

# MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Volume I, Issue II

September 17, 2007

**Greetings! We hope that you enjoy our 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter this year! Please join us in continuing to make a great difference in the latter part of this year! My best, Catherine Bishop Vincent, Chair**

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*Congress acknowledged that society's accumulated myths and fears about disability and disease are as debilitating as are the physical limitations that flow from actual impairment.*

~ William J. Brennan, Jr.

In honor of "Disability Awareness Month", the Mayor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities would like to invite you to their upcoming

## **EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, & RESOURCE FAIR**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2007**

**9:00AM - 3:00PM**

To be held at the **Shandon Presbyterian Church**  
607 Woodrow St. (off of Devine St.), Columbia, SC

**Community Resources  
Panel Discussion for Consumers**  
will be held at 9:30

**Education for Employers  
Panel Discussion**  
will be held at 11:45

We are honored to have Mayor Coble read the *City of Columbia Proclamation* in honor of "Disability Awareness Month" at 11:30.

Our major focus is to bring together consumers & potential employers, educators, & service organizations in the community.

For groups interested in exhibiting, it is still not too late to register for the event! Please contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-3075 or [clucius@columbiasc.net](mailto:clucius@columbiasc.net) to receive a registration form and instructions. If you would like more information about the event in general, please contact Catherine Bishop Vincent at (803) 779-5121 x32 or Sandy Bostick at (803) 737-0193.

# 2007 Annual Awards Luncheon



Our 2007 Annual Awards Luncheon was held on May 3, 2007 at the Cecil Tillis Center. We were honored by Lee Carter, former Executive Director of the SC Spinal Cord Association, in sharing his experiences and insight into disability and ability. Attendees also had the opportunity to hear each of the award winners' stories.

## Nominations for Next Year

The categories for awards are as follows:

- Student of the Year
- Small, Medium, and Large Business of the Year
- Employee with a Disability of the Year
- Journalism Award

Nomination packets will be sent out in February, so make sure next year to get those nominations in!

Photos by: Claudia Wilburn Photography



Award Recipients, MCEPD Executive Committee, & Councilman Rickenmann

## Congrats to our 2007 Award Winners!



Councilman Rickenmann  
& Damessa Ross  
Student of the Year Award



Johnnie Grant  
Student of the Year Award



Olivia Casey  
Journalism Award



Whitney Mathais, Employee Award  
MHASC - Best Small Business Award

## Business Hiring Incentives

### **Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)**

is a Federally-funded tax credit program designed to provide incentive for employers to hire individuals with barriers to employment. Employers can receive up to **\$2400** tax credit for each person hired with an unlimited number of qualified hires!

To qualify, hire from among these groups of job seekers:

- SSI recipient
- Vocational Rehabilitation referral
- TANF/AFDC recipient
- Veteran receiving food stamps
- Food Stamp recipient
- EZ-EC-RC resident
- Summer Youth EZ-EC-RC resident
- Ex-felon
- Long-term Family Assistance Recipient

The 2 required forms are available at [www.uses.doleta.gov/wotcdata.cfm](http://www.uses.doleta.gov/wotcdata.cfm).

### **Federal Bonding Program (FBP)**

is insurance to protect employers against employee dishonesty, further, a guarantee of worker job honesty. The Federal Bonding Program (FBP) covers: theft, forgery, larceny, & embezzlement. **The bond is issued to the employer free of charge** and is good for **6 months**. The bond insurance is \$5,000 coverage with no deductible amount.

#### **Who is eligible?**

- Poor/no credit
- Record of arrest
- Bankruptcy
- Dishonorable military discharge
- Past alcohol/drug abuse

#### **What is the process?**

- Employer makes a job offer
- Employer calls bonding assistant to complete **all** paperwork over the phone
- Bond activates on first day
- Will self-terminate on 6mth

For more info, contact Camille Fallaw, State FBP Coordinator, at (803) 737-0193.

### **Invitation to All to Join Our Efforts**

The committee would like to encourage any company or individual that has an interest in the employment of people with disabilities to join our committee! We especially would like to invite business representatives to join the committee to provide us with much needed business leadership and guidance.

We meet the first Thursday of the month at the Suggs & Kelly Law Firm  
500 Taylor St. in the Executive Conference Room from 11:00am - 12:00pm.

*Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can  
change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.* ~Margaret Mead

## MEET YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Catherine Bishop Vincent, Natalie Derrick, Connie Lucius, Sandy Bostick, and Britni Hartis**

**Catherine** works for the Disability Action Center in Case Management Services for Project HOPE. She previously worked with the DOL/SSA Disability Navigator Initiative. Catherine has served this past year as Secretary for the MCEPD & is very pleased to become new Chair.

**Natalie** is the Vice Chairperson and the Executive Assistant at the South Carolina Independent Living Council (SCILC). Natalie really does understand the difficulties people go through with disabilities and she looks forward to helping, finding the right resources, and sharing the knowledge.

**Connie** works for the City of Columbia in Mayor Coble's office. She recently was asked by Mayor Coble to be the city's liaison and handle the finances of this committee. Since working with this committee, Connie has witnessed what a diverse group of people can do given a common goal.

**Sandy** is a Disabled Veteran, who injured her back while on deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom I & II. Sandy has found what she believes is her calling – being a Disability Program Navigator. Sandy has had more than her share of counseling in her military career.

**Britni**, Assistant to the Executive Director of Mental Health America of SC (MHASC), has served this past year as Chairperson of the MCEPD. She also works with MHASC as a certified QPR (suicide prevention training) Instructor and assist in administering the SAFE SAMHSA federal grant.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2007** PROJECT HOPE OPEN HOUSE/RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY 2:00PM – 5:00PM  
KINARD ST., COLUMBIA, SC 29201 (803) 779-5121

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**SEPT 30 – OCT 4, 2007** SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEAFNESS CONFERENCE  
HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, GREENVILLE, SC [WWW.SERID.ORG](http://WWW.SERID.ORG)

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**OCTOBER 9, 2007** MAYOR'S COMMITTEE: EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, & RESOURCE FAIR 9 – 3  
307 WOODROW ST. [WWW.COLUMBIASC.NET](http://WWW.COLUMBIASC.NET)

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**OCTOBER 19 & 20, 2007** SCILC: PATHWAYS TO INDEPENDENCE CONFERENCE REGISTER 11:30AM  
SPRINGMAID BEACH RESORT, MYRTLE BEACH, SC [WWW.SCILCONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.SCILCONLINE.ORG)

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**OCTOBER 21, 2007** OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK, AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION  
1:00PM REGISTER TODAY AT [WWW.OUTOFTHE DARKNESS.ORG](http://WWW.OUTOFTHE DARKNESS.ORG)

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**DECEMBER 6, 2007** MAYOR'S COMMITTEE: LUNCH AND LEARN AT BCBS OF SC 11:30AM – 1PM