DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES NETWORK PRESENTS

DD NETWORK NEWS

A Collaborative Publication from MSCDD, DRMS and IDS

SPRING 2024

Join us for the 2024 MegaConference!

Mark your calendars for the 2024 Mississippi disAbility MegaConference!

June 13-14
The Hilton, Jackson

FEATURING

ELIZABETH BONKER

KEYNOTE, JUNE 13

DAN HALL

KEYNOTE, JUNE 14

PANEL WITH

BETTY PINION
PAMELA HARKINS
& LASHANDA
BARNES

MISSISSIPPI'S MEDICAID WAIVERS AND THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

KEYNOTE, JUNE 14

2024 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Alternatives to Guardianship - Kim Duffy, JD

Enhancing Mobility: The Significance of Accessible Public Transportation - Janice Yancey-Williams

Special Needs Planning and Mississippi ABLE - Richard Courtney, JD

Support Your Mental Health While Helping Everybody Else - Joy Hogge, Ph.D.

Assistive Technology Impact and Decision Making - Rebecca Mathis

Empowering Futures: Exploring the Multifaceted Roles of Vocational Rehabilitation in Supporting Students and Adults - Lavonda Hart, Ericia Brown, April Christon, Denee Smith, and Jennifer Jackson, Ed.D.

IEP Meetings: What Parents Need to Know - Leslie Junkin

Independent Healthy Living - Adrianna Smith

Social Security Disability and SSI Work Incentives - Janice Buckley

Register, see the full conference schedule, become a sponsor, and learn more at msmegaconference.org.

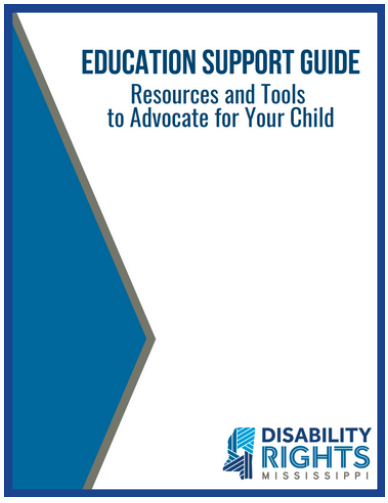
MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

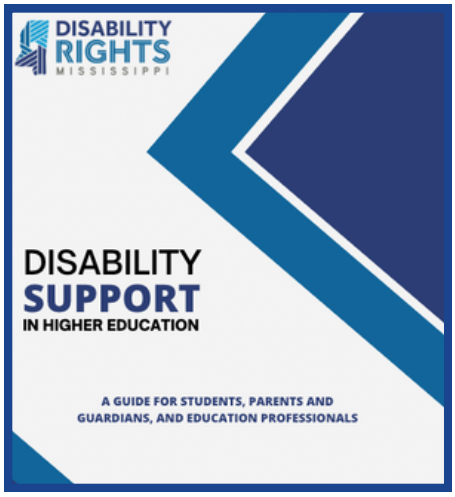
Membership applications to the Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities (MSCDD) are available now! Are you ready to join a group of advocates focused on improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities? Are you a person with a developmental disability or family member? MSCDD is accepting applications to be considered for a Governor's appointment to the Council. At least 60% of the members are people with developmental disabilities or family members. Major responsibilities include participating in Council meetings, serving on one or more committees, and reviewing grant proposals. Council member travel expenses are reimbursed. People with developmental disabilities of **diverse backgrounds** are encouraged to apply. The membership application is available at www.mscdd.org. If you have questions or need assistance completing the application, please call 601-359-6238 or email charles.hughes@dmh.ms.gov.

MSCDD also has a grant opportunity available now! Projects should provide new ideas to improve the self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. Examples include developing self-advocacy and leadership skills; demonstrating new approaches or access to community services, such as employment, transportation, housing, health, education, early intervention, recreation, and other supports; or providing resources to families to plan for the future care of aging adults with developmental disabilities. An Innovative Quality of Life Grant Application can be found at www.mscdd.org. If you have questions, please call Christy at 601-359-5533 or email christy.ashley@dmh.ms.gov.

DISABILITY RIGHTS MISSISSIPPI

Resources to Help Prepare You for the Next School Year!





Visit www.drms.ms to access our education resources, including the Education Support Guide for students in primary or secondary school and Disability Support in Higher Education for students pursuing post-secondary education.

Are you ready for the 2024 Election? Make sure you are registered to vote, research the issues and candidates, and make your plan to vote in person or absentee. For resources, visit disabilityvotesms.com.

GO VOTE

Mississippi Job Extravaganza . . . An Inclusive Business Learning Experience

Since November 2022, the Institute for Disability Studies has hosted three Job Extravaganza events in Long Beach, Pearl, and Bay St. Louis for over 180 secondary students with disabilities. Job Extravaganza is a fun-filled and educational experience with the primary purpose of providing an inclusive, hands-on business learning experience. The goal of Job Extravaganza is to provide an environment in which students can explore a variety of careers at their own pace which can help them identify what career options best fit their preferences, strengths, and interests.

Each Job Extravaganza event actually begins with a virtual pre-session for student attendees to review the in-person day agenda, discuss rules, student role, business experience opportunities and overall expectations. The in-person event consists of community-based businesses from the local areas that providing job skills stations. The students visit these stations, learn various employment-related tasks and receive valuable feedback. Examples of job tasks include using a cash register, washing a car, and making a trophy. Creativity is certainly appreciated and evident within the various job tasks. In addition to the students visiting all job stations, they receive lunch, have networking time, and receive direct pre-employment training. Within two weeks following the in-person event, students have one more Zoom meeting to review the event activities, discuss the businesses, skill opportunities and interests and plan for next learning steps. Job Extravaganza is a collaboration with the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services. A new contract was received in spring 2024 to offer 4-6 of these events each year in south- and south-central Mississippi. To learn more Job Extravaganza or to request one in your area, visit www.usm.edu/ids, call 601.266.5163 or email ids@usm.edu.

RISE To The Top! Accepts Fall 2024 Cohort

RISE To The Top!, a collaboration between the Institute for Disability Studies and School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Professional Development, is the inclusive postsecondary education program for students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities at Southern Miss. The program has selected and admitted students for the fall semester 2024, the first cohort since the program became officially IHL approved in 2023. RISE (Reaching . . . Including . . . Supporting . . . Educating) To The Top! is a fully approved, 4-year, 8-semester inclusive non-degree certificate program that incorporates academics and employment preparation. This new cohort joins current RISE students, two sophomores and one freshman, who were grandfathered from the pilot program are near the completion of the spring semester. The RISE program includes: (1) Inclusive classes and person-centered planning; (2) Independent living and professional development training and student partners (peer mentoring); (3) Pre-employment training and internships; (4) Service and volunteer experiences; and (5) Campus and community involvement. Program specifics include application to Student Accessibility Services; individualized campus schedules; enrollment in a class(es) each semester; peer mentors; employment-focused internships; participation in campus life activities; service involvement; participation in a commencement ceremony and any other current student benefits at the University. For more information on the RISE program, please contact the RISE Executive Coordinator Danielle Mullins at alyssa.parks@usm.edu or 1.601.266.5962.

The RISE program, funded through a grant via the Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities, was supported, in part by grant number 2301MSSCDD, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.

Mark your calendars for the DD Network's 2024 Community Listening Forums!

Gulf Coast
August 6
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Knight Nonprofit Center

Jackson
August 13
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Disability Rights MS Office

Southaven
August 21
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Southaven Public Library

DD Network News Word Search

S Y G E U L B U Z X
K Y N F Y S R H K T
N Y Z C M J T O R W
O D F V H I M P O F
W H U B L O D E A H
L Y L O L F I D V M
E L F E E J C C E E
D Z I R A X E O E G
G B L U R I V P N A
E T L G N F I X P R

If you have information you would like to have included in the next issue, please contact Jane Walton at jwalton@drms.ms.

MSCDD
Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities

Institute for Disability Studies
The University of Southern Mississippi

Disability Rights Mississippi

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