

## APSE Notes

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# Announcing



**The Sixteenth Annual APSE Conference and Training Event of  
APSE: The Network on Employment  
Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center, Mobile, AL  
Pre-Conference Summits: July 24, 2004  
Conference Sessions: July 25, 26, 27, 2004**

*Mobile is alive! It kicks, dances, shakes, laughs, respects its history and then takes you in its arms and lulls you to sleep with the breath of a gentle gulf breeze. Nestled on the beautiful Gulf of Mexico, few other cities can boast such a rich history and prime location. Visitors marvel at the sheer beauty of the city – the breathtaking sunsets, lush foliage, spectacular historic and modern architecture, amazing museums, diverse arts and culture, and famous seafood creations.*

By all accounts the Fifteenth Annual APSE Conference in Indianapolis was very successful. Sessions were strong, keynoters were outstanding, networking abounded and a good time was had by all! A picture album of the conference is available on page 7 of the Winter issue of the Advance, found online at [www.apse.org](http://www.apse.org).

*Teresa Grossi accepts thanks on behalf of the conference planning committee for their outstanding job of planning and hosting the APSE Conference in Indianapolis.*

The mantle has now been passed to Alabama APSE, who will host the 16th Annual Conference, *APSE: Navigating the Way... Welcome Aboard!*, in Mobile. The conference planning team is fast at work under the leadership of AL APSE President Byron White. From APSE Executive Director Celane McWhorter, “Mobile promises to be another not-to-be-missed APSE conference”.

Two new conference activities will be added to the agenda this summer: an Individual and Family Summit on Employment, co-hosted with the Full Life Ahead Foundation, and an APSE Chapter Leadership Summit. The Individual and Family Summit on Employment will provide hands-on information and support to help families and individuals maneuver the employment maze, and will begin to build a stronger family and consumer network within APSE. The Chapter Leadership Summit will be hosted by the Chapter Delegates Council and the APSE Board. It will offer APSE Chapter leaders and other interested APSE members the opportunity to discuss a myriad of chapter-related issues, from funding and policy challenges to SE at the state and local level, to actions needed to

build stronger alliances with national APSE and Chapter Networks across the country. The two Summits promise to add a new and important dimension to the already popular preconference and conference events.

The conference will be at the Riverview Plaza Hotel and Mobile Convention Center, both located beside Mobile Bay, a skywalk away from each other and a short walk from outstanding Southern cuisine and night life. In addition to a terrific conference opportunity, Mobile offers a number of near-by popular vacation spots: Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, AL, Pensacola, FL, the bright lights of the Biloxi, MS casinos, and, of course, all the excitement of the Big Easy – New Orleans. Start planning your trip now!

### **In 2006 – It is Boston!**

The APSE Conference Committee, chaired by Teresa Grossi, announces Boston as the site for the 17th Annual Conference. The 2006 conference will be hosted by MA APSE and the Institute on Community Inclusion. Plans are already underway, with a hotel selection to be announced in the Spring online at [www.apse.org](http://www.apse.org).



### *APSE Call To Action*

#### **President Bush Again Asks Congress to Eliminate SE Funds – Strong Grassroots Response Needed**

- President Bush has once again asked Congress to eliminate funding for the SE State Grant Program and transfer the funds to the Title I (state VR) program.
- Final decisions on the President's request will be made by the House and Senate, beginning with the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees in both bodies.

*Please contact (Fax or E-mail and telephone) your representative and senators with the following message:.*  
(If you do not know who to write, go to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).)

- The SE State Grant Program in the Rehabilitation Act is important to individuals with significant disabilities. Without this incentive for the state VR system to provide SE services, most people who require intense supports to become employed will not be able to access their state VR system.
- Congress authorized this program to provide the necessary incentives for the state VR system to provide SE services.
- Please do not let the President use the appropriation process to eliminate this authorized program and to transfer money targeted specifically to supported employment into Title I of the Act.
- Congress recognized the importance of the SE State Grant Program and funded the program, rejecting the President's request for FY 2003, FY 2004 and FY 2005. Please oppose the President's request for FY 2006 and continue to fund this program as a separate line item in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

For more information, contact: Celane McWhorter, [celanem@yahoo.com](mailto:celanem@yahoo.com), 703-683-1166 or, go to [www.apse.org](http://www.apse.org) for background materials.