

STATE USE NEWS

JANUARY 2016



FLYING BLIND: LEGALLY BLIND MAN LEARNS TO FLY

"I see this as an opportunity to fulfill a lifelong dream. It's not about overcoming disability; it's about living my life."

Jason DeCamillis of Ypsilanti, MI, has wanted to learn to fly a plane ever since he was a child. However, he never thought that it would be possible because he is legally blind due to Retinitis Pigmentosa, a progressive condition which slowly affects his peripheral and night vision.

"I have about 20 degrees of central vision now, which some refer to as 'tunnel vision'," DeCamillis, special education teacher and advocate said.

Earlier this year, he saw a video online of a pilot who had lost his license due to the same condition, but kept on flying by taking flight lessons.

"I thought, 'Wow. Maybe I could do the same thing.' I had just never thought to ask," DeCamillis said.

He contacted a local nonprofit flying club in Ann Arbor, MI, and not only did the club agree to take him up for a discovery flight, but his instructor, Dr. Alex Arts, encouraged him to pursue flight instruction.

It's been a few weeks now, and DeCamillis has logged over 8 hours of flight time even though he can't ultimately get his license.

"I see this as an opportunity to fulfill a lifelong dream. It's not about overcoming disability; it's about living my life. I've seen so many people forgo their dreams as a result of traditional notions of disability, and I want to share what is possible when we work together across ability; doing so isn't charity or inspiration, it's life," DeCamillis said.

DeCamillis holds a visual impairment special education teaching certificate in the state of Michigan, and recently graduated from both Eastern Michigan University's Special Education Teacher Preparation Program (BA '14), and the University of Michigan's Educational Leadership and Policy Program (MA '15).

He is currently working on an independent documentary film of his experience titled "Flying Blind" to be completed in 2016.



"Flying Blind: Legally Blind Man Learns to Fly"
Disabled World, accessed Aug. 26, 2015

Reprinted with permission from Jason DeCamillis.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AWARENESS DAY

Presented by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at the State Capitol from noon to 4:30 p.m.

Please help plan for the event by registering on the DRS website. DRS can look up your state senators and representatives, and have that information for you when you check in on People with Disabilities Awareness Day. If you have any accommodations requests, please send them to cmartin@okdrs.gov or call Cathy Martin at 405-951-3478.



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A MESSAGE FROM STATE USE ADMINISTRATOR DARON HOGGATT

Now that 2015 is over, let's look forward to what 2016 has to offer. We hope 2016 is a great year for everyone!



Central Purchasing and State Use offices have recently been relocated to 5005 N. Lincoln Blvd. We have a fresh, modern look and are very happy to be settling into our new areas.

State Use plans on adding several new items and services this year. If you have ideas for additional items/services that you would like, please feel free to let us know. We get occasional requests and are pleased to assist when we can.

Cities, counties, colleges and universities... We look forward to getting you more actively involved by utilizing Staples Advantage and our other contracts.

CPO training, State Use's largest annual one-day event, was excellent this year. We had over 250 CPOs and 14 State Use vendors in attendance.

We will be announcing numerous training events in 2016 and ask you to invite anyone who makes purchases – not just CPOs, but P-card holders, administrators and more – to attend.

The program continues to pay back to the State of Oklahoma. When the State Use Program offers more products and services, it allows more people with disabilities to hold meaningful employment, thereby increasing economic advantages for the state.

It's not just a purchase... it makes a better Oklahoma!

– Daron Hoggatt



2015 STATE USE STATISTICS

2025 persons with disabilities employed for State Use contracts.

\$9,550,686 total wages paid to persons with disabilities for State Use contracts.

Top Products/Services:

- Janitorial Services
- Temporary Employment Services
- Unarmed Security Services
- Toilet Tissue
- Toner Cartridges
- Litter Pick-up
- Document Destruction/ Shredding Pens
- Frames, Picture/Document
- Filters

THE NUMBER

When using the State Use Program, the state receives a 25 percent economic advantage with every purchase.

How? The number of persons with disabilities working on State Use products/services, their taxable income, their buying power and the cost savings of an average of \$2700 per employee for reduced benefits from the state.

IMPORTANT DATES

State Use Committee Meetings

Feb. 3, 2016 (Location: NewView Oklahoma)

April 6, 2016 (Location: TBD)

June 1, 2016 (Location: TBD)

Aug. 3, 2016 (Location: TBD)

Oct. 5, 2016 (Location: TBD)

Dec. 7, 2016 (Location: TBD)

All meetings start at 1:00 p.m.

April 5, 2015

People With Disabilities
Awareness Day at the
State Capitol



It's not just a purchase... it makes a better Oklahoma!

CONTACT US

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Visit us on the web at

http://www.ok.gov/DCS/Central_Purchasing/index.html