

VECAP NEWSLETTER



Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals
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President's Message

By Joseph Ashley, Rh.D, CVE

The year 2008 is moving along quickly and the VECAP Board is keeping pace. To start with, the Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals Organization is implementing a new strategic plan which includes improvement of services to members. We are currently revamping our website as a major part of these member service improvements. The revamped website will enhance communication between organization members, and will provide a forum through which you can ask questions or otherwise exchange professional views with colleagues.

The strategic plan also emphasizes promotion of our profession. We have ensured participation of VECAP Board members at major conferences or leadership forums related to our goals to promote our value. Board members remain committed to this effort and are working on presentations for upcoming conferences to share our vision with other organizations with similar goals. For example, we will be sponsoring a feature session at the National Career Development Association Annual Conference in Washington, DC this summer.

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Finally, the VECAP Board has established an ambitious goal of recruiting 200 new members for this year. We are asking for your assistance to achieve this goal. We will support the development of four state VECAP organizations by providing a \$500 incentive to assist in recruitment, training, or other services that will result in at least ten new members in each of the four state VECAP organizations.

The VECAP Board is also committed to bringing members into Board activities. The Board coordinators have committees which you are invited to join. Please see Page 10 to identify the Board coordinator and some of these opportunities to get involved.❖

\$500 Available for Startup of a State Chapter

By Christine Johnson & Ron Edwards

VECAP has \$500 available for the first 4 states that wish to form or revive a VECAP state Chapter. Here's your opportunity to strengthen your profession locally! Make connections with others in the field! Provide training and networking for professional development! Membership REBATES will be provided to state chapters for new members! States receiving the grant money will be expected to increase their professional and/or associate membership by at least ten persons.

QUALIFICATIONS TO RECEIVE \$500.00

Be one of the first four states to complete the following process:

1. Have minimum of ten professional or associate members (confirmed by VECAP Home Office) before applying for start-up monies,
2. Petition (written letter) submitted from state representative to VECAP President/Joe Ashley requesting designation as State Chapter/Unit.

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\$500 Available for Startup of a State Chapter

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3. Submit State Chapter/Unit by-laws for review by VECAP President/Joe Ashley.

4. State Chapter/Unit must have established a bank account.

If state chapter/unit by-laws are in compliance with VECAP by-laws and there is confirmation of a minimum of 10 members, then a check for \$500.00 will be sent to that state chapter/unit representative /treasurer. State Chapters/Units may use these monies at their own discretion, but will be encouraged to use these funds to increase membership, vis a vis the additional rebate incentive monies.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ANNUAL REBATE TO STATE CHAPTERS/UNITS (\$10.00 PER MEMBER)

1. Be designated by VECAP as a State Chapter/Unit before December 31, 2008.

2. Have a minimum of 10 professional &/or associate members on 12/31/08.

3. Submit Annual State Chapter/Unit report (electronically) to VECAP Home Office by deadline of 12/31/08.

*Rebates to State Chapters/Units will be based on total membership at the close of the membership year (12/31/08). Example: 15 members=\$150.00.

*Only states/units designated as state chapters /units can receive rebates.

*Only states/units that submit annual report before deadline will receive rebates.

*Only states/units that maintain a minimum of 10 professional or associate members can receive rebates.

The Annual report form will be available on VECAP website.

Please contact Christine Johnson at (410) 554-9440 (cjohnson@dors.state.md.us) or Ron Edwards (616) 248-5150 (redwards@hopenetwork.org) for more details. ❖

VECAP Launches New Website

By Fran Smith, Ed.D, CVE, Secretary & Web Liaison

VECAP has been working with a web designer in Arizona to develop and launch a new web design and platform. Built on a content management system, this will allow us to add in more content on a daily basis – keeping the site rich and dynamic. We will also maintain several current weblogs such as the National Vocational Assessment Community Blog, <http://voceval.blogspot.com> and the Maryland Blog, <http://mdvecap.blogspot.com/> on our main page while adding others. Weblogs are a popular digital medium that keeps individuals “socially connected” on the web. We’re committed to offering these types of tools and others that allow our members to communicate.

In addition, you’ll begin to find an array of locations for important resources and materials that can support your professional practice in vocational evaluation and assessment. There will

be links to current and past newsletters, national position papers, electronic copies of seminal texts, professional development opportunities, and links to relevant web resources. VECAP is also in the process of converting the entire library of past *National Issues Forum Proceedings* and will host these on their website. We believe this will be an important resource to our members and the larger community needing to be informed about our practice and profession. As we grow, we hope to provide several special services just for our members. These will be accessible only through a current membership but link to an array of additional tools and resources. If you’re not a VECAP member, now is a good time to join and support our work! Our website will officially launch on Friday, March 14, 2008. Look for a new link to our growing presence on the web! ❖

VECAP Collaborates with VEWAA and CSAVR

By Pam LeConte, Ed.D., CVE, Advocacy Coordinator

Since our profession has its roots in rehabilitation and because many of our members have either worked in or currently work in the public or private rehabilitation sector, the VECAP Board remains concerned about the changes and continuity of vocational evaluation and assessment services in state vocational rehabilitation programs. The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) is comprised of state and territorial directors of state–federal vocational rehabilitation agencies in the United States. They hold two conferences a year and this year VECAP submitted a proposal for a General Session in San Antonio, Texas at their October conference. VECAP President Joe Ashley is also submitting a proposal for their next meeting in Bethesda, Maryland set for this Spring. We want to increase visibility regarding the importance of vocational evaluation and assessment services for people with disabilities—especially since it is a proven indicator of successful rehabilitation and eventual employment for consumers in rehabilitation.

It seems that because we have a recent mandate to provide “age–appropriate transition assessment,” many people in the states are scrambling to figure out what this means and how to deliver the services. As most readers of this newsletter know, VECAP members can help state personnel, educators, families, and students or consumers understand the processes of assessment and how services should be provided. VECAP wants to persuade CSAVR to access our members for technical assistance and support. Thus, we shall try to continue to work with the CSAVR leadership and encourage their members to communicate with assessment experts in their own states.

Some Specific Benefits of Collaboration. Our CSAVR proposal was planned in conjunction with the National Transition Community of Practice (see Page 4 in the newsletter) and with the Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association (VEWAA). The proposal was accepted and because we were representing the National Transition Community of Practice (CoP) in addition to VECAP, the IDEAPartnership (which sponsors the national CoP) sponsored our participation financially. The General Session was entitled: *Career Assessment in the Transition Process: Empowering Youth through Collaborative Planning*. You should be able to find the power point presentation on www.sharedwork.org. Presenters included Mike O’Brien (New Mexico) of VECAP, Joan Kester (Pennsylvania), new member of VECAP, Pam Leconte (Maryland) of VECAP, and Paige Tidwell (Georgia), President of VEWAA. The session was attended by well over 100 administrators, state directors, and transition personnel—many of whom took notes!

CSAVR is also a member of the Transition CoP and has been active communicating and planning with state directors of special education and others to ensure that students with disabilities who are of transition age are being appropriately and effectively served as they move from secondary school to postsecondary options, work, and community living. Because the U.S. Department of Rehabilitation Services Administration has made transition a priority, this seems a perfect time to initiate and sustain conversations with as many transition stakeholders as possible. Our participation in activities with CSAVR, the Transition CoP, and VEWAA will hopefully encourage special educators

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and rehabilitation professionals to work together to improve the educational and employment outcomes for youth with disabilities.

In addition to receiving financial support from the IDEAPartnership, we also spent time with Paige Tidwell discussing potential ways to collaborate between VECAP and VEWAA. Since we are a relatively small profession, it seems important to join forces with as many of our colleagues as possible in our efforts to promote and advocate for the profession and our services. It is hoped that with the growing numbers participating in the Transition CoP, with CSAVR's support and VEWAA's we can continue to expand our visibility and our effectiveness nationally, in states, and locally. ❖



VECAP Newsletters will be e-mailed to members from now on. Be sure your spam filters have not sent it to junk mail!

VECAP in the National Transition Community of Practice

By Pam LeConte, Ed.D., CVE, Advocacy Coordinator

To update you on VECAP's participation in the national Transition Community of Practice (CoP), we continue to participate in monthly CoP conference calls where as many as 30–40 people discuss updates and issues important to the Community. VECAP has also contributed to individual states within the Community (e.g., Wisconsin, Maryland, and Pennsylvania). In Virginia, CoP members provided an online “ask the expert” on a series of topics, transition assessment being among them.

The Transition CoP is involved with the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC, www.nsttac.org) in a number of ways that are relevant to VECAP members: development of a guide to ‘age-appropriate’ transition assessment as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), commenting on a Fact Sheet: Age-Appropriate Transition Assessment, and serving as content consultants to state leadership meetings conducted by NSTTAC.

For more information on the Transition Community of Practice and to pose or answer questions about transition or transition assessment, go to www.sharedwork.org. Just sign in if you have already registered or, if not, simply scroll down to the bottom of the first page and register. From that point on, you can access the page without registering—it is free. The Pennsylvania Page (in the left hand column) has a robust webpage on Career and Transition Assessment, that should be ‘going national’ (be posted on the main national page) shortly. There is a wealth of power point presentations, examples of career portfolios, state and local policies, job analysis guidelines, etc. on the site.

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If you are interested in participating in a national conference call, they are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month from 11:30 to 1:00. To be added to the email notice list, contact Mariola Rosser at the IDEA Partnership, mariola.rosser@nasdse.org.

We hope you will make use of the sharedwork.org site because as a VECAP member you have much to contribute to the national dialogue and learning process about transition assessment and career assessment. ❖

National Career Development Association

By Pam LeConte, Ed.D., CVE, Advocacy Coordinator

Reaching Out. In keeping with our tradition of reaching out to other professionals (e.g., our initiation of the Interdisciplinary Council on Vocational Assessment and Evaluation in the 1980's and '90's; see the VECAP webpage), VECAP is doing so again. Last year VECAP members Leicester Johnson and Pam LeConte attended the National Career Development Association Global Conference (NCDA) and asked to meet with its Board of Directors. As a result of a productive and welcoming meeting, NCDA invited VECAP to participate in this year's NCDA Conference which will be held in Washington, DC June 9–11, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. The conference theme is "*Finding our Voice and Making It Heard: Public Policy and Advocacy.*"

The Board members have offered to work with us and include us in their activities in a number of ways:

- to co-sponsor their annual conference (which typically attracts about 1000 attendees),
- to assist in program planning for the conference by reviewing proposal submissions (Leicester Johnson and Fran Smith did that—a huge job),
- to serve on their governmental and policy committee (we submitted Maureen McGuire–Kuletz's name for that since she chairs our committee, but anyone interested should contact Maureen—mkuletz@gwu.edu),
- to encourage VECAP member submission of proposals for presenting at the conference,
- to exhibit at the conference (both VECAP and CCWAVES will be doing so),
- to present a Feature Session highlighting VECAP (which Nancy Scott, Lisa Blakeney, Fran Smith, and Pam LeConte will be doing on Thursday of the conference),
- to discuss reciprocal submissions of articles to their on-line magazine, professional journal and our newsletter and journal, and to discuss the possibility of publishing a joint journal at some point.

Seeking Diversity. NCDA has expressed interest in expanding its attention to professional groups who work with diverse groups—VECAP fits that bill. We are co-sponsoring the Global conference along with other associations:

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- America's Career Resource Network Association (ACRNA)
- The Association of Computer-based Systems for Career Information (ASCII)
- JA Worldwide
- National Employment Counseling Association (NECA)
- The Society for Vocational Psychologists (SVP).

We hope some of you can attend the Global Conference, especially since our next VECAP Issues Forum won't be held until 2009 (in New Mexico). You can go to the NCDA website to get details:

www.ncda.org and click on the conference icon.

Goals for Collaboration. Our goals for collaborating with NCDA are many, but primary among them is our desire to educate their constituents about how they can work with vocational evaluators and career assessment specialists who practice across the country (and in other parts of the world). Most NCDA members work in schools, universities and community colleges as career counselors; another large contingency serve as university faculty who prepare career counselors. Others are in private practice. When Leicester and Pam presented at the conference last summer they met two vocational evaluators who work with schools and another who was trying to introduce vocational evaluation and career planning into a juvenile facility. As you know some of VECAP's members work in schools and in juvenile and adult correctional facilities. These are opportunities for linkages that we can forge to improve services for all the people we try to serve. To begin our dialogue and 'education' process with NCDA members, we have entitled the Feature Session (submitted by Joe Ashley): Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment: An Overview of the Profession and Implications for Public Policy.

Volunteer Collaborators. If any VECAP member wants to volunteer to work with NCDA on some of the activities listed above, please contact Joe Ashley (Joe.Ashley@drs.virginia.gov), Leicester Johnson (Leicester@aohdc.org), or Pam Leconte (pleconte@gwu.edu). We need as many members as possible to educate our publics, NCDA being just one, about what we do and how we can assist them in their practices. ❖

NCVEWAA/NCRCA

Spring 2008 TRAINING CONFERENCE

March 27 & 28

Streams of Ethical Consciousness in Rehabilitation

CHETOLA RESORT in Blowing Rock, North Carolina

North Carolina Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association and the North Carolina Counseling Association have opened this conference for all members of professional organizations in rehabilitation, including VECAP. This means that VECAP members can attend at the member rate. This conference will provide attendees with 10 hours of training in ethics, including contemporary issues in rehabilitation counseling, medical ethics issues, changes in the CCWAVES code of ethics and the ethical and competent client/counselor relationship.

For additional information contact Ms. Betty Bartlett or Ms. Jimmie McIver at 252-830-8560 or Steven R. Sligar at 252-744-6293. ❖

2008 Annual NRCA Professional Development Symposium Call for Programs

The National Rehabilitation Counseling Association is pleased to sponsor the 2008 Professional Development Symposium October 2–4 in San Diego, California at the Marriott Mission Valley Hotel. The theme for the conference, *“Rehabilitation Counseling: Practice in a Changing World”* encompasses the full spectrum of rehabilitation counseling practice. Proposed presentations should focus on systemic challenges within rehabilitation as well as innovative practices across rehabilitation counseling service areas.

Suggested areas for presentations include:

1. New directions or challenges in delivering rehabilitation counseling services
2. Access to services by diverse populations
3. Emerging challenges to living independently
4. Attention to service provision issues
5. Effects of specialization on practice
6. Challenges/solutions to maintaining rehabilitation networks
7. Cross–disability innovative technologies
8. Professional empowerment
9. Navigating ethical and legal issues
10. Innovations in career practices

The format of the proposal must include:

Title of Presentation

Names, credentials, address, phone and email addresses of the presenters

Brief biographical sketch of each presenter (200 word maximum)

Learning objectives

Abstract: typed, double–spaced (150 word maximum)

Affiliation: NRCA, ARCA, NCRE, other

Audio/visual needs (if any). NRCA will provide overhead projector and screen if needed, please indicate. Any other needs (LCD display, video, etc.) the presenter will be responsible for providing.

The presenter(s) are required to type the following statement beneath the abstract and initial the same:

“I understand that, if accepted, the abstract may be reprinted by NRCA in any of its official publications, and my presentation may be selected to be recorded for future use at the discretion of NRCA. I am responsible for my registration, travel, room and board expenses associated with my presentation.”

If this proposal is not accepted for presentation in concurrent session (1.5 hour lecture), would you be willing to conduct a Poster Presentation? ____ Yes ____No.

NOTE: All concurrent sessions will be conducted in a lecture format (1.5 hours –classroom style)

Deadline Date: June 27, 2008

Please submit a WORD document to NRCA via email to nrcaoffice@aol.com or mail three (3) copies of the proposals to: NRCA, Post Office Box 4480, Manassas VA, 20108

For additional information you may contact:

Joseph Keferl, President–Elect & Program Chair; Wright State University, Dept. of Human Services
CAC: 52, 3640 Col. Glenn Hwy., Dayton, OH 45435; **Phone: 937–775–2076** or **Email:**
joseph.keferl@wright.edu ❖

VOCATIONAL EVALUATION AND CAREER ASSESSMENT PROFESSIONALS JOURNAL GUIDELINES FOR PUBLICATION:

Purpose and Scope:

Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals Journal is an official publication of the **Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals Association (VECAP)**. This refereed publication is designed to advance knowledge and practices in the collective fields of vocational assessment, vocational evaluation, and work adjustment. The journal provides practitioners, consumers, and educators with an understanding of critical information in vocational assessment and therapeutic adjustment services. It concentrates on the methodology, program innovations, and instrumentation development within the areas of vocational evaluation and work adjustment.

Types of submissions:

The VECAP Journal seeks several types of submissions. The primary interest is research or theoretically based articles that apply to vocational evaluation, career assessment or assistive technology. These articles will typically be between 16–25 pages in length. However, the VECAP journal encourages submissions from practitioners that help us to understand the practice or enhance the practice of vocational assessment. We will also consider book reviews, test or work sample reviews, and brief reports regarding initial studies in areas of interest to VECAP members. These latter submissions are expected to be 6–10 pages in length.

Review Process:

All manuscripts will be reviewed anonymously by the Editorial Board or invited reviewers who have expertise in a specific topic. Each manuscript must be presented with a single cover sheet that identifies the manuscript title, author's name(s), appropriate credentials, organizational affiliation and contact information (e.g. mailing addresses along with daytime and evening phone numbers). Please note that the author's name and any other identifying information should not appear on subsequent manuscript pages.

Style Requirements: All submissions should meet the following criteria:

- Manuscripts should be submitted **electronically**, and should be in MS Word or Rich Text Format.
- Manuscripts must be double-spaced in **Times New Roman (12 point)**, typed on a standard 8.5" x 11" white background, with a 1-inch margin on all sides.
- **If you have not received confirmation on the receipt of your manuscript from us, please contact us at (505) 454-3519, or Mike O'Brien at mobrien@nmhu.edu (please place "VECAP Journal" in the subject line).**
- The **title of the manuscript** must be on the cover sheet with the name of the author(s) appearing immediately below the title, appropriate credentials, organizational affiliation and contact information (e.g. mailing addresses along with daytime and evening phone numbers).
- The **second page** should contain the **Abstract**, with the text starting on the third page. The abstract should be approximately 150 words.
- **All pages** must be numbered with Arabic numerals in the upper right corner.
- If you are using **Tables**, they must be typed using Microsoft Word Tables format. Tables should be numbered with Arabic numerals and provided with the titles at the top. **Figures** should be numbered with Arabic numerals and titled at the bottom.

- **Footnotes** should be avoided because they disrupt the reader's train of thought and create confusion with references. If the material is important enough for the reader to seek it out, it is important enough to be included in the text.
- **Acknowledgements, if any, should be made in a separate section** following the Conclusion or Summary section, and before the References.
- **References** should use the *alphabetical method*. Only references cited in the text should be listed. (If the material is removed or added, be sure to revise numbering.) Authors should follow the reference style used in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. This manual may be viewed on-line or purchased from the American Psychological Association, APA Order Department, and P.O. Box 92984, Washington, D.C. 20090-2984.
 - Tel.: 800-374-2721; Fax: 202-336-5310.
 - TDD/TDY:202-336-6123. Internet: www.apa.org/books. E-mail: order@apa.org.
- A **Biographical Sketch** of 200 or fewer words for each author should be submitted *on a separate page* with the manuscript.

Following a preliminary review by the editor, the manuscript will be sent to three members of the editorial board or selected guest reviewers with knowledge of and/or expertise in the author's topic. Upon review, manuscripts will be either accepted or rejected, or returned to the author(s) for suggested revision. Approximately two or three months may elapse between the acknowledgement and receipt of a manuscript and notification of its disposition.

After the article has been edited for publication, the editor will submit it to the author for approval. The author will be advised to make any appropriate corrections and resubmit the article. Accepted articles are published in the order of their receipt.

It is a condition of publication that manuscripts submitted to VECAP Journal have not been published and will not be submitted or published elsewhere. By submitting the manuscript, the author(s) agree that the copyright for their article is transferred to the publisher if and when the article is accepted for publication. The copyright covers the exclusive rights to reproduce and distribute the article without permission in writing from the author(s). Rights to reproduce and distribute include reprints, photographic reproduction, microform, and any other means including electronic. Permission to use or distribute articles should be requested from the Editor or the VECAP Journal.

Manuscripts failing to adhere to these guidelines will not be accepted. **PAPER MANUSCRIPTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Manuscripts should be submitted directly to the editor via email attachment or can be mailed as a CD ROM disc to:

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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 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 to ensure we have the correct one on file.

VECAP Newsletters will be e-mailed to members from now on. Be sure your spam filters have not sent it to junk mail!

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.vecap.org

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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