

## **PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)**

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### **WEEKLY UPDATE November 6, 2020**

**We are social and want to connect with you! That's right, please visit the PaRC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Pennsylvania-Rehabilitation-Council-1587882184858917> and like us! This is where you can find the latest happenings with the PaRC events, meetings, latest news, and info about OVR, legislation, and information regarding employment for people with disabilities. See you there!**

\*If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Katie Haley at [mary.haley@ucpcentralpa.org](mailto:mary.haley@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 **November 6, 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](http://www.parac.org) and click on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) link to find dates, locations, times, agendas and minutes, etc. for information on your 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.

**\*\*\* November 18, 2020 \*\*\***

**Audio Conference Meeting**

**Link to agenda:** [Agenda for the PaRC FC meeting on November 18, 2020](#)

[http://parac.org/council\\_mtgs.html](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: To be Determined

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 Aha Moment](#)

[PaRC Dream Partnership](#)

[PaRC Herr Foods Inc.](#)

[PaRC Keystone Blind Association](#)

[PaRC Assistive Technology](#)

**PaRC COUNCIL OPENINGS:** The PaRC is looking for candidates to fill new openings on the council. If interested, please go to our website ([www.parac.org](http://www.parac.org)) and fill out an application.

## **1.) Education Department Addresses Special Ed Concerns Related To COVID-19**

**by Michelle Diamant  
November 2, 2020**

With two new guidance documents, federal education officials are clarifying issues facing both young children with disabilities and those transitioning to adulthood amid the pandemic.

The U.S. Department of Education issued question-and-answer documents in recent weeks aimed at two very different groups — infants and toddlers with disabilities who are just starting their educational journey, as well as transition-age students and adults receiving services through vocational rehabilitation. To read more, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/11/02/education-department-addresses-special-ed-concerns-related-to-covid-19/29059/>

## **2.) Mindset Matters: The Future of Disability Employment in The Digital Age and The Impact for All Businesses**

**Jonathan Kaufman Contributor Diversity & Inclusion  
Oct 31, 2020**

As October comes to a close, and we mark the seventy-fifth anniversary commemorating National Disability Employment Awareness month it is important to reflect and on what comes next. Corporations, disability organizations, and other key stakeholders privy to the conversations need to reassess not only what managing talent looks like in the digital age, but reconsider how the very power dynamics are changing in real-time granting opportunity for employees with disabilities to leverage these fluctuations while challenging some of the longstanding traditional cadences that have defined workplace culture. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jonathankaufman/2020/10/31/minidset-matters-the-future-of-disability-employment-in-the-digital-age-and-the-impact-for-all-businesses/?sh=7bc263af3652>

**3.) Someone told me I would never model because I am disabled. I proved them wrong at NY Fashion Week**

**Opinion by Melissa Blake  
October 31, 2020**

(CNN) When I was a teenager, someone said that I could never be a model because I am disabled.

Those words stung. Not because they crushed my long-held dreams of becoming the next great fashion icon, but because they just reaffirmed society's ableist thinking: That there was no place for disability in fashion.

This year, though, more than 20 years later, I modeled in New York Fashion Week (NYFW), where I got to wear an outfit from Zappos Adaptive and make a short video. It feels like a win for me, sure, but it is a huge win for disability representation in fashion. To read more, go to:

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/31/opinions/disability-fashion-and-inclusion-blake/index.html>

#### **4.) People with Disabilities Need the Freedom to Explore Their Interests**

**by Halsey Blocher**  
**OCTOBER 30, 2020**

Children typically grow up with many opportunities to participate in a variety of activities. After exploring options, they choose the ones they enjoy most. They might choose sports, or they could opt to participate in art, music, or video gaming. If passionate, they might stretch these interests into adulthood.

It is just as important that disabled kids and adults have opportunities to pursue hobbies that appeal to us. Sometimes society forgets we have unique interests beyond disability-related activities or assumes we should always partake in every disability-related offering. The truth is we should have the freedom to try other options available to us, too. To continue reading, go to:

<https://smanewstoday.com/columns/2020/10/30/freedom-interests/>

#### **5.) In First, Doctors Get Guidelines for Treating Adults with Down Syndrome**

**by Shaun Heasley**  
**November 3, 2020**

New guidelines are spelling out exactly how medical care for adults with Down syndrome should be distinct from that of their typically developing peers.

Experts from eight of the nation's largest adult Down syndrome medical centers and other stakeholders spent four years combing research on the treatment of those with the chromosomal disorder in order to establish the first-of-its-kind evidence-based

clinical guidelines. To read more, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/11/03/in-first-doctors-get-guidelines-for-treating-adults-with-down-syndrome/29063/>

## **6.) Warner Bros. Issues Apology After 'The Witches' Faces Backlash from Disability Community** **by Mia Galuppo** **11/4/2020**

"[Warner Bros.] was there much thought given as to how this representation of limb differences would affect the limb difference community," wrote Paralympian Amy Marren on Twitter.

Warner Bros. has issued a statement saying the studios regrets "any offense caused" by a character design seen in recent release The Witches after online backlash from the disability community.

To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/warner-bros-issues-apology-after-the-witches-backlash-from-disability-community>

## **7.) New research documents how COVID-19 multiplies stress and trauma for people with disabilities** **by Bonnie Ertelt** **Nov. 4, 2020**

The COVID-19 pandemic has induced stress in everyone this year, but for those marginalized by disabilities, and especially those already dealing with social inequity and poverty, the pandemic has dealt additional blows.

Anjali Forber-Pratt and Kolton (John Russell/Vanderbilt) In a November article published in Rehabilitation Psychology, Anjali J. Forber-Pratt, assistant professor of human and organizational development, reviews research on disabilities and COVID-19 to help rehabilitation psychologists mitigate the effects of the added stress of the pandemic. In addition, the work addressed how systemic discrimination against people with

disabilities intersects with other forms of inequity. To read more, go to: <https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2020/11/04/new-research-documents-how-covid-19-multiplies-stress-and-trauma-for-people-with-disabilities/>

## **8.) Disability Advocates Still Fight for Progress** **Amerigo Allegretto [aallegretto@pitt.edu](mailto:aallegretto@pitt.edu)** **November 4, 2020**

2020 marks the anniversary of important milestones for people with disabilities.

July 26 saw the 30th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act, while October was the 75th anniversary of the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). At the end of October, the University of Pittsburgh's Office of Diversity and Inclusion hosted two discussion panels to build awareness of opportunities for and the accomplishments of people with disabilities in the workplace, as well as how Pitt is addressing the challenges and successes that individuals with disabilities face every day.

"As a community, we must continue to promote and prioritize accessibility for people with disabilities. And we must continue working together to create an academic environment that is not just world-class, but is also welcoming and inclusive to all people," said Pitt Chancellor Patrick Gallagher in a video introduction for one of the panels. To continue reading, go to: <https://www.pittwire.pitt.edu/news/disability-advocates-still-fight-progress>

## **9.) People with intellectual disabilities need more state support during COVID-19 | Opinion** **by Mark Davis** **November 5, 2020**

As the coronavirus pandemic persists, a new multi-state report provides a grim reminder that this disease is having an especially devastating impact on Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and/or Autism (ID/A.) Data collected from eight states, including Pennsylvania, show that while these individuals are about as likely to contract COVID-19 as members of the general public, they are significantly more likely to die from a COVID-19 infection than are members of the general public who have contracted the virus. To read more, go to:

<https://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2020/11/people-with-intellectual-disabilities-need-more-state-support-during-covid-19-opinion.html>

## **10.) Company Turns Dog Treats into Jobs, Futures for Young People with Special Needs by Catherine Roberts, Star Tribune/TNS | November 3, 2020**

MINNEAPOLIS — Finley’s Barkery, like many thoroughly 21st century businesses, started with a social mission: employing adults with special needs.

Named after the owners’ dog, Finley’s — which manufactures dog treats — grew through social media, gaining a huge boost when actor-entrepreneur Ashton Kutcher shared one of the company’s posts.

Along the way, owners Angie and Kyle Gallus got married, figuring building the venture was a good test for building a marriage. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/11/03/company-dog-treats-jobs-futures-young-people-special-needs/29061/>

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