



# Missouri AHEAD

## President's Corner

Jan Eudaley



Missouri  
Association on  
Higher  
Education

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My tenure as your president ends December 31 so this is my last entry in the President's Corner. Adam Meyer of St. Louis University will be taking over as president of our state's affiliate group with AHEAD. Adam has been our vice president for the past two years and is eager to take his turn at leading this great group. Your Executive Board has come to rely on Adam for innovative ideas, common sense solutions to challenges, and a commitment to the hard work involved in our projects. Our MO/AHEAD is in for great leadership and some exciting new directions as Adam takes his turn at the helm.

Missouri AHEAD has many reasons to be proud of its work throughout its short history. It has come to be nationally recognized as an innovator and leader in the area of Transition Training thanks to the work of Suelaine Matthews, Julie Bunch, and others who have joined them in presentations across the state. Our Guidebook has been a big hit with high school Resource Teachers and Counselors. We have just completed proofing and editing work done by Suelaine Matthews on a narrated power point on DVD for parents of students with disabilities that plan on attending college. These will be distributed to high schools to be given out as needed. A DVD with information for high school students is to follow. The Transition Training, Guidebook, and DVDs are all part of MO/AHEAD's mission to get accurate information out to high schools so students can be better prepared and make better choices.

One of my goals during my two year tenure was to leave the Executive Board "younger" than when I started. Baby boomers are starting to retire and there is a need for the young professionals to get involved and continue the good work of providing the best in professional development, networking, and visionary goals. MO/AHEAD is fortunate in having just those type of professionals who have agreed to be a part of its leadership. I know of other professional organizations who are struggling to fill positions and have their younger people get involved. We have Adam, Amy, Jennifer and Kim who have great energy and ideas. I'm very pleased to be starting my process of handing off to them.

Your Board has sponsored two conferences over the past two years: E-text and Tall Oaks. The E-text conference was in response to requests from our membership and was so successful that we are offering it again

*"A sense of humor  
is part of the art  
of leadership,  
of getting along  
with people,  
of getting things  
done."*

*Dwight*

*Eisenhower*

in February of 2008. Adam has taken the leadership on this and has sent out the pertinent information. Our Tall Oaks conference this year "rocked" and paid tribute to the twenty year history of Tall Oaks.

Save the dates of April 10-12, 2008 for next year's Tall Oaks. We have the fabulous Jeanne Kinkaid coming for the full day on Thursday. On Wednesday afternoon we will be learning about working with our returning veterans from professionals who deal with the veterans throughout the whole re-entry process. On Friday morning we will be learning from the experts at K-State on accommodating the distance learner. We think it's a dynamite line up and hope you'll think so too.

Finally I'd like to thank the members of the Executive Board for all their support and hard work. They have made my job a pleasure and our meetings something to always look forward to. I'm glad our by-laws are set up so that I will be able to remain on the Board for two more years as Immediate Past President. Being an active part of MO/AHEAD has kept me in touch with the world outside my campus and excited about new possibilities in providing services.

See you all at Tall Oaks,

Jan

## E-text Solutions Conference

Missouri and Kansas AHEAD affiliates are pleased to announce a joint venture to bring our members the "E-text Solutions" conference. Our presenters will be from the E-text Solutions Group, who operate in affiliation with National AHEAD.

If you are looking for a conference with all of the foundational information that you need to effectively manage an e-text operation on your campus, this is the one-stop conference shop that should truly get you up and running.

Registration fees for the conference are \$100 for KAN-AHEAD and MO-AHEAD members and \$125 for anyone else. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Dates:**

**Feb. 20-21, 2008**

**Location:**

**Kansas City Kansas  
Community College**



**Please contact Adam Meyer, MO-AHEAD Vice-President,  
at [meyerah@slu.edu](mailto:meyerah@slu.edu) with any questions.**

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

**Amy J. Thomas**

**Disability Resource Counselor  
Ozark Technical Community College**

**Career path leading to current work:** I graduated in 1997 with a Bachelors degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders. My first job in education was as a Speech Implementer in Branson School District. I worked with students K-2. After two years I moved to Eugene, OR and worked as a crew leader for the Northwest Youth Corp working with youth 16-19 in an outdoor setting. I returned to Missouri in 2001 and was fortunate to find a position in a school district in October. Again, I was a speech implementer. At this time I decided I wanted to make a bigger impact than 30-60 minutes a week in students' lives. I began my Masters program at SMSU and was given a provisional teaching license and began teaching resource language and study skills to eighth graders. The summer of 2005 I received my Masters in Special Education. I worked in Willard Schools for 6 years. I began my career at OTC in August.

**What are your special interests at work?** Finding extra tutoring for secondary students taking technical classes.

**Tell us about your family...**I was raised in a very close knit family. There were four of us, but we were closely connected to our grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, second cousins, etc. Each weekend we had something planned with family. It is my goal to continue this with my own family. My husband and I were married in 2005 after being together for 6 years. On our 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary we found out we were pregnant. We now have a wonderful daughter who is 2. Shane, Isabelle, and I have a great time together. They are the light of my life.

**What inspires you?** I am inspired to be the best I can be. I am always looking for ways to improve myself. Working out, eating right, and furthering my education are ways for me to become the best me I can be. My family inspires me to continue this endeavor.

**What is your proudest moment?** I have had many a proud moment. The first was while I was working the outdoor program in Oregon I hiked 9 miles up a mountain carrying a backpack and hand tools. The second was when I graduated with my masters degree. The third is my daughter.

**What is your dream vacation?** I would love to go to base camp at 17,900ft on Mt. Everest. I would never want to climb the mountain, just stand and take in its majestic power. This also was a wish of my best friend who passed away a few years ago. I would like to go in his memory.

**Do you have interests and hobbies outside of work?** Playing with my daughter, hanging out with my husband, boxing, reading, and running.

**What is on your desk?** Currently, on my desk you would find books to be read, papers to be filed, and a bottle of water. In my desk you would find an abundance of snacks. I am a snacker!

**At work what resources do you turn to for guidance?** Websites, publications, books, etc. The resources I use for guidance are LD online, LDA America, and peer reviewed scholarly research articles.



If I was not working in an education setting I would be an advocate.

I am enamored with the idea of "storming" the steps of Congress for a cause.

My passion is the rights of students with special needs.

# MOAHEAD Transition

## Training Schedule

### 2007—2008

Type	Date	Location	Time	Presenter(s)
High School Personnel	Jul 23, 2007	Springfield: DESE Symposium		Julie Bunch
Parent Training	Sept 9, 2007	Fort Zumwalt H.S.	7:00 PM	Suelaine Matthews
Student Training	Sept 9, 2007	Fort Zumwalt H.S.	7:00 PM	Maureen Ottenlips
High School Personnel	Sept 19, 2007	St. Louis Transition Council	10:30-11:30 AM	Suelaine Matthews
High School Personnel	Oct 19, 2007	University of Missouri Rolla		Suelaine Matthews Julie Bunch
High School Personnel	Nov 13, 2007	St. Louis Community College-FV	9:00 AM—3:00 PM	Suelaine Matthews Adam Meyer
Student Training	Nov 15, 2007	St Louis Community College-Meramec	TBA	Lindi Mullens
High School Personnel	Feb 7, 2008	Crowder College	Spring TBA	Julie Bunch Amy Frieling
High School Personnel	Feb 28, 2008	Springfield	9:00 AM—3:00 PM	Suelaine Matthews Julie Bunch
High School Personnel	2008 TBA	University of Missouri Rolla	9:00 AM — 3:00 PM	Suelaine Matthews Julie Bunch
Administrators	2008 TBA	South-East Lead Administrators of Special Education	Spring TBA	TBA

Comments from participants of the MO AHEAD Transition Training for High School Personnel:

“Great job! I learned more today than I have in 4 years of attending transition conferences/workshops.”

“Wonderful! Insightful, humorous and a valuable resource.”

Coming soon!

**Parent Training Modules!**

**Save the Date**  
**Tall Oaks Conference**  
**APRIL 10 –12, 2008**

For Your Information

Iowa Program: R.E.A.C.H

The Realizing Educational and Career Hopes is a new academic program at The University of Iowa specially designed for young adults with multiple learning and cognitive disabilities. To learn more please visit: <http://www.education.uiowa.edu/reach/>

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