

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

Office Location / Mailing Address: 55 Utley Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011
Voice: (717) 975-2004 or (888) 250-5175 TTY: (717) 737-0158 Fax: (888) 524-9282
Email: racucpa@ucpcentralpa.org www.parac.org

WEEKLY UPDATE: February 19, 2020

If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Jill Kovalcik Weaver at jill.weaver@ucpcentralpa.org to have your name removed.

NOTE: This update is for informational purposes only. The PaRC and Support Staff are not responsible for the accuracy of this information. Some of the information found in this update you may have already received from another source. The PaRC or the Support Staff do not use this update as a vehicle to express their views and positions. As of **February 19, 2020**, all links have been verified. Please credit the PaRC Support Project for any information forwarded to others. Thank You.

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Council is to inform and advise the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Legislature, and the Governor on the diverse issues affecting employment of people with disabilities.

The PaRC 2019 Annual Report can be found on our webpage or by clicking on the following link

<http://parac.org/reports/2019AnnualReport.pdf>

Find Your Local CAC Meeting Dates: Please go to our website www.parac.org and click on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) link to find dates, locations, times, etc. for information on the nearest CAC.

***** PaRC Calendar Year 2020 –Please Mark your Calendars *****

FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

PaRC Full Council meetings will be held at the **Harrisburg Hilton** from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM (unless otherwise noted). We will also have parking passes for those who park in the Strawberry Square Parking Garage. Please plan to stay for the entire meeting.

February 19, 2020

May 13, 2020

August 5, 2020

November 18, 2020

The agenda will be posted on the PaRC website.

http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html

PaRC Member Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars

CareerLink/WIOA

Next Call: To be Determined

Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Transition & Education

Next Call: Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 2:00 PM

The PaRC Social Media and Outreach Committee in partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) produced 6 videos, 5 of which are OVR individual and business success stories, as well as a PaRC Recruitment video. We want to thank both the individuals and companies that participated in making these videos and OVR for supporting the project. The PaRC is pleased to present the following 6 videos. Please feel free to share.

[PaRC Recruitment](#)

[PaRC Dream Partnership](#)

[PaRC Herr Foods Inc.](#)

[PaRC Aha Moment](#)

[PaRC Keystone Blind Association](#)

[PaRC Assistive Technology](#)

PaRC COUNCIL OPENINGS: The PaRC is looking for a candidate to fill the veteran with a disability opening. The openings for Deaf and Hard of Hearing and General Advocacy are pending as candidates have been sent forward for the Governor's approval. If interested, please go to our website (www.parac.org) and fill out an application.

1.) From Governor Tom Wolf Newsroom

Gov. Wolf Vetoes Bill That Would Halt State Center Closures

February 12, 2020

Governor Tom Wolf today vetoed Senate Bill 906, which would have put a moratorium on the closing of any state center and was introduced after the Department of Human Services (DHS) announced the closing of two of the remaining four state centers – Polk, in Venango County, and White Haven, in Luzerne County. DHS’s Office...To read the entire article visit:

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-vetoes-bill-that-would-halt-state-center-closures/>

2.) From The American Foundation for the Blind

The American Foundation for the Blind’s Questions for Presidential Candidates

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 14, 2020)—As the race for the 2020 Presidential election heats up and the field of candidates narrows, the 26.9 million Americans who are blind and low vision are paying close attention to what the candidates of all political parties plan to do to improve education, employment, and community participation for people with vision loss.

Blind and low vision people represent a broad cross-section of American society and represent all races, religions, genders, sexual orientations, ages, immigration statuses, and political persuasions. Therefore, people with vision loss care about the same issues as other voters, such as healthcare, education, and foreign policy. However, the blind community is also impacted by many issues and public policies that are unique to people with disabilities and people with vision loss. To read the entire article visit:

<https://www.afb.org/press-room/press-release-archive/questions-presidential-candidates>

3.) From Partnership On Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT)

PEAT and Our Partners Brief U.S. Senate on Website Accessibility

February 13, 2020

Last month, PEAT was excited to join a U.S. Senate staff briefing on “Improving Website Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities,” which was sponsored by Senators Bob Casey and Amy Klobuchar. In collaboration with the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and partners, we provided Senate staff with concrete ideas for how to improve the accessibility of their websites and digital tools for visitors and employees.

Jennifer Sheehy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of ODEP, launched our discussions on the central role digital accessibility plays in inclusion for the workplace, civic engagement, and other facets of our technologically changing society. Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (IDEA) both require all federal websites to

be accessible and usable for people with disabilities. To read the entire article visit: <https://www.peatworks.org/blog/2020/feb/peat-and-our-partners-brief-us-senate-website-accessibility>

4.) From Matter of Fact

Vertical Harvest: How A Farm Provides Upward Mobility For People with Disabilities

Solidad O'Brien – February 15, 2020

Growing crops and independence. More than half the workers at a vertical farm in Jackson Hole, Wyoming are people with disabilities. Correspondent Leone Lahkhani shows us how [Vertical Harvest of Jackson Hole](#) has created unique opportunities in the community. To read the entire article visit: <https://matteroffact.tv/vertical-harvest-how-a-farm-provides-upward-mobility-for-people-with-disabilities/>

5.) From Disability Scoop

Tech Innovations: A Helping Hand To People With Disabilities Forbes Technology Council

Ilya Gandzeichuk Forbes Councils Member

Forbes Technology Council-COUNCIL POST

February 14, 2020

The 21st century has opened an era of connectivity and knowledge governance. A smart, innovative workplace has become a current reality that stands far apart from the traditional concept of the work environment. The new, highly supportive work environment does not only benefit the society in general but opens new doors to people with disabilities. To read the entire article visit:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2020/02/14/tech-innovations-a-helping-hand-to-people-with-disabilities/#2dc86c881ae7>

6.) From FOX43 News

Lancaster County emerging artist creates art without boundaries for national tour

Artist with disability breaks down barriers and shows off talent at the Lancaster Museum of Art.

Author: Valeria De Leon (FOX43)

Published: 12:25 AM EST February 17, 2020

Updated: 12:25 AM EST February 17, 2020

LANCASTER, Pa. — Creating art without boundaries.

The Lancaster County Museum of Art hosted the Kennedy Center's VSA Emerging Young Artists Program nation tour on Sunday.

The tour displays works from 15 artists around the country, including Lancaster artist, Malcolm Corley.

The theme of this year's tour asked artists to connect, span new distances, and see unexpected relationships through art. To read the entire article visit: <https://www.fox43.com/article/news/local/connected-vsa-emerging-young-artists-exhibition/521-3fe7cb00-fe6f-4a70-9ee0-f54c59755cdb>

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