



Oklahoma Pledge Newsletter

Strengthening America's Schools Act of 2013

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Most elementary and secondary schools are now closed for the Summer break. Students are enjoying family vacations, going to the water parks, or just spending time with friends. But U.S. Senator Tom Harkin, (D-IA) is working hard to ensure quality education for all students. Recently Senator Harkins, who is the author of the (ADA) 1990, and chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension committee (HELP) initiate the Strengthening America Schools Act of 2013. For more information, please visit: <http://www.help.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=e561493c-1cc4-46ba-8e8d-427b82891be&groups=ChairC:\Documents%20and%20Setting>

The (SAS) purpose is to promote academic responsibility, flexibility, and accountability to promote students' educational excellence. The (SAS) will encourage equity through more transparency and fair distribution of resource, sustain current state reform efforts and provide flexibility to improve schools to name a few important aspects. In 1965 was the first Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA). To learn how Oklahoma State Education Department stands on NCLB, please visit: <http://ok.gov/sdeno-child-left-behind-blue-ribbon-schools>



No Child Left Behind



Equal Opportunity to Work

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word equal - of the same measure as another. Many times individuals with disabilities face numerous barriers. Thus an employment opportunity can seem out of reach. However, U.S. Senator Tom Harkin, (D-IA) is once again striving to help individuals with disability have an equal opportunity to work. To read more on equal rights from Sen. Harkin, please visit: <http://www.harkin.senate.gov/issue/equalrights/>

"We've come so far as a country in the 20 years since passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the 35 years of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. But our work is far from over. We must continue to fight for policies that promote equal opportunity, full participation, self-determination, independent living and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities and their families." - **Senator Tom Harkin**

Celebrating 60 years in Oklahoma



Dale Rogers Training Center

Look who's turning 60 this year! Dale Rogers Training Center has provided employment and other services to tens of thousands Oklahomans. In 1953 several parents joined together seeking a healthy, productive, friendly, and secure location for their children with disabilities. Celebrity Dale Evan Rogers shared a common goal and experience with developmental disability individuals first hand. She wanted to help others, so much she authored a book titled an Angel Unaware telling her story about her daughter Robin's disabilities.

Today Dale Rogers Training Center, Inc. is prosperous. (DRTC) Mission Statement supports people with disabilities through paid vocational training, in-house programs and work opportunities as well as competitive community employment. To learn how (DRTC) can help you, and don't miss the (DRTC) 60th Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, October 13th, 2013, please visit: <http://www.drctc.org> for this grand event. Hope to see you there!

Cooking with MasterChef Christine Ha



The aroma of good smelling foods always makes one happy especially when professionally prepared by Master Chef Christine Ha. In 2012 Christine Ha who is blind won the FOX's Network Master-Chef cooking competition title. Ha recently was a guest judge on Fox's Network Master Chef episode airing date June 26, 2013 on Oklahoma City KOKH 25.

The remaining 13 contestants gathered their grocery items, and quickly returned to their cooking stations. Eagerly awaiting Chef Gordon Ramsay cooking challenge instructions as MasterChef Ha smiled. Chef Ramsay informed their cooking challenge would be preparing a meal blind folded as guest MasterChef Ha does daily.

To view Master Chef Ha competition winner, please visit: <http://www.fox.com/masterchef/full-episodes/34536515599/top-13-compete>



Weight Watchers International

The 21st Century has brought new technologies just by the touch of a finger, or voice in a moments notice. Weight Watchers International is now offering accessibility services to its members with visual impairments. Weight Watchers International is dedicated to assisting individuals with healthy food choices, calorie count information, and much more.

There are several accessibility options to serve you. Here's a brief list—Plan Manager with Screen Reader, Auxiliary Aids, and qualified Customer Service specialist. Available Monday through Friday, 8 am to 10 pm (EST), and Saturdays 11 am—5pm (EST). For more information, please visit: <http://www.weightwatchers.com/help/index.aspx?pageid=1396161> Get started today Be Fit, Be Healthy, and Enjoy Life.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs designated the month of June 2013 as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month. (PTSD) is a medical condition that occurs after a traumatic act or experience. The National Center for (PTSD) is available to help veterans. For more information please, visit: <http://www.ptsd.va.gov/about/index.asp>, or to view materials for printing, please visit: http://www.ptsd.va.gov/about/print-materials/Materials_for_Printing.asp

The Oklahoma Mental Health Substance Abuse Services is a state agency (ODMHSAS) working with numerous state, private, and non-profit organizations. The agency address mental health crisis, prevention services, and substance abuse. (ODMHSAS) Toll Free 24/7 hotlines to help get your life back on track. If interested in learning more about (ODMHSAS) services. Please visit:

<http://www.ok.gov/odmhsas/>

(ODMHSAS Hotlines) -Disaster Distress Hotline-800-985-5990, Reach Out Hotline-800-522-9054, Suicide Prevention-800-273-8255, Gambling Hotline-800-522-4700, and Tobacco Hotline- 800-784-8669.



Job Corps - Success lasts a Lifetime!

Attention Attention Attention Attention Attention

May I have your attention please! Job Corps is now accepting enrollment for ages 16 to 24. Job Corps is a free education and training program since 1964, has 125 nationwide centers to serve you, and to find your nearest location, please visit: <http://www.jobcorps.gov/Home.aspx>

Job Corps' Mission: To attract eligible young people, teach them the skills they need to become employable and independent, and place them in meaningful jobs or further education.

Job Corps offers opportunities to learn professional trades, gain a high school diploma, or obtain a GED. Job Corps four program components for each participant are Outreach and Admission (OA), Career Preparation Period (CPP), Career Development Period (CDP), and Career Transition (CTP)

Join today and remember Job Corps Success last a lifetime!

**Job Corps is a free
education and training
program since 1964.**

**Success lasts a
lifetime!**

Job Accommodation Network

(JAN) provides a free online services with (A—Z) disabilities with accommodations suggestions, search by accommodations only, or review the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Library. If interested and learning more about how JAN can help, please visit: <http://askjan.org/index.html> (JAN) is a valuable resource with services to assist employees, employers, professionals, or anyone needing disability accommodations awareness. (JAN) may help support better work productivity, good work ethics, and overall help maintain his/her employment. To review (JAN) Frequently Asked Questions, please visit: <http://askjan.org/links/fags.htm>

(JAN) online services is available 24/7 for your disability needs, or if you would like to contact them by phone. Please call Toll Free (800) 526-7234-Voice, or (877) 781-9403-TTY.



JAN is one the several services provided by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability.

Office of Disability Concerns

201 NW 23rd Street, Ste: 90
Oklahoma City, OK 73107-2423

Phone: (405)-521-3756
Toll Free: (800) 522-8224
Fax: (405)-522-6695

Visit us on the web at www.odc@ok.gov

"Keeping You Informed Is Our Pledge"

✓ **Mark your Calendar, and make plans to attend the upcoming financial & employment conference. "A Paycheck and You! Why Work Pay\$, Friday, October 25, 2013. For future conference updates, please visit:**

<http://www.odc.ok.gov>

iCanShine assist individuals with disabilities participate in recreational activities. Total Poss-Abilities Bike Program will be Aug. 5—9, 2013 at Okla. City Community College. For more info, please visit: www.icanshine.org, select programs, select find a program, and choose the state of Oklahoma.



Front & Center Corner Interview with Doug MacMillian

Greetings Oklahoma, I'm the new agency director for the Office of Disability Concerns. I previously worked in a variety of roles including Vice President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Therefore, I'm no stranger to hard work and assisting people maximize their talents and abilities. I strongly believe in creating an inclusive environment for everyone. Creating an inclusive environment is challenging, thought provoking, and rewarding. It is attainable! For people with disabilities, our world is often fraught with barriers that are out of ignorance, fear and concern. Barriers are removed through training, technical assistance, collaboration, and the development of inclusive practices.

The Office of Disability Concerns is an independent state agency whose purpose is to help state government develop policies, and services that meet the needs of Oklahomans with disabilities. We also provide technical resources for employment issues for people with disability, and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance with design and implementation.

We support two important committees:

Governor's Advisory Committee of People with Disabilities.

Governor's Advisory committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

Oklahomans are great people always willing to help others with respect, and teamwork .

The Office of Disability Concerns staff is available to answer questions, identify available resources, and services to anyone. We look forward to assisting your disability needs. *-Doug*