

## Editor's Introduction

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# JVR 20th Anniversary

This year culminates 20 years of the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*. The Journal has focused on research, literature reviews, discussion pieces, commentaries, case studies and program descriptions which can help influence the fields of rehabilitation, disability and disability policy and special education. Over the past 10 years the Journal has grown more international in scope. It has grown from 4 issues per year to 6 issues and is now the official journal for members of APSE: The Employment Network. We have published articles on transition, supported employment, employers and their attitudes and practices, HIV, autism, psychiatric impairment, disability policy, consumer advocacy and vocational rehabilitation practices. The majority of papers are unsolicited, but many still reflect invited issues such as this one on Supported Employment and Social Relationships in the Workplace led by Dr. Jeanne Novak, Dr. David Mank and Dr. Pat Rogan

Inasmuch as there have been hundreds of articles published in JVR over the past 20 years, not to mention thousands in other comparable journals, it seemed appropriate to invite some of the leading authors in the field to reflect on practices and advances in transition, employment, postsecondary education, and vocational rehabilitation. Where have we come from and what have we learned? Where are we today? Do we have things to feel good about and what are they? What lessons can be learned and what directions must we take in this 21st century to reverse this stagnation and even downward slide that many persons with disabilities experience.

This issue brings together a series of commentaries from different aspects of the field, including self-determination, transition, work experience learning, integrated employment, postsecondary education and vocational rehabilitation research and service delivery. We look at these commentaries as a way to pull

together the collective wisdom of many of the more productive and influential members of our field in the past 20 years. These comments provide an excellent lead in to the multiple papers that Novak and her colleagues have brought together on a very appropriate topic, that of Supported Employment and Social Relationships in the Workplace. In the end this is what we want: good paying jobs in real workplaces with benefits and access to the public and nondisabled coworkers. We want the people we advocate to have an equal opportunity and equal access to real work for real pay.

This issue, then, is one more effort to spur the field on to wrestle with issues such as abolishing the sub-minimum wage, seamless movement to work directly from school, overlapping efforts with school and post-secondary education, removing altogether the deterrent of SSI from full employment. Are we up to these challenges? Do we have the moral and political will to elevate our efforts, especially through these challenging economic times? Are we prepared to help individuals with disabilities become more empowered to demand their rights for equal access and equal opportunity for real work?

Please reflect on these questions and these following commentaries as we move ahead into the next decade.

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