

# Guest editors' note

The concept of transition, the process of movement from one place or life stage to another, has been researched and written about at great length in disability studies literature over the past several decades. Historically viewed as the “bridge” between special education and adult community services for adolescents with disabilities, transition has begun to emerge as a prominent theme in coping and adjustment models that span the life cycle. Indeed, the broader application of transition is compatible with contemporary “person-in-environment” conceptions of disability – ones that consider impairment-based functional limitations in situational and temporal contexts rather than viewing disability as a static life event that can be overcome only by enhancing the person’s resolve to lead a normal life.

In that regard, our mission in developing topics and soliciting contributors for this special issue was to highlight developmental stages, life circumstances, and medical conditions that pose unique challenges for people with disabilities as they make transitions to and from various life roles. Special emphasis was placed on vocationally oriented services and interventions for populations that have been underserved in existing rehabilitation programs (e.g., women with disabilities, welfare beneficiaries, people with HIV/AIDS, people with cerebral palsy).

As readers examine the breadth and depth of topics that are addressed in the excellent articles presented herein, they will be repeatedly reminded of the need for holistic, interdisciplinary services to meet the career development needs of people with disabilities in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. As these articles cross a wide gamut of developmental stages, service delivery settings, and client populations, so too must rehabilitation professionals be attuned to the ever-diversifying challenges that face their respective professions as we enter the New Millennium.

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