

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@parac.org www. Parac.org

WEEKLY UPDATE: October 19, 2017

If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Nancy Kershner at nancy.kershner@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 **October 19, 2017**, 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 2016 Annual Report and can be accessed by clicking on the following link. <http://www.parac.org/reports/> and a link to the PDF <http://www.parac.org/reports/2016AnnualReport.pdf>. You can also find the PaRC 2016 Annual Report on our webpage.

Find Your Local CAC Meeting Dates: Please go to our website www.parac.org/CAC to find dates, locations, times, etc. for information on the nearest CAC.

***** PaRC Calendar Year 2018 –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.

March 7, 2018
May 2, 2018
August 22, 2018
October 24, 2018

PaRC Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars

CAC / Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

CareerLink/WIOA

Next Call: Monday, December 18, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Customer Satisfaction Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: – Monday, November 27, 2017 at 2:00 AM

Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

OVR Policy and State Plan Committee Conference Call

Next Call: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: Friday, November 10, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Transition & Education

Next Call: – Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 2:00 PM

1.) American Association of People with Disabilities:

[AAPD 2018 Summer Internship Program Applications Now Open](#) --

Each summer, AAPD places college students, graduate students, law students, and recent graduates with all types of disabilities in summer internships with Congressional offices, federal agencies, non-profits, and for-profit organizations in the Washington, DC area. Each intern is matched with a mentor who will assist them with their career goals. AAPD provides the interns with a living stipend, transportation to and from Washington, DC,

and fully-accessible housing. As part of the AAPD network, interns also receive opportunities to attend events on Capitol Hill, conferences, community events, briefings, and more. **Applications are due November 6th.**

[The Kennedy Center's Experiential Education Initiative Internship](#) -- Established in 2000, the innovative Experiential Education Initiative (EEI) Internship is a semester-long, paid internship for individuals with intellectual disabilities, 19 to 30 years of age. The program also provides access to cultural arts experiences at the Kennedy Center, opportunities for social and personal growth, and develops work-readiness skills for success in transition to the workplace. With meaningful, experiential hands-on opportunities, EEI interns will explore today's varied careers in a performing arts environment. **Applications are due by November 9, 2017.**

[College Scholarship from disABLEDperson, Inc.](#) -- disABLEDperson, Inc announced their Fall 2017 National Scholarship Competition for College Students with Disabilities. A \$2,000 scholarship is available. **Applications must be submitted by November 12, 2017.**

[Civil and Human Rights Coalition Supports the Disability Integration Act](#) -- "Community integration of people with disabilities is a deeply important civil rights issue. The Disability Integration Act builds upon the historic Americans with Disabilities Act, and the promise of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Olmstead v. L.C. It would provide people with disabilities with the real choice and opportunity of living and participating in the community without discrimination through the strengthened use of long term services and support through an increased commitment of federal funds for those services. We urge Congress to enact this vital legislation as soon as possible." – Vanita Gupta, President and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

[Goodwill to celebrate transition from 'sheltered workshop'](#) -- The change at Goodwill is part of a trend that has been accelerating nationally and locally in recent years due to federal funding changes, court mandates that say disabled workers shouldn't be segregated, as well as a preference from younger people with disabilities who grew up in more integrated settings, and a trend away from the sub-minimum wage that such workshops are permitted to pay.

[Universal Writer's Program](#) -- The Universal Writers Program is a one-year paid program that's open to both experienced writers with produced credits and writers with no credits trying to break into the industry. The Program inclusively develops storytellers with the intent to incorporate

multicultural and global perspectives in screenwriting. **The program application will be available through November 6, 2017** with the Program commencing April 2018.

[Survey: Identifying Unmet Wheelchair Related Needs and the Future of Mobility Technology](#) – The Human Engineering Research Laboratories (HERL) at the University of Pittsburgh is conducting a research study to collect information from individuals that use mobility related assistive technology.

[Disability Pride Toolkit and Resource Guide](#) -- This Toolkit, produced by the Youth Transitions Fellow at the National Council on Independent Living, addresses the topics of disability pride, intersectionality, disability history, and disability representation in the media.

[Everybody Communicates: Toolkit for Accessing Communication Assessments, Funding, and Accommodations](#) -- This toolkit, created by the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, is designed to help you access communication evaluations and tools for effective communication for people with communication-related developmental disabilities.

[Will the US Weaken its Disability Laws?](#) -- A bill that would very deliberately undermine the protections afforded under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) could come to a vote in the US House of Representatives soon.

[AAPD Invites Affiliates to Participate in a National Survey about Accessible Parking and Placard Abuse](#) -- Online survey for people who require accessible parking, and/or have disabled placard or license plates, takes about 10 minutes and will have a major effect on policies related to parking for people with disabilities. If you require accessible parking and have a disabled placard or license plate, please take this 15-minute online survey on *Accessible Parking and Placard Abuse* to ensure your voice is heard. **It is important to complete the survey before it closes November 1.** Results are being reported at a Stakeholder's Forum on Accessible Parking and Placard Abuse, December 6 in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. Access Board, the federal agency responsible for developing and updating the American Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines. Here's [the link to the survey](#). Your responses are anonymous and appreciated. The more people who respond, the more valuable the survey will be in making positive changes for people in our community.

2.) Disabled-World.com:

[Social Security Announces 2% COLA Benefit Increase for 2018](#) - The U.S. Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will be 2% in 2018. Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 66 million Americans will increase 2 percent in 2018, the Social Security Administration announced. The 2 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 61 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2018. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 29, 2017.

3.) Policy Information Exchange:

PIE Info: Slice of Pie, Volume 18 Issue 3 -- The Policy Information Exchange brings you the **Slice of PIE - Volume 18 Issue 3, 2017**, an ongoing publication keeping our readers informed about important public policy issues. It is the mission of the Policy Information Exchange to educate and inform Pennsylvanians with disabilities, their families and advocates, and the general public, regarding public policy issues and to further the exchange of policy information between the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council and federal, state and local policy makers. [Click here to read A Slice of Pie](#), which includes a [printable version](#); [state news and bills of interest](#); and [national news](#).

4.) National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research:

Webinar: The Power of Apprenticeship - Including People with Disabilities -- The NIDILRR-funded [Northeast ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webinar, [The Power of Apprenticeship: Including People with Disabilities](#), October 25th, 12-1:30pm ET. This webinar will highlight how apprenticeship programs can enable employment service providers who support people with disabilities to foster collaboration with employers to create apprenticeship opportunities in local communities. These partnerships can offer a proven path to good, secure middle-class jobs for people with disabilities who are traditionally underrepresented in these opportunities. Presenters will also discuss how employers might approach providing accommodations for apprentices who have disabilities. Registration is free and required.

The PaRC is looking for candidates to fill 1 opening for category Business/Industry and a veteran with a disability. Any interested candidates, please go to our website at www.parac.org and fill out an application. Thank You.

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