

THE COUNCIL  
FOR  
EXCEPTIONAL  
CHILDREN

VIRGINIA  
DIVISION ON  
CAREER  
DEVELOPMENT  
AND  
TRANSITION

# Transition Voice



Transition Voice  
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## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Mac McArthur-Fox, President**

Nationally, DCDT is a vibrant, active division of CEC, the Council for Exceptional Children. At the state level, VADCDT is a dynamic and exciting organization! Whether your involvement with VADCDT has been through attending professional development opportunities such as our annual Summer Institute or a regional workshop; stopping by our exhibit or networking at the VADCDT sponsored social at the Transition Forum; utilizing resources on our website; serving on the executive board or a committee – or all the above! – you know this organization is strong because our membership is truly dedicated to working together to improve transition outcomes for youth with disabilities in Virginia. The shared commitment to providing innovative and effective services and supports for youth with disabilities sets Virginia apart nationally, and VADCDT, through its membership, continues to play a unique and integral role in bringing together the diverse community of stakeholders passionate about career development and transition.

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VIRGINIA TRANSITION  
FORUM



# 2012

**Technology for Transition: Making the  
Connection**

<http://www.virginiatransitionforum.org/>

March 12 – 14, 2012

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT continued from page 1

Our goals for 2011-12 include the following:

1. Increase subdivision membership by 10%
2. Promote/sponsor multiple professional development activities, including the annual Summer Institute
3. Increase participation of representatives from multiple agency partners
4. Enhance/maintain VADCDT website
5. Explore ways to increase revenue to support VADCDT projects
6. Follow-up with proposal process to host DCDT National Conference in 2013

Just as our membership has grown more diverse in recent years, our Executive Board is comprised of members active across the state in a wide variety of roles impacting youth with disabilities. For 2011-2012, VADCDT members serving as the Executive Board are:

Past President: John McNaught, VDOE T/TAC, JMU [mcnaughtj@jmu.edu](mailto:mcnaughtj@jmu.edu)

President: Mac McArthur-Fox, VDOE T/TAC, RU [lmcarthu@radford.edu](mailto:lmcarthu@radford.edu)

Vice President: Marianne Moore, VDOE [Marianne.Moore@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Marianne.Moore@doe.virginia.gov)

Treasurer: Ben Bowman, VDOE T/TAC, RU [bsbowman@radford.edu](mailto:bsbowman@radford.edu)

Secretary: Faith Hottle, Rockingham County Public Schools [fhottle@rockingham.k12.va.us](mailto:fhottle@rockingham.k12.va.us)

Publicity Chair: Patricia Aldridge, Virginia State University [paldridge@vsu.edu](mailto:paldridge@vsu.edu)

Web Lead: Joan Lovegren-O'Brien, VDOE T/TAC, VCU [jlovegrenobr@vcu.edu](mailto:jlovegrenobr@vcu.edu)

Newsletter Lead: Bridget Parker, Goochland County Public Schools [bparker@glnd.k12.va.us](mailto:bparker@glnd.k12.va.us)

Legislative Lead: Mary Young, Loudoun County Public Schools [mary.young@loudoun.k12.va.us](mailto:mary.young@loudoun.k12.va.us)

Membership Chair: Sally Chappel, VDOE T/TAC, JMU [chappesl@jmu.edu](mailto:chappesl@jmu.edu)

Program Co-Chair: Joan Lovegren-O'Brien, VDOE T/TAC, VCU [jlovegrenobr@vcu.edu](mailto:jlovegrenobr@vcu.edu)

Program Co-Chair: Sandra Wingler-Jones, Mecklenburg County

Public Schools [swingler-jones@mcpsweb.org](mailto:swingler-jones@mcpsweb.org)

Scholarship Chair: Judy Averill, Chesterfield County Public Schools [Judy\\_averill@ccpsnet.net](mailto:Judy_averill@ccpsnet.net)

Members at Large:

DRS Representative: Jim Hall, DRS Winchester Office [Jim.hall@drs.virginia.gov](mailto:Jim.hall@drs.virginia.gov)

Parent Representative: Sara Prince, Henrico County

Public Schools [szprince@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:szprince@henrico.k12.va.us)

VACTE-SND Liaison: Kari LaBell, Loudoun County

Public Schools [Karen.LaBell@loudoun.k12.va.us](mailto:Karen.LaBell@loudoun.k12.va.us)

Throughout the upcoming year, I hope you will continue to rely on VADCDT to support your work. Visit our website regularly for opportunities and news. Join us for professional development and networking. Invite your colleagues to become members. Participate on a committee. Let us know ways we can better serve you.

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## YOUTH STORY: My DC Double Take

**Matthew Shapiro**

As a youth with a disability summers for me were always a time to regroup, rejuvenate, and relax. School, for me, was always a long nine months of hard studying and trying to get good grades in order to guarantee acceptance into a decent college.

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YOUTH STORY continued from page 2

During the summers I found myself getting more involved in disability youth advocacy and attending more and more events across the state and around the nation. Like many young teens I had the proverbial summer job at the pool but nothing that amounted to a real resume builder so when I learned of the summer internships sponsored by the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) I was excited to apply and be able to add a new twist to the 'how I spent my summer' theme.

Through AAPD I was given an eleven week internship with the United States Department of Transportation in their Disability Resource Center in Washington, DC. While there I was involved in several projects including working on DOT's plan to implement President Obama's Executive Order 13548. This order mandated that all federal government employers increase the hiring of people with disabilities over the next five years. This work experience taught me the skills necessary to be able to function in a 9-5 job as well as giving me my first exposure of working in an office.

Living in Washington DC also gave me a life experience I will never forget. Having never lived in an urban environment I had no concept of the freedom such a simple thing as the metro could give me. Coming and going on my own to work or to a social event, not dependent on anyone else for transportation, gave me the experience of independent living. Since I have always been a college commuter student I also got my first exposure to college dorm life and all that that entails; the good, the bad and the ugly.

Additionally while there I got a first-hand look at how our government functions and how legislation is created. I was afforded this opportunity through a challenge given to the team of I'm Determined Youth Leaders by Virginia Senator Mark Warner to draft a proposal for national legislation that would designate a month as National Disability History and Awareness month. Since I was located in the hub of our nation's government I was given the task to begin the formulation of the proposal by the group leaders. I began this process by meeting with some key members of the Washington disability community to gain knowledge as to how to go about developing this concept. Currently an action committee has been formed and we are working on bringing this idea to fruition. Our hopes are to have a proposal written and ready to present to Senators Warner and Webb along with the Virginia House of Representative members in January, 2012.

I owe this summer experience to the lessons I learned at the many youth advocacy events I have attended in the past. The skills I was initially introduced to at these events gave me the needed foundation to feel both comfortable and confident not only with a new job experience but with a new life experience as well.

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## **DRS CORNER**

### **Jim Hall**

The Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) is involved in many exciting projects involving transitioning youth. Order of Selection and AT exploration are just two of the areas of interest.

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DRS CORNER continued from page 3

Under Order of Selection, DRS has had a number of clients in delayed status since March, 2011, but on November 1, 2011, we were able to move many people in category I (most significantly disabled) out of delayed status to develop and implement an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE), and begin providing those delayed services. We are working with our school partners to keep referrals coming so that we can get students eligible for services, and will continue to bring people out of delayed status as quickly as possible.

Assistive Technology is a much needed part of many people's school and work lives. DRS is ready to work with students, employers and other stakeholders to assess need, and help implement accommodations to ensure success in post high school training and or employment. Our counselors are attending regional transition group meetings focusing on AT concerns, and our rehab engineers are doing extensive work and trainings in the use of smart phones, ipads and other AT devices in the work world. The Northern Virginia Rehab Engineering staff is presenting on this topic at the VaDCDT Summer Institute in August.

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## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Ben Bowman**

For Reporting Period July 1, 2011 through October 21, 2011:

Beginning Balance:	\$12,553.70
Expenses:	\$1,186.24
Income:	\$8,640.00
Ending Balance:	\$16,129.90

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: DMV 2 GO - An Angel on Four Wheels!

## Faith Hottle

One of the newest, and smartest initiatives to come from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles is DMV 2 Go. This is a mobile customer service center ready to take DMV services to folks at convenient locations across the Commonwealth. These locations can include businesses, college campuses, assisted living facilities, military bases, and public schools! Just think - DMV comes to you!

The mobile center is housed in what appears to be a Winnebago! This handy traveler is handicapped accessible and equipped to process all DMV transactions such as:

- Apply for or renew your ID card
- Apply for or renew your driver's permit - take road and knowledge tests; get your picture taken
- Get a copy of your driving record
- Obtain vehicle titles, license plates, transcripts
- Order disabled parking placards or plates
- Update address and demographic information on your DMV record
- Search for other state services through a wireless Virginia Internet portal
- Take test for Virginia Learner's permit

You can search for the full range of services online at [dmvNOW.com](http://dmvNOW.com).

This unique vehicle is operated by trained customer service representatives, eager to take their show on the road! Visits must be preapproved and scheduled with DMV. For additional information contact: [Craig.Lewis@DMV.Virginia.Gov](mailto:Craig.Lewis@DMV.Virginia.Gov) or [Robert.Thomas@DMV.Virginia.Gov](mailto:Robert.Thomas@DMV.Virginia.Gov).

As you know, one of the greatest barriers to employment and community opportunities for our folks is transportation. Our most recent collaboration involved DRS and DMV. Teachers provided daily mini-lessons to students desiring to take the learner's permit test. Sessions last about 20 minutes over a two week period. Students attended, some over their lunch breaks, and reviewed the Driver's Manual. Our local DRS representative, Debbie Peterson, gave our created practice test to students the day before the DMV test. She "graded" the tests, and then reviewed the results with students. Student success exceeded our expectations! We had many happy students!

Yet another great example of a community coming together to help improve outcomes for our students! Many thanks to DMV, Linda Street and her phenomenal staff. Thanks also to DRS, Debbie Peterson.

# NOMINATIONS

## Marianne Moore

Please consider nominating someone you feel is deserving of recognition through one of the four VADCDCDT awards. The awards will be presented in Richmond at the 2012 Summer Institute. Recognition for a job well done is important! Nomination forms can be found on the VADCDCDT website at [www.vadcddt.org](http://www.vadcddt.org) Please send completed nomination forms to me, Marianne Moore via email at [Marianne.moore@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Marianne.moore@doe.virginia.gov)

### Youth of the Year

- Demonstrates a high level of self-determination
- Demonstrates significant involvement in the transition process to achieve her/his transition goals
- Demonstrates successful navigation of the process of transition to employment, community involvement and a meaningful adult life
- Serves as a leader and role model for other youth

### Employer of the Year

- Maintains an on-going or long-standing record of hiring youth with disabilities
- Promotes employment for individuals with disabilities
- Provides opportunities for employees with disabilities for ongoing skill development and advancement
- Supports and creates opportunities for the full participation and inclusion of employees with disabilities

### Transition Practitioner of the Year

- Provides services and supports which result in significant success for youth with disabilities
- Participates in continued professional development
- Serves as an exemplary leader at the school/community level
- Demonstrates long-term commitment and dedication to transition for youth with disabilities

### Transition Leader of the Year

- Provides exemplary support to transition providers, resulting in significant success for youth with disabilities
- Participates in continued professional development
- Serves as an exemplary leader at the community, regional and/or state level
- Demonstrates long-term commitment and dedication to transition for youth with disabilities

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS APRIL 15, 2012!**

# VDOE CORNER

## Marianne Moore

During the 2011 International DCDT Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, I was honored by receiving the Donn E. Brolin Leadership Award. We were asked not to make any comments so the keynote would have his full time to speak. This is what I would have said.

It is very gratifying to be recognized for doing something right. Most often we are recognized for things we do not do so well! I would be remiss not to let people know that I do not work in isolation. In Virginia we work together to improve systems for youth and families. Our goal is to provide quality services so that people with disabilities can live, learn, work, and play in the communities they choose. I am fortunate to have a supportive boss, Dr. Pat Abrams, who is an authentic educator. We have many resources in Virginia, including a system of Training and Technical Assistance (T/TAC) providers across the State who work in school divisions and assist the Virginia Department of Education to accomplish our many initiatives. I have access to a tremendous research resource right in my backyard, The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Paul Wehman and Dr. John Kregel have always been willing to work with me on Secondary Transition projects. Liz Getzel helps the Department collect and analyze data that is used to justify new programs. Kathe Wittig and Renee Bullano are critical colleagues, providing valued critique to help us improve our programs. I am privileged to be associated with the I'm Determined Project, which was originally coordinated by Lisa Holland and now by John McNaught. They have propelled our youth movement beyond expectation. You cannot talk about I'm Determined without also mentioning Kim Sheridan who coordinates the video projects, eloquent works of art. Multiple agencies and people come together annually to plan and provide a Transition Forum that includes not just transition service providers but also the recipients of those services, youth and families. Virginia's Division on Career Development and Transition is a mighty organization, providing professional development, mentoring to newcomers in the field, leadership opportunities, and resources to our communities. Winning this award gives me the opportunity to celebrate the agency I work for, the organizations and talented staff I work with, and to tell you how truly fortunate we are to live, learn, work, and play in Virginia!

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## CONFERENCES AND PROGRAM EVENTS

### Joan Lovegren-O'Brien & Sandra Wingler-Jones, Program Co-Chairs

#### Transition in ACTION: Leveraging Resources for Maximum Impact Summer Institute July 28 – 29, 2011

The 2011 VA DCDT Summer Institute was once again one of the best mini-conferences on transition in the state. There were participants around the state who learned about financial supports, WIA services, Career and Technical Education, Virginia Education Wizard, a story from Tori, an adult with Asperger's, just to name a few of the presentations.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The planning committee is already hard at work preparing for our next summer conference being held on August 1 & 2, 2012 at the Roslyn Center in Richmond.

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### Innovations in Self-Determination: A look at VDOE's I'm Determined Project

August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

This workshop was presented by John McNaught, I'm Determined Project Director, in Fishersville, VA. He discussed four simple self-determination tools that can be used by general and special education teachers to assist with dropout prevention. The program was well received and the participants had great insight and questions. The Program Committee is exploring options for summer 2012. If you have any suggestions, please contact Joan Lovegren-O'Brien. ([jlovegrenobr@vcu.edu](mailto:jlovegrenobr@vcu.edu))

### **COMING THIS SPRING**

Transition Forum 2012

March 12 – 14, 2012

Mark your calendars and then register for The Virginia Transition Forum 2012 – Technology for Transition: Making the Connection (<http://www.virginiatransitionforum.org/> ) It will be held at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center.

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Preconference

Monday morning, March 12

Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center

Dr. Dawn Rowe

National Post-School Outcomes Center

VADCDT & VACTE Social

Monday, March 12

Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center

Immediately following the last session on Monday

Location TBD

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## **Membership**

### **Sally Chappel**

We are currently 97 strong and growing. Please remember to renew your membership. You can do this on-line at <http://www.cec.sped.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Membership>

Also, invite a colleague to join too. We have one of the strongest and largest state chapters in the nation. Let's keep it that way.