

The Oklahoma Pledge Quarterly Newsletter

Office of Disability Concerns

Special points of interest:

- The Abilities Scholarship 2013
- The CINEMA ACT—S.555
- Air Carrier Access Act — S. 556

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Goodwill Industries of Central Oklahoma — Abilities Scholarship 2013

It's that time again as high school seniors across America prepare for graduation. Oklahoma high school seniors with disabilities from around the state are encouraged to continue academic excellence, and pursue their educational goals and opportunities.



Congratulations!

The Goodwill Industries of Central Oklahoma proudly announces “The Abilities Scholarship”. Students eligible for consideration for the Abilities Scholarship are:

Graduating high school seniors from the state of Oklahoma, must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in a 4.0 scale, written documentation from a physician or service provider supporting that the candidate meets the definition of “disabled” as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990, and applicants must be citizens of the United States.

Scholarships will be awarded based on demonstrated categories. Funds maybe used for college tuition, fees, books, if recipient resides in college housing can be include room and board, adaptive equipment, or tutor assistance.

Funds will be available for the academic year immediately high school graduation. The (GICO) Abilities Scholarship Fund is managed by the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, The Abilities Scholarship, deadline is June 1, 2013 for more information, please visit: <http://okgoodwill.org>

The CINEMA ACT - S . 5 5 5

Changes maybe on the way again by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), who introduced two bills on March 13, 2013. S.555 is the first bill to address the “Captioning and Image Narration to Enhance Movie Accessibility Act”, or the CINEMA ACT, would amend the Title III of the ADA.

S.556 would also amend the Air Carrier Access Act to require captioning on in-flight entertainment. Sen. Harkin is the author of the “Americans with Disability Act” (ADA) 1990. His brother lost his hearing at a young age. He understands the needs of people with disabilities, and continues to be an innovator leader for the disability community. For more information, please visit: <http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/313>

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Achieving a Better of Life Experience Act

The 113th Congress (2013-2014) are working to embrace The Achieving a Better of Life Experience Act (ABLE); which was introduced 2/13/13 (S.313).

The ABLE Act would amend Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986 to create tax free savings accounts for individuals with disabilities. ABLE accounts would offer a myriad of saving opportunities, excuse the eligibility for Medicaid, and other programs.

To view bill summary and status of the ABLE Act, please visit: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d113:SN00313:@@L&summ2=m&>

Americans with Disability Act (ADA)

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word Accessible—providing access, and being within reach. Everyone should have accessibility, but unfortunately not everyone does. The 2010 Standard for Accessible Design for Title II, and Title III facilities address this issue and ensure regulations.

For 23 years the (ADA) has changed the way of life protecting the rights of people with disabilities. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ada.gov/> and http://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm



The Nissan NV200 Taxi



Stop, Look, and Listen!!! The new wave of taxi service is on the way according to the automobile make Nissan. “The Taxi of Tomorrow” will hit the streets of New York City this coming fall. Nissan collaborated with the wheelchair giant BraunAbility.

BraunAbility is known for its wheelchair accessible automobiles and lifts. The wheel chair ramp exceeds the Americans with Disability Act requirements. Providing the first integrated restraint safety system. Nissan plans to build the NV200 taxi in North American plants.

Stop, Look & Listen

For more information, please visit: <http://nissannews.com/en-US/nissan/usa/channels/us-united-states-nissan-cv-nv200-taxi-of-tomorrow/releases/video-report-taxi-of-tomorrow-with-accessibility-options-now-on-stage-at-the-new-york-international-auto-show?page=1>

U . S . Department of Education

A college degree is attainable with the help of the U.S. Department of Education assisting student reach their academic goals. Two new program tools are available to help students with repayment schedules and understanding the loan process.

The first tool is the repayment estimator were students can review their currently monthly payments, and see what other repayments opportunities are available. The second tool is complete counseling designed to inform students of various loan responsibilities.

These new programs are a good way to encourage students to monitor their financial future. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ed.gov>

“These tools give students the information they need to understand how to better manage their student loan obligation” said U. S. Department of Education, Secretary Arne Duncan

A c c e p t a b l e C l i n i c a l E v i d e n c e

The Department of Veterans Affairs is striving to make services for those applying for Veterans’ disability claims. The (ACE) initiative could discontinue required in person medical examination and Veterans receive benefits much faster. These four Transformation Initiatives (Fully Develop Claims –FDC, Veterans Benefits Management System—VBMS, Acceptable Clinical Evidence– ACE, and Segmented Lanes hopes to address the Veterans’ needs.

The (ACE) initiative could discontinue required in person medical examinations and Veterans received benefits quicker. The (ACE) was developed by both the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA).

For more information, please visit: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2425>



We're on the Web: www.odc.ok.gov

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Concerns**



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The Oklahoma Legislature House Bill
1084 renames The Office of Handi-
capped Concerns to The Office of Dis-
ability Concerns effective November
2007

"Keeping You Informed Is Our Pledge"

National Deaf History Month

March 13—April 15 is National Deaf History Month.

Gallaudet University is a renowned educational institution serving the deaf and hard of hearing people, and committed to providing premier opportunities and services to all students.

(GU) was established in 1864 by Congress to learn more about Gallaudet University, Mission & Vision Statement, please visit: <http://www.gallaudet.edu>



National Deaf History Month
March 13—April 15