

Expectations

Volume 10, Issue 1

Summer 2008



Mission: To provide initiatives that strengthen the potential of youth who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Vision: To ensure that all Ohio youth who are deaf or hard of hearing, and their families, have access to resources, professionals and activities that will help guide them into becoming successful and contributing members of our society.

September 12, 13, and 14 ~ MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH YOUR FUTURE Sponsored by:

Transition is a Bridge to...

- Employment • Post-Secondary Education
- Community Participation • Independence

In collaboration with The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, The Ohio Department of Education, secondary and post secondary institutions including the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and Gallaudet University, parents groups, and local advocacy organizations that serve the deaf and hard of hearing, Deaf Initiatives presents **Making a Difference with Your Future**. All students in grades 9 through 12 who are deaf or hard of hearing and their parents are encouraged to participate in this statewide workshop designed to help facilitate the transition of youth from high school to post secondary education or work. Highlights:

- ◆ Self Awareness Activities
- ◆ Career Awareness/Career Fair
- ◆ Developing a Plan for the Future
- ◆ Role models and Mentors
- ◆ The Transition Process
- ◆ Keynote Speakers, D.E.A.F. Awards and Entertainment

Students are equipped with career “road maps” for the future, while parents will be better prepared to assist their children in making academic and extra-curricular decisions, which affect their child’s future. **Friday at 5:00 pm until Sunday at noon.**

All workshop meals and accommodations are provided free to participants in the workshop. **Space is limited to 40 families; call today and reserve your place! (614) 238-3323 v/vp or TheDEAFund@aol.com**

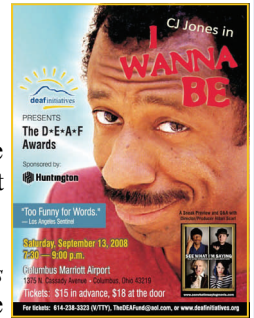
September 13th at 7:30 pm ~ D.E.A.F. AWARDS

Featuring Comedian CJ Jones

We are thrilled to welcome CJ Jones in “I Wanna Be”. This insightful, comedic work blends a unique style of visual imagery and storytelling, and portrays a man confronting the sometimes absurd misperceptions that transpire between the hearing and the deaf. Open to the public; a hilarious show for all audiences!

Located at the Columbus Airport Marriott

Director/Producer Hilari Scarl of the upcoming film “See What I’m Saying: The Deaf Entertainers Documentary” will be giving a presentation on the making of the documentary and showing a few behind the scenes clips.



For tickets contact Anna at (614) 238-3323 v/vp or email TheDEAFund@aol.com

Sponsored by: **October 4 ~ NAVIGATING YOUR CHILD’S FUTURE**



YES! Your Child CAN Learn to Read ~ and Read Well!

Learning to read and write is one of the most important and powerful achievements in life. Parents, and other involved adults,

play a crucial role in their child’s literacy and learning development, providing experiences and vocabulary that link their child to incidental as well as intentional information. **Hours: 9 am to 3:30 pm**



- For parents of children from **birth through 5th grade.**
- **Teaches innovative techniques** to help parents work with their child who is deaf or hard of hearing to develop the literacy skills necessary for their academic and personal success. Learn appropriate activities that parents can utilize to support the development of critical reading skills such as phonemic awareness and phonics.
- Nationally recognized presenters, **Karen Roudybush, M.Ed. ~ Bringing Literacy Home, Beverly Trezek, Ph.D. ~ Visual Phonics, and Denyse Woods, M.Ed. ~ Visual Phonics** help parents discover exciting new ways to help children recognize and remember vowel patterns and their sounds, and to read and write with accuracy and fluency!
- **Only \$10 per adult.** On-site childcare provided at no additional charge for children through the 5th grade at **A.G. Bell, 1455 Huy Road, Columbus, Ohio.**
- **Unique opportunity to network with families that face similar experiences, circumstances, and challenges.**

April 22-25 ~ **ON THE ROAD TO YOUR FUTURE** **2009**

4 day Bus Trip to NTID & Gallaudet

Our biennial event, “On the Road to Your Future” is scheduled for April 22-25, 2009. This endeavor began in 2001 as an extension of the transition weekend, “Making a Difference with Your Future” (MDYF), and was established to expose high school students to two of the leading post secondary institutions in the country for the deaf and hard of hearing populations, **Gallaudet University** in Washington DC and the **National Technical Institute for the Deaf** in Rochester, NY.

Accommodations allow twenty **college bound** students to participate. Students from the MDYF workshops are given first consideration and priority will be given to juniors, sophomores, seniors and freshman, respectively. One parent or legal guardian must accompany each student and the cost for the weekend is \$50 per person (\$100 per family) including transportation, hotel and 90% of your meals.



SAVE THIS DATE!

Experiencing Your Future

Deaf Initiatives has an exciting new program that will benefit central Ohio businesses. **“Experiencing Your Future”** is designed to place college students who are deaf or hard of hearing into meaningful cooperative work experiences (co-op). The co-op is a full-time work experience for one quarter (10 weeks) in the student’s field of study. This initiative benefits both companies and students while meeting an important mission to strengthen the potential of young adults who are deaf or hard of hearing. In collaboration with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, NY, Deaf Initiatives brings central Ohio companies and qualified college students together. For more information visit www.deafinitiatives.org.

What do Employers say about their Co-op students?

Our goal was to expose Brandon Coleman to as many disciplines as possible in our engineering group. This would include mechanical design engineering, material performance testing, facilities layouts, facility improvements and ‘green’ engineering. We accomplished a number of assignments. He has taken an assistant design role with our mechanical engineer on a capital project that adds a new production line to our facility. Brandon’s AutoCad experience has been a big plus on this project. We also have a number of facility projects he completed that allows our group to make sound engineering decisions. Brandon’s attention to detail is a key attribute with our product testing of materials. He follows test procedures and provides data to the Technical Manger. Soon, we will look to Brandon to help us with a preliminary engineer draft of some Green projects related to the facility. Our communication paths to work with Brandon are notes, e-mails and lip-reading. We did begin his session with an interpreter. We discussed goals and objectives and Brandon was able to ask questions. We jointly said that we would use the interpreter as needed. So far, that has not been necessary. From our viewpoint, the communication has been very good. ~ Jeff Byczynski; Director of Operations, Crane Performance Siding



Brandon Coleman ~ Engineering Major at RIT/NTID

Amardeep Sekhri has grown since he first started work with Keepsake Theme Quilts. Because of logistics, his internship changed from a database developer to website designer. He was very flexible with the changes and jumped in with both feet to make changes and improvements to both Keepsake Theme Quilts and Deaf Initiatives web-sites. He is now working on a new interactive page to allow customers to design their own quilts on line. His innovative ideas are moving us forward in a competitive market. ~ Anna Naumann; Office Manager, DI

It has been a pleasure working with Amardeep Sekhri as he is a pleasant person to work with and has an excellent analytical mind. He



possesses a wide variety of computer and technical skills which was used in many ways. He has shown to be a dedicated and committed individual and has shared ideas with our team that were beneficial. He has created a database for us using Access and SQL. He has worked on improving our current webpage using Dreamweaver and Photoshop. In addition, he has edited video feeds and added them for use through our webpage. We all at Deaf Services Center have truly enjoyed having him on board with us for the summer of 2008.

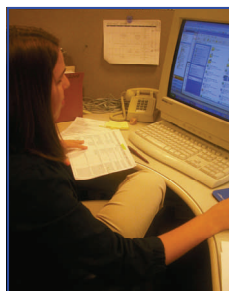
~ John L. Moore, Executive Director, Deaf Services Center

Amardeep Sekhari ~ Management Information Systems at Rochester Institute of Technology /NTID

Reyes Presiado has been actively involved in updating an emergency planning recovery system database; preparing contracts, invoices, receiving reports and other accounts payable documentation for input into an electronic document management system; writing for a student intern newsletter; and assisting in preparing a newsletter focused on one of DFAS’ customers. He has also actively participated in teambuilding activities, had job shadowing opportunities, taken on-line eLearning courses, and attended professional development organization meetings. ~ Tim Strom Leaders in Motion Program DFAS Columbus



Reyes Presiado ~ Accounting Major RIT/NTID



Kirsten Donica was able to step in immediately and help our Quality Control Oversight Office on two high-level, complex projects. The skills that she developed from her NTID education, particularly in the area of Excel spreadsheets enabled us to put her to work right away while providing Kirsten a meaningful and broad exposure to the overall mission of our office. Our project teams benefited directly from the support she provided in developing detailed matrixes and spreadsheets that effectively organized and compiled complex information vital to the success of our projects. Kirsten is inquisitive and not afraid to ask questions. She is continually striving to learn more and broaden her knowledge base while developing new skills. This co-operative work experience was definitely a win-win situation for both the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and Kirsten.

~ Bill McGee; Accountant, Defense Finance and Accounting Services

Kirsten Donica ~ Accounting Major, RIT and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf

What do the Students say about their Co-op experience?

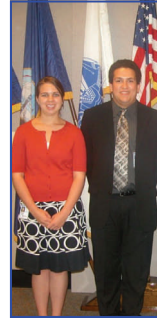
I love my co-op experience at Crane Performance Siding! I am working on my degree in Civil Engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), so this experience is perfect for me. I have a variety of things I work on like design auto cad and chamber testing. Chamber testing is where I make sure the siding is okay in hot or cold conditions. The workplace is like one big happy family. Communication is not a problem at all! I can lip-read well and we email, write notes, and sometimes they understand my speech. I want to thank my boss, Jeff Byczynski, and Robin Lynch, their Human Resource Director, for giving me this wonderful opportunity to learn and prove myself. I couldn't have found a better place to work ~ Brandon



I feel lucky to have two different part time co-op experiences. Both Deaf Initiatives (DI) and Deaf Services Center (DSC) shared my time forming an internship that allowed me to face many challenges and produce real outcomes. My two job experiences gave me the opportunity to work in different environments allowing me to use a variety of creative and innovative computer skills. I have learned how to work independently myself. I am now also skilled at using the Columbus Library to read computer books and learn new computer skills from them as well as tutorials online. I am using the skills I learned in the Management Information Systems Program at Rochester Institute of Technology to work with staff and supervisors. We share ideas and concepts about the development, designing and implementation of websites, databases, and programming needs. I am thankful to both DI and DSC for giving me this great opportunity to work in Ohio. I will take my new skills and the experiences I learned in this internship with me when I search for a full time job in future. ~ Amardeep

It was an interesting experience living and working in Columbus, Ohio for my co-op. I was eager to start my internship at Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) since it would be my first experience working with a government organization. I was amazed at how the work environment was disability friendly and I met many people with various kinds of physical disabilities. DFAS provides interpreting services for their 60 plus deaf workers. After the first few days of orientation, I was assigned to a rather repetitious job, but, after proving myself, I was challenged with a new project: to update the emergency planning recovery system database. Using the skills I learned at RIT through the Accounting in Bachelor of Science degree, I worked hard with my team to complete a complicated project that kept me busy! This helped me become familiar with a critical aspect of business and the importance of collecting accurate data. I feel this was a good experience for me because I learned how to work with many different kinds of people and systems that will help me in the future. ~ Reyes

**DEAF INITIATIVES
ARRANGES
COMFORTABLE,
SAFE HOUSING
FOR ALL CO-OP
STUDENTS**



Before I came here to DFAS for a co-op experience, I was so nervous because this was my first real job in my whole life. It was an awesome experience; I found out that DFAS is a great workplace for deaf people. They have a lot of wonderful people who I feel comfortable being around. Some of the hearing people know sign language since about 60 deaf people work at DFAS. I was given a great opportunity to communicate with hearing people by using Microsoft Messengers like AIM or email, but I still use an interpreter for meetings. My supervisor, Bill McGee, is a wonderful person willing to help me understanding the real job world and he explains projects that I work on clearly because he is deaf as well. I am lucky to have such easy communication with my supervisor during my co-op. I learned that there are many significant differences between what I learned in my Business courses at RIT and how things actually work in the real world. I'm really thankful to DFAS and the wonderful people. My recommendation is that DFAS provides a great opportunity for summer interns to learn and to prepare for success in their future. ~ Kirsten

The NTID Center on Employment (NCE) is ready to work with you before, during, and after the hire of a deaf or hard-of-hearing person. NCE employment specialists help through job postings, resume packages, and on-campus orientation and recruitment supported by interpreting services. NTID's annual Job Fair is in October. Employers are invited to join us on campus to meet with deaf and hard-of-hearing employment candidates from various fields.

For more information about our job fair, our students, NTID/RIT academic programs and how you can partner with the NTID Center on Employment for your staffing needs, please visit the website at: <http://www.ntid.rit.edu/nce/employers.php>.



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**Providing initiatives that strengthen the potential
of youth who are deaf or hard of hearing**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.DEAFINITIATIVES.ORG



KUDOS TO BRUCE GREENFIELD BOARD MEMBER EXTRAORDINAIRE!

The Keepsake Theme Quilt staff would like to thank Bruce Greenfield for all of the hard work and dedication he provides, enabling us to grow and prosper. This year, KTQ sales spiked to new all time high, increasing quilt orders 64% over last year! Much of our success is due to Bruce's expertise, tireless efforts, and his many volunteer consulting hours. As a full-time professor in the School of Management at Capital University and as an adjunct professor at Bowling Green State University, Bruce's experience, insight, and business practices knowledge proved invaluable to KTQ. Through his guidance, we continued our superior quality workmanship while increasing our productivity to match demand. As a Social Purpose Business, Keepsake Theme Quilts focuses on people as well as production. Bruce understands this dynamic and works with the women to create a safe and productive work area creating an environment that promotes personal creativity.



Bruce works with many different businesses as an operations management consulting professional, helping people eliminate redundant and obsolete processes to operate more efficiently. Bruce's education includes a Masters in Business Administration (with emphasis in Operations Research/Management Science) from The University of Michigan, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management from Purdue University. He moved to Columbus in 1984 and brought up two children; Jessica who lives in Boston and teaches at the Learning Center for Deaf Children in Framingham, Mass. and Matthew who recently moved to San Francisco and is working on his MBA with a focus on environmental impact and sustainability. In his spare time, Bruce enjoys karate and bicycling.

Keepsake Theme Quilts strives to produce unique quality keepsake theme quilts which exceed the customer's expectations and to promote an environment that supports and enhances work skills, interpersonal communication and self esteem among individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

↔ **Our Dorm Twin - Perfect for a college dorm bed**