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From the desk of: Martha Garber



Vocational experiences and exposure to the world of work are extremely important for youth with disabilities to make a smooth transition from school and find their place in the community. This e-News Bulletin highlights career planning services to youth in transition. Dorothy Brooks of Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) authored an article about a summer program to enhance vocational opportunities for youth who are blind or significantly visually impaired. We've also included some websites we hope you will find useful. Finally, we have provided a link to our [CRP Brief: Meeting The Needs Of Transition-Age Youth With Disabilities: Core Competencies For Youth Service Professionals](#) by Curtis Richards & Joan Wills issued today that focuses on the competencies needed to provide youth with disabilities with adequate services.

Career Planning with Youth in Transition

The Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) recently held its annual Jump Start program, a transition course for high school students who are blind or severely visually impaired. Students came from across Arkansas for a three-week summer program.



Students in the DSB Jump Start program take time for a picnic at Murray Park in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Jump Start exposes students to the world of work and helps them in transitioning from high school to employment/adulthood. DSB places the students in part-time stipend jobs in the mornings followed by activities in the afternoons and evenings to develop career awareness and self-sufficiency.

One of the Jump Start students, Alex Watkins, was featured in an article in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette about junior volunteers at Arkansas Children's Hospital. She worked in the hospital's third floor playroom, Camp Wanna Play, because she wants to study child psychology. She said her visual impairment helped her relate to the children at the hospital because she doesn't judge people by what's wrong with them.

Students went on field trips to businesses and colleges. During the tours of

Training Schedule

September 18-19,
2007: [Building Employer Relationships: Marketing & Job Development](#),
Albuquerque, New Mexico

September 28,
October 5 & 12,
2007: [Diversity Intelligence for Practicing VR Service Providers](#),
Online

October 16-18,
2007: [Certificate in Employment Services Session I](#),
Baton Rouge,
Louisiana (Session II: November 27-29)

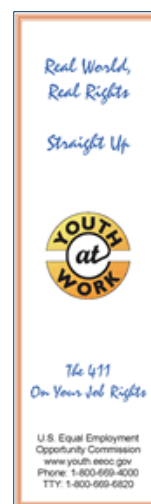
October 19 & 26,
2007: [Employment Services & Ethics: The Basics](#), Online

October 30-31,
2007: [Supported Employment: Basic Skills Clinic](#), Hot Springs, Arkansas

November 8-9,
2007: [Supported](#)

<http://www.dmd-aapd.org/>

office to remind you of this month's topic! There's more information on the back too! Click on the bookmark to go to <http://youth.eeoc.gov> and print out a copy for yourself!



What Would You Like to Hear About in Future Issues of e-News?

Send your comments and story ideas to e-News Bulletin [Project Director & Editor, Martha Garber.](#)

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