

# VECAP NEWSLETTER



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## A Message from Your President



By Fran Smith, Ed.D, CVE

### *We are VECAP!*

Many years ago, I began my first career as a vocational evaluator. In those days I had the luxury of a two week evaluation period, access to multiple assessment tools and work sample systems, and a workshop setting where I could observe my clients in work “situations”. Probably not the most perfect of settings mind you but certainly a useful assessment process. We learned a lot about the clients we served—their interests, their dreams, their career aspirations. As a vocational/career assessment process, I was impressed with how this worked and the assurance that what we “tested” often proved to be confirmed by what we observed and what clients told us.

As a newbie to the world of vocational evaluation, this entire process was impressive. I had come from indoctrination as a psychology student and had little exposure to this world. Since this was a fairly new profession, I was amazed at the richness of resources and information that I could explore around topics such as career assessment, work sample development, job analysis, job placement, interest and aptitude testing, and career development (to name a few). Practitioners were thirsty for professional resources and information that could inform their practice in

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the delivery of evaluation and assessment services to individuals with disabilities. These individuals often struggled to re-enter the job market, to determine their career abilities, and to navigate the maze of work requirements after a long break from working. Some needed a different assessment experience—one that offered a process that considered multiple ways to determine and demonstrate career potential. As a budding new vocational evaluation and career assessment practitioner, I turned to a professional association that shared a depth of understanding surrounding these issues and a breadth of resources on best practices.

VECAP has been supporting the professional interests of career assessment professionals since 2003. We broke away from our association at that time with VEWA (http://www.vewaa.org) and forged a new direction that gave us a chance to broaden our appeal to those offering assessment services in various settings. As an organization, VECAP strives to keep its members apprised of the latest research, best practices and tools. **Its mission is to advance and improve career**

A Message... – Continued from Page 1

**assessment services that individuals seek and provide.** Many of our members are practitioners who “identify, guide, and support the efforts of persons served to develop and realize training, education, and employment plans as they work to attain their goals” (VECAP, 2010). Our members are educators, certified vocational evaluation specialists, private practitioners, career development teachers, career assessment providers, transition specialists, and consumers. Many have decades of front-line experience in the fields of vocational evaluation and assessment, have training and education in the field, and have maintained national certifications.

In 2007, the VECAP board commissioned an ad-hoc committee to develop a strategic plan for the organization. Out of that came the vision and mission that we have embraced as an organization along with 3 primary goals:

1. Develop and sustain a strong virtual presence, that involves a portal dynamic enough to support research, practice, teaching and administrative functions.
2. Provide and promote a rich array of opportunities for professional development in a variety of settings and formats.
3. Forge partnerships and alliances with organizations with similar missions.

The VECAP board has developed a strategic plan around this report and recommendations that extend through the end of this year. Under Past-President Lisa Blakeney’s leadership, we were able to forge ahead in a very strong direction around these goals. The VECAP board believes that its web portal serves as one of its most important resources. As such, we have committed to an investment in this resource and added a number of links and tools that can assist a practitioner such as recommended online assessment tools, access to a collection of work sample instructional guides and materials, guiding documents on recommended levels of career assessment and functional vocational evaluation, newsletter and journal publications, and links to seminal works in the field.

We have also established our footing in the world of Web 2.0 with both a social network, VECAP20.ning.com, and a Facebook Fan page. VECAP20.ning.com is a place where our members can discuss tools, strategies, and assistive technologies with other practitioners. This year we will have VECAP member/practitioner, Janelle Ellis, MA, CVE, providing monthly updates to a new group on our Ning targeted towards assistive technology issues/tools in the field. If you’re not a member of this growing online community, I encourage you to do so. This is a private area for our members. However, members have open access to post upcoming training events, discussions, announcements or emerging ideas. Both of our Membership Committee Co-Chairs are also helping to promote our VECAP Facebook page. This is an excellent way to share the message about VECAP’s mission/vision to others around the digital world. To date we have 59 Ning members and 75 Facebook fans! Help us promote this digital presence!

Our premiere bi-annual career assessment conference, The National Issues Forum (NIF), has been occurring since 1985 and often brings together practitioners from across the world. This year,

we celebrate our **fourteenth National Issues Forum, “Finding Your Career Path through the Lifecycle”**, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, April 8–11, 2010

([http://vecap.org/index.php?/site/nat\\_iss\\_forum/](http://vecap.org/index.php?/site/nat_iss_forum/)). In addition to an array of featured topics and speakers, nationally acclaimed speaker Brian Kurth will kick off our event with the opening keynote address. Mr. Kurth is the founder and owner of VocationVacations® (<http://www.vocationvacations.com>). He is described as a “sought after speaker who can open minds to new career and lifestyle possibilities and how to turn those possibilities into realities” (VECAP, 2010). VECAP views Mr. Kurth’s address as a key message for conference participants in this age of challenging economics and changing career transitions. We are indebted to the wonderful work of our Forum committee chairs, members and local Oklahoma contacts. This will be a Forum to remember! Take a moment to browse this information on our website or within this newsletter.

This year’s Forum is more important than ever before. As the premiere organization in vocational evaluation and career assessment, VECAP has an opportunity to pave a new path for the future. The Issues Forum is a place where that type of synergy can evolve and take fire. I have (as many of you) many fond memories of attending most of the past Forums and having a chance to network with other practitioners. We share stories, discuss strategies, compare assessment tools and notes, share laughs, listen to speakers and grapple with the issues. I assure you, in these challenging economic times, there are many issues to consider. VECAP however has an opportunity to capture those issues and turn them into opportunities for the future. VECAP needs you, its members, to be a part of that discussion at the Forum!

The National Issues Forum also results in a collection of publications that have been captured as the *National Forum Issues Papers* at thirteen forums over the past twenty-five years. Most of these documents have been bound collections of printed papers. As a resource to the field, VECAP is converting these to digital files that will become both a part of our website resources and be added to the digital repository of the National Clearinghouse of Rehabilitation Training Materials (NCRTM). Currently, NCRTM has been adding digital editions of past copies of the VEWAA journals—another seminal source of evidence-based practices in the field. Links to this collection can be found under our website “Web Resources”.

VECAP is committed to expanding its reach and influence as the “go-to” organization on career assessment and vocational evaluation. Currently, we have active partnerships with the Council for Rehabilitation Education (CORE), the National Career Development Association (NCDA), the Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT), and the Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association (VEWAA). We value our growing partnership with DCDT and look forward to continued opportunities to participate in national conferences in 2010 and 2011. In July, VECAP will again provide a feature session at the NCDA conference on global certification in San Francisco, CA.

National partnerships are important to VECAP and bring opportunities to influence policy and decision-making around best practices in the field. In 1992, we were instrumental in bringing together the collective assessment philosophies and interests of eleven national associations as The Interdisciplinary Council on Vocational Evaluation and Assessment. These shared voices articulated

a national position paper that formalized a set of seven guiding principles and recommended competencies for vocational evaluation and assessment. VECAP promotes these best practices to its members and infuses them into its mission and goals. These have become important principles that have guided practice and the continued articulation of other definitions such as functional vocational evaluation. Recently, the state of Florida began including the VECAP definition of functional vocational evaluation in statewide training ([http://www.project10.info/files/STC\\_12.15.09\\_1\\_.ppt#506,96](http://www.project10.info/files/STC_12.15.09_1_.ppt#506,96), Florida Education: The Next Generation DRAFT). In the late 90's, we developed a national position paper around the importance of assistive technology in vocational evaluation and assessment. In 2006 we followed with another position on the importance of universal design for learning. These are national statements that we stand behind and promote to the public—sharing our beliefs in an assessment process that is comprehensive and makes a difference in people's lives.

Our national partnerships are more important today than ever before. In this age of limited resources, strapped state agency budgets, and job losses, VECAP stands to benefit from opportunities where we can share, leverage resources, and build with others. VECAP is diligently working with members of the DCDT leadership on efforts of the growing *National Community of Practice on Transition and Career Assessment*. VECAP Advocacy Co-Chairs Dr. Pam Leconte and Ashley McFall, President-Elect Marsha Legg, and Communications Chair Joan Kester spearhead these efforts. A presentation from this group will be provided at the Forum. We are also a supporting member of over 35 national organizations that comprise the National Taskforce on Universal Design for Learning, <http://www.advocacyinstitute.org/UDL/index.shtml>, and have highlighted one of our national position papers on the importance of UDL in vocational evaluation and assessment.

Finally, the national certification (CVE) conversation has been on everyone's minds/discussions in the past years. We have not been taking this lightly! Again under Past-President Lisa Blakeney's leadership, we entered into several collaborations with VEWA and others to explore this issue. That resulted in a sanctioned Task Force report and our ongoing involvement with a group now exploring other alternatives. Links to this report are on our website under our Standards Committee at [http://vecap.org/index.php?/site/aboutus\\_categories/C97/](http://vecap.org/index.php?/site/aboutus_categories/C97/). Lisa Blakeney, Dr. Jean Johnson, Standard Chair, and our Home Office Coordinator, Mike Ahlers will be representing VECAP's role with this committee and will be our representative voice. A presentation/report is slated from this group at the Forum.

While these are challenging times for us all, they are also times of opportunity. We see opportunities in our growing national position, the continued value of vocational evaluation and career assessment, our partnerships with others, and our connections with each of you. Last year VECAP added 58 members to the organization. I believe we can triple that number in 2010. If you're an educator, encourage your students to join; if you're a practitioner, encourage your colleagues to join; if you're an administrator, enroll your practitioners! Consider becoming a member of this exciting professional association that specializes in improving and expanding the fields of vocational evaluation and career assessment. I'm sure you'll enjoy the additional articles in this newsletter that give you a taste of some of our exciting works in progress.

VECAP (2010). Mission and goals, *About Us*, Retrieved February 8, 2010 from [http://vecap.org/index.php?/site/aboutus\\_categories/C77/](http://vecap.org/index.php?/site/aboutus_categories/C77/) ❖



## 2010 VECAP Awards Nominations Now Open!!!!

Remember what it feels like to be thanked or complimented for a job well done???

Please make someone's day by taking 5 minutes to nominate a deserving colleague or professional who has gone to great lengths to provide career assessment or work adjustment services to individuals in need; who has developed an innovative vocational evaluation program or service; or who has significantly contributed to VECAP?

### VECAP AWARDS NOMINATIONS NEEDED!!

Please consider recognizing someone for his/her accomplishments in the field of assessment and work adjustment in one of the following award categories:

**Mike Rubin VECAP Service Award** -- The Mike Rubin VECAP Service Award is presented to a VECAP member who has made a significant contribution to the organization. This service could have been provided during the past year, or over several years. Only VECAP members may nominate candidates for this award and more than one person can receive this award each year.

**Paul R. Hoffman Award** -- The Paul R. Hoffman Award is given in recognition of innovation and creativity in service to persons with disabilities through professional or technical achievements in vocational evaluation or work adjustment. A VECAP member may nominate a VECAP member or non-member for this award.

**Dick Omang Best Practices Award** -- The Dick Omang Best Practices Award is presented to a VECAP member who best exemplifies the practices of vocational evaluation or work adjustment in the field. The nominee should be a VECAP member, a Certified Vocational Evaluator (CVE), and recognized by peers and consumers as an ethical professional whose recommendations are sought and utilized in their respective field of practice.

Nominations for any of these awards should include the following:

1. Name, address, and telephone number of person making nomination.
2. The nominee's name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, job title and place of employment and
3. A narrative explanation of the nominee's contribution or service to VECAP and to the field of vocational evaluation or work adjustment.

Please send your nominations to [Office@vecap.org](mailto:Office@vecap.org) or mail to VECAP Home Office P.O. Box 2958 Salina, KS 67402-2958 by February 28, 2010❖

## PAST VECAP AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Mike Rubin VEWA/VECAP Service Award

1979. Rose Mestrow, Bill Rabucha  
 1980. Bill Pardue, Arnie Sax  
 1981. Gordon Keyte, Paul Meyer  
 1982. Darrell Coffey, Bonnie Jones  
 1983. Jan Potyka  
 1984. Dennis Maki  
 1985. Bob Davis  
 1986. Jeri Carter, Randy Gray  
 1987. Marsha Andersen, Ron Fry  
 1988. Gary Sigmon  
 1989. Karen Pell  
 1991. Jane Ruff, Doug Seiler  
 1992. Fran Smith  
 1993. Joe Ashley, Lynn Dowd  
 1994. Geri Harrand  
 1995. Randal Elston, Martha Ensley Stokes  
 1996. Lee Stroud  
 1997. Juliet Fried  
 1998. Darrell Turner  
 2001. Diane Uliana  
 2003. Karen Pell  
 2005. Maureen McGuire-Kuletz  
 2007. Lynn R. Dowd

### Dick Omang Best Practices Award

1995. Norma Colyer, Kyle Vohlken  
 1996. Cecilia Sumner  
 1997. Pam Winpiger  
 2001. Norma Coyler, Ken Zangla  
 2003. Leicester Johnson  
 2005. Wesley Greenwood  
 2007. Mary Piatt

### Paul R. Hoffman Award

1974. Paul Hoffinan  
 1975. Bernie Rosenberg  
 1976. Julian Nadolsky  
 1977. Tom Gannaway  
 1978. Arnie Sax  
 1979. Bob Couch  
 1980. Jack Sink  
 1982. Dick Baker  
 1983. Paul Meyer  
 1984. Darrell Coffey  
 1985. Randall McDaniel  
 1986. Everett Barton  
 1987. Walter Pruitt  
 1988. Carl Botterbusch  
 1989. Stephen Thomas  
 1990. Don Ross  
 1991. Pam LeConte  
 1992. Marsha Anderson  
 1994. Julius Villemarette  
 1995. Ron Fry, Karen Pell  
 1996. Susan Fewell  
 1997. Darrell Taylor  
 1998. Thomas Modahl  
 2001. Geri Harrand  
 2002. Fran Smith  
 2003. Pamela LeConte  
 2005. Nancy Scott  
 2007. Joe Ashley ❖



## Tools & Techniques

### *A Review of Envision Your Career – A Language Free Video Career Interest Inventory*

by Lynn Dowd, Ed.S., CVE

Vocational Evaluators often need visually-based interest inventories to assess the career interests of low or non-readers. *Envision Your Career – A Language Free Video Career Interest Inventory* by Elisabeth Kenneally, M.S. and Yelena Strelkoff, M.A., produced by JIST, is one such interest inventory. According to its administration guide, it is "an ideal assessment for those clients with limited English language skills, those with limited reading and writing skills, people who are deaf and hard of hearing, and other differently-abled people." It can also be used to provide variety to the assessment process for individuals who do have reading skills and is easy to administer in a group setting. Reproducible scoring sheets make the tool an economic alternative.

*Envision Your Career* uses live action video clips of 66 different jobs and has the evaluatee rate the job on a five point scale from 1 (strongly dislike) to 5 (strongly like) with 3 as a neutral rating in which the individual's response would indicate that they don't care much one way or the other about the job. Individuals receive video-based instructions, which like the title indicates, are language free. Generally these instructions are sufficient to convey what is involved in marking the answer sheet, but for some individuals additional instruction is required. The scoring sheet for *Envision Your Career* was modified after the video was developed and the instructions show a page in portrait orientation with emoticons to guide responses whereas, the sheet the evaluatee is given is in landscape orientation and appears different than in the video. This generally does not confuse the evaluatee but it does warrant a change in future editions of this tool.

*Envision Your Career* provides three sample items to insure that the individual understands what is required for marking the answer sheet. This can be very helpful in insuring an evaluatee knows what to do. The sample items, however, are presented more quickly than the regular test items and sometimes are more difficult for evaluatees to respond to. When the test items are administered, the item numbers go across the row rather than down the page. It is generally most individuals' inclination to work down the first column before proceeding to the next, so the Evaluator generally needs to watch closely at this point to insure the evaluatee is placing his/her answers in the correct space on the answer sheet.

*Envision Your Career* does a good job of presenting jobs which may be non-typical for low or non-readers. This is often a downfall of other visually-based interest inventories. This is also what makes the tool appropriate for a evaluatees at a wide range of educational levels. The manual indicates that "occupations are represented across a broad socioeconomic spectrum" and were chosen to show ethnic diversity, changing male/female roles and to show a balance of professional and non-professional roles. Overall, the video is engaging and moves at a reasonable pace for most evaluatees. The music becomes tiring after a while and it would be better if the natural sounds of the work environment were presented along with images of the job. There are two dental positions (Dentist and Dental Assistant) which to the viewer may seem redundant. Also, there is a Dance Teacher depicted who is a pregnant belly dance instructor. This can be as source of laughter in some assessment groups.

*Envision Your Career* is based on the Holland Code (RIASEC) model and the result of this assessment is a two letter Holland Code. The manual does indicate that it is "helpful" to use *50 Best Jobs for Your Personality* to find additional career options but no further career exploration is completed as part of this instrument. With other interest assessments such as the Self-Directed Search or the O\*Net Interest Profiler, the Holland Code is the starting place for further exploration, and not the ending point of the assessment. This evaluator uses the *Occupations Finder* from the *Self Directed Search* and the *Jobs Finder* from the *Self-Directed Search - Form E* (Easy Reading) to enable the evaluatee to generate a list of jobs of interest related to the Holland Code obtained from *Envision Your Career*.

*Envision Your Career* is available in DVD or VHS formats through JIST (1-800-648-5478 or <http://www.jist.com>)

This review is based upon practitioner experience using *Envision Your Career* with more than 300 assessment participants over a two year period. Further comment is welcome on this and other assessment tools via the VECAP Ning Tools & Techniques Forum (<http://vecap20.ning.com>)

A modified scoring sheet to be used with evaluatees who have difficulty using the 5 point rating scale on *Envision Your Career* is also shared via the Ning. ❖

## Product Review

By Graduate Student Kyle G. Slough, East Carolina University

### Livescribe Pulse Smartpen



#### Pros

- Easy to use user interface; stable software; excellent consumer service; growing availability; recording quality.

#### Cons

- Requires special paper; not ergonomically designed; battery life (3–4 hrs).

#### Overall

- The Pulse does what it promises and does it well. The battery life is an issue for the user who would like to use the Pulse for more than 3–4 hours in a day. The numerous features allow for quick and easy review of notes and recordings.

The Livescribe Pulse Smartpen is both a digital voice recorder and scanner in the form of a pen that allows the user to record digitally a speaker. While recording it also tracks what the user is writing and creates a digital image of his or her notes. What makes the pen so innovative is that it synchronizes the digital image of the notes with the actual recording of the speaker. After the class or event, both the digital image and the recording are easily uploaded to the user's computer. To simplify this process, Livescribe includes Livescribe Desktop software, which provides the user a digital notebook. This enables the user to search his/her notes and listen to the speaker on the computer.

The pen and related supplies are available at major retailers such as Target, Amazon, Best Buy, Apple Store, Staples and through Livescribe (<http://www.livescribe.com/>). The suggested retail price is \$149.95 (2GB pen) and \$199.95 (4GB pen). ❖

## Integrating Assistive Technology and Vocational Evaluation

By Janelle Ellis

Are you tired of hearing AT this and AT that? Let's stop talking about it and really figure out how to do it. Integrate AT into the vocational evaluation process that is. When you are on the *VECAP* Website, [www.vecap.org](http://www.vecap.org) check out the Online Communities tab and select the *VECAP2.0 Ning*. Through this on-line networking and sharing tool we hope to generate some real discussion and share successes, strategies, resources, innovations, and tools that you have found exciting and noteworthy.

In these difficult economic times, traveling to attend training and face-to-face networking opportunities is discouraged. This alternative provides many advantages: a wider audience thus promoting a diversity of ideas and discussions and no time limits. On-going interaction insures that we keep moving forward. Often at conferences we get inspired but then it's back to reality. Make this *VECAP Ning* a regular part of your routine. Let's get it done!

One of the biggest challenges we face is how to provide quality career assessment services for individuals with severe and multiple disabilities, and one where AT plays a vital role. Through this *VECAP* social networking site we will share resources such as AT that works, how to use it, benefits, drawbacks, solutions, cutting edge technology, training issues, rationale for use, vendor information, and more. . .

At a minimum there will be weekly posts, so please join in by contributing your expertise to this networking venture so it can live up to its potential as an invaluable resource to practitioners all over the country. ❖

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[http://vecap.org/index.php?/site/aboutus\\_categories/C11/](http://vecap.org/index.php?/site/aboutus_categories/C11/) ❖

**The 14<sup>th</sup> National Forum  
on Issues in Vocational Assessment**

***“Finding Your Career Path Through The Lifecycle”***

April 8, 2010 (Pre-conference)

April 9 – April 11, 2010 (Conference)

Sheraton Midwest City Hotel

At the Reed Conference Center

5750 Will Rogers Road

Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110

<http://www.sheraton.com>

**Conference Highlights:**

Social Computing Tools and Techniques

Preparing for Returning Veterans

Integrating Assistive Technology and Vocational Evaluation

Creating Transition Assessments that Work

How to Publish in Professional Journals

The Way Forward: Issues of Certification

and more!

Plan to visit our exhibitors which will include a hands on Work Sample area!

For more information and to register, please visit [www.vecap.org](http://www.vecap.org) ❖



## The Advocacy Committee is Working!

As you can see from the list of partnerships below, VECAP is increasing its visibility with the ultimate goal of providing support and education to fellow professionals who will provide the best possible services and resources to our consumers/clients/customers.

### Advocacy Committee Members and Partnership Roles:

Leicester Johnson, Washington, DC

Email: [lcester@msn.com](mailto:lcester@msn.com)

Coordinates the partnership with

- NCDA (National Career Development Association) Partnership

Stacie Dojonovic, Pittsburgh, PA

Email: [staciedj@yahoo.com](mailto:staciedj@yahoo.com)

Coordinates the partnership with

- the Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT), a Division of the Council of Exceptional Children
- represents DCDT in coordination of the National Community of Practice on Career and Transition Assessment

Ashley McFall, Pittsburgh, PA

Email: [kmcfall1@pghboe.net](mailto:kmcfall1@pghboe.net)

Co-coordinates the partnership with

- National Community of Practice on Transition (sponsored by the IDEA Partnership)
- National Career and Transition Assessment Practice Group

Marsha Legg, Baltimore, MD

Email: [mlegg@humanim.com](mailto:mlegg@humanim.com)

Co-coordinates the partnership with

- National Community of Practice on Transition (sponsored by the IDEA Partnership)
- National Career and Transition Assessment Practice Group

Lindsay Harris, Falls Church, VA      Email: [Lindsay.harris@phillipsprograms.org](mailto:Lindsay.harris@phillipsprograms.org)  
Coordinates the partnership with

- National Community of Practice on Autism (sponsored by the IDEA Partnership)

And is a liaison to this Community's

- Practice group on Technology
- Practice group on Transition

Fran Smith, Richmond, VA      Email: [fgsmith@vcu.edu](mailto:fgsmith@vcu.edu)

Coordinates the partnership with the National Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Task Force and is collaborating with the National Community of Practice on UDL through the IDEA Partnership.

Carri George, Hot Springs, AR      Email: [cgeorge@uacurrents.org](mailto:cgeorge@uacurrents.org)

Coordinates the Multi-cultural Committee and, currently is reaching out to members of Independent Living and Native American Rehabilitation organizations.

Please contact these individuals if you are interested in working with one or more of VECAP's Partnerships.

We are seeking someone to lead a partnership effort and/or activity with the following:

**Governmental Affairs Committee**  
**National Collaborative on Workforce Development**  
**International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals**  
**Veteran's Outreach Committee**

If you represent a group with whom we should partner or want to suggest a partnership with another group, please contact Ashley McFall at [kmcfall1@pghboe.net](mailto:kmcfall1@pghboe.net).

You will see reports from some of these committee liaisons in this newsletter. ❖

## Transition & Career Assessment Community of Practice

By Marsha Legg & Ashley McFall

Many of you may recall seeing an article in VECAP's August Newsletter, informing everyone of a new exciting way to become more involved in the topic of Transition & Career Assessment. As a reminder, this practice group is an outgrowth of the National Community of Practice on Transition, and is sponsored by the IDEA Partnership ([www.ideapartnership.org](http://www.ideapartnership.org)). In alignment with the IDEA Partnership's philosophies, primary goals of this practice group are to: 'connect the dots' between practitioners, families and youth, recognize all individuals as the 'expert', share individual knowledge collectively with the group and eliminate the compartmentalization of information and organizations by working together.

VECAP, in partnership with DCDT, has agreed to lead the work of this group. The two organizations have taken the steps to build membership (**currently 160+ members**) and to move forward on several initiatives described below.

A core leadership team, consisting of members of the VECAP and DCDT organizations was established, and a primary responsibility of this group was to facilitate communication and sharing within the group as a whole. This was accomplished through the establishment of a listserv ([asmtpractice@hermes.gwu.edu](mailto:asmtpractice@hermes.gwu.edu)) and through a collaborative workspace on [www.sharedwork.org](http://www.sharedwork.org). This leadership group has also worked together through several meetings, conference calls and discussions, to identify the initial priorities of the group.

To date, three primary workgroups have been established. They include the following:

- Knowledge Management Workgroup
  - *Action Steps*
    - Develop publication on 'Transition Assessment Tips' and disseminate nationally, along with supporting training materials.

- Share effective practices via listserve and [www.sharedwork.org](http://www.sharedwork.org)
- Hold webinars and/or teleconference focused on information sharing
- Shared Language and Policy Issues Workgroup
  - *Action Steps*
    - Create a publication, identifying a ‘common language’ in the field of transition assessment
    - Disseminate this publication and supporting training materials nationally.
    - Work with the IDEA Partnership to facilitate this process
    - Identify and provide recommendations to federal partners and policy makers
- Data Collection and Analysis Workgroup
  - Action Steps
    - Identify current transition assessment practices within individual states
    - Survey stakeholders within each state to determine current practices, best practice strategies, and areas in need of further development
    - Disseminate and utilize data to provide professional development opportunities and encourage collaboration

Although we have made significant progress thus far, we still need your help! If you are interested in becoming involved in any of the workgroups described above, or in simply joining the general membership of this practice group, please contact Marsha Legg at [mlegg@humanim.com](mailto:mlegg@humanim.com) and you will be added to the listserve.

Additionally, we will be presenting more information about this Practice Group, including action plans and progress-to-date at the upcoming 14<sup>th</sup> National Forum on Issues in Vocational Assessment. Hope to see you there! ❖

Check out the VECAP social media connections/addresses at:

Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Salina-KS/The-Vocational-Evaluation-and-Career-Assessment-Professionals-Association/148322513433>

Ning, <http://vecap20.ning.com>

LinkedIn, <http://www.linkedin.com/in/vecap> ❖

## VECAP Standards Committee Report

By Jean E. Johnson, Ed.D, CRC, Standards Coordinator

I greet you as the newly elected Coordinator of the Standards Committee of the 2010 VECAP Board. It is with appreciation and anticipation that I look forward to serving on the VECAP board.

Certification continues to be a hallmark of professionalism. To quote the words of a song by Semisonic: "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end"; thus, the ending of CCWAVES presents the opportunity for new beginnings in the area of certification. As an organization, VECAP is in an exciting and challenging position as we continue collaborative efforts to seek options and solutions to future credentialing and certification. The field of Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment is alive and well and will continue to be so through the efforts of the membership as well as officers. Michelle Hamilton included a summary of the recommendations from the task force in the November 2009 newsletter. The key talking points from the December 2009 meeting of the Vocational Evaluation Credentialing Task Force are included below.

- Formed at UW–Stout, Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute (SVRI) to advance the profession with a new credential, filling the void since CVE lapsed.
- Committed to a collaborative approach with the leading professional organizations, VECAP and VEWAA.
- Since July 2009, a nine (9) person task force has been meeting virtually to explore options and establish a framework for an alternative credentialing process for vocational evaluators.
- The task force members are: John Lui, SVRI, Chair; Mike Ahlers, VECAP representative; Michelle Hamilton, UW Stout; Debra Homa, UW Stout and VEWAA Board member; Karen Pell, VIA Consulting LLC and VECAP representative; Erika Peterson, SVRI; April Pierson, SVRI; Paige Tidwell, VEWAA Board Member; and Shawn Zimmerman, VEWAA Board Member.

- Subgroups of the Task Force are working on Ethics, Eligibility and Business Development.
- A market survey is anticipated for early spring 2010.
- There will be a task force presence at the April 2010 issues Forum in Oklahoma City.
- Ideally, options for credentialing would be in place by summer 2010.
- Look for a website early in 2010.

To obtain up-to-date information regarding certification and credentialing, be sure to attend the General Session on Sunday morning, 4/11/10 at the VECAP National Issues Forum in Oklahoma. This session is entitled The Way Forward: Certification and Credentialing. ❖

## VECAP and NCDA Partnership Continues to Grow

By Leicester Johnson

In 2009, The VECAP /NCDA partnership continued to expand. In addition to offering VECAP a feature session at their annual conference, NCDA has agreed to make our partnership more visible among their members. As a start, NCDA posted VECAP's discounted membership rates for NCDA members on their website. The membership advertisement includes a description of VECAP, the application, and a link to the VECAP web site. An ad/announcement also appeared in their September 2009 edition of the Career Convergence e-newsletter.

**The disability section on NCDA's website now lists VECAP in the resources section with a link to our web page.** Also, the VECAP Forum is being advertised on NCDA's website.

Finally, NCDA's president, Cheri Butler will present at this year's VECAP Issues Forum. During her session, Cheri will discuss the specifics of the NCDA Global Career Development Credential, which she was instrumental in developing and its potential as an add-on credential for vocational evaluators. She will also share highlights from the new career assessment instruments book including key changes and new tools. We are excited about our partnership with NCDA and look forward to expanding it further. ❖

## Spring NCRCA/NCVEWAA/VECAP Conference

April 15-16, 2010

at the

Clamdigger Inn  
Atlantic Beach, NC

For details Contact:

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### VECAP is now on Facebook!!!

In our expanded reach to maximize the power of social media tools, VECAP recently added a presence on the social network Facebook. If you're a Facebook member, you can simply search for us as the Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals Association – find us and become a fan. Take a moment to do this, become a Facebook Fan and supporter, and help us raise the important awareness of our profession and professional association! ❖

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*Visit us at:*

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**IS YOUR E-MAIL CORRECT???**

Please be sure your e-mail program is set to receive e-mail from [mahlers@cox.net](mailto:mahlers@cox.net) in order to receive this and future newsletters. Also, if you have not received your renewal information electronically from VECAP Home Office, please send your current e-mail address to [Office@vecap.org](mailto:Office@vecap.org) to ensure we have the correct one on file.

***Membership renewal can now be done on-line at***

***<http://vecap.org/index.php?/memberreg/>***

**VECAP Newsletter Publication Information**

Articles and information for publication in the VECAP Newsletter may be communicated in several ways. E-mail is preferred. Articles become the property of VECAP. Any reprint of all or a portion of an article must include a notice of the VECAP Newsletter as the source.

Advertising pertinent to the interests of vocational evaluators and work adjustment specialists may be placed in the newsletter. Advertisements (camera-ready or text) must be received by the editor with payment payable to VECAP. Advertising rates are:

Quarter Page .....	\$ 75.00
Half Page .....	\$125.00
Full Page .....	\$250.00

Brief professional job announcements are free. The information and advertisement in the newsletter are for the interest and benefit of members of VECAP and do not constitute endorsement or an official policy or position of the Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals (VECAP) organization.

Information and articles for the VECAP Newsletter may be communicated to the editor at:

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