Director of Academic Support Services at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska**, and Wade Pearson, Director of the Office of Disability Accommodations at Creighton University in Omaha, gave a presentation entitled, "Building Bridges: The Transition from High School to College."

Kramme and Pearson are members of Western Iowa and Nebraska Association of Higher Education and Disability (WIN AHEAD). Members of WIN AHEAD are postsecondary disability service providers who have developed a presentation that has been widely requested regarding the transition of students with disabilities from high school to a college setting. WIN AHEAD has received monetary support from the Nebraska Department of Education for the past three years in order to make presentations throughout the state of Nebraska, and to date over 800 people have been in attendance at these programs.

Kramme and Pearson's presentation at the international conference shared information on this collaboration of regional postsecondary institutions and their partnership with transition teams from state agencies and public schools. It also identified what transition information should be presented to secondary school psychologists, special education instructors, and school administrators as well as parents and students.

Lisa Kramme has attended the Great Plains Conference for a few years. Congratulations to Lisa Kramme on this adventure!