



DisAbility Monthly

March 2008

Serving Knox County
Local Workforce Investment Area 3

Workforce + Education = Future

Area employers, political and community leaders, and educators have organized a

Workforce and Education Summit

March 24

at the Knoxville Convention Center

Mayor Haslam and Mayor Ragsdale will offer welcoming remarks...University of Tennessee Professor of Economics, Matt Murray will give the keynote address on "What Our Workforce Looks Like."

There will be Breakout Sessions focusing on the following topics: Making Learning Relevant, Effective Teaching, Developing a Communications Strategy, Business and Community Engagement, Bridging the Gap between Higher Education and Business, Workforce Training, Attracting and Retaining a Quality Workforce, and **Engaging the Under-Utilized Workforce** (Veterans, retirees, people w/ disabilities, and the underemployed).

The Summit agenda and registration information is available on the Chamber website:
http://www.knoxvillechamber.com/eng/main/news/education_summit_looks_to_future

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Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.. ..Nelson Mandela

THINK GLOBALLY: March 8... celebrated as **International Women's Day**

"..women with disabilities all over the world are starting to say, "I can".."

1975 was designated as 'International Women's Year' by the United Nations. Women's organizations and governments around the world have also observed IWD annually on 8 March by holding large-scale events that honor women's advancement and while diligently reminding of the continued vigilance and action required to ensure that women's equality is gained and maintained in all aspects of life.

Visit the International Museum of Women:
<http://imaginingourselves.imow.org/pb/Welcome.aspx>



This and that:

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Dr. William Vicars (Dr. V) is a full-time instructor of **American Sign Language/Deaf Studies** at California State University, Sacramento, and proprietor of Lifeprint Institute. Check out his online ASL University site (no fees) for a fun tour of all things ASL... <http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/index.htm>

“Someone you love has a mental illness. That’s why there’s NAMI.” The Knoxville chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness invites you to NAMI Night on Tuesday, March 11 from 6:30 pm – 8 pm. The evening panel will include Independent Living Specialists, advocates, and employment specialists from the disABILITY Resource Center (see: www.drctn.org). Contact the NAMI affiliate coordinator at 602-7807 for more information.

What is **Visitability**? It is a concept based on the idea that inclusion of basic architectural access features in new home construction improves every person’s ability to live comfortably. The Knoxville Mayor’s Council on Disability issues is hosting a panel discussion about Visitability on March 12th at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City/County building. The remarks will be taped and aired on Community Television of Knoxville (CTV). The public is invited.

The next East Region Employment Consortium meeting will be Wednesday, March 26 from 10am-12n at the Tennessee Career Center on University Avenue. Contact Tina Favazza-Rachael, DMRS, 588-0508 ext. 136

The **Assistive Technology Equipment Recycling Program** of the East Tennessee Technology Access Center solicits equipment and redistributes assistive technology to residents in 24 counties of East Tennessee who have disabilities, or who have family members with disabilities. If you have computers, peripherals, recreation aids, or other types of devices to donate, contact ETTAC at www.discoveret.org/ettac/erp.htm

Do you have questions about how to find disability services in Tennessee? Go to www.familypathfinder.org

TOSHA training and consultation result in decline in workplace injury rate

TN DOL **Commissioner Neeley** announced recently Tennessee’s workplace injury rate has steadily declined over the last 10 years. The decline in part is attributed to an increase in Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (TOSHA) statewide training, inspections and cooperative employer programs. Industry injury rates have declined from 7.6 percent to 4.8 percent in the last decade.

“What these numbers reflect is how important it is to make both employees and employers aware of how to **prevent workplace injuries** before they occur,” said Commissioner Neeley. “By increasing training and cooperative employer programs through our consultative services we believe the injury rates will continue to decline in the future.” (Reprinted from the TN DOL Teamwork News, Feb 08) **Remember, Safety First !**

For information about your Local Workforce Development System and Career Center partners please visit: <http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/cc/ccpartners.htm>

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