



GCDP REPORT

Austin, Texas

February, 1986

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Barbara Jordan Award Winners Announced at Banquet

The Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons sponsored the 1985 Barbara Jordan Awards banquet held at Dallas' Lincoln Hotel on November 8, 1985. Operating under the direction of the Media Relations and Public Information Subcommittee of the Governor's Committee a local steering committee composed of 35 Dallasites planned and implemented the media conference and awards banquet.

Dallas Mayor A. Starke Taylor, Jr. served as Chairman of the Honorary Dinner Committee for the Barbara Jordan Awards. "I'm honored to be this year's dinner chairman and to be involved in with such a wonderful project, Mayor Taylor said. "I strongly believe that disabled people can and do make important contributions to our society. And I believe that when the public recognizes this and opportunities are opened up, disabled individuals will make even greater contributions," he said. "This is where the public media comes in. Their realistic portrayal of disabled people opens up opportunities as public attitudes are influenced," Taylor said.

Before an audience of more than 400, the vivacious Elizabeth Criswell, Mistress of Ceremonies, presented twelve awards to individuals and organizations in the communications media for their excellence in increasing public understanding of both the problems and potentials of individuals with disabilities. Criswell is an interpreter for the deaf, a teacher, counselor, lobbyist, television personality and volunteer.

The Southwest Motor Club of the American Automobile Association, received the award for special contribution by an organization. AAA created and produced a publication to aid handicapped drivers in finding equipment and service to improve their mobility.



Elizabeth Criswell, Mistress of Ceremonies, presented J. C. Wilbourn of AAA with a Barbara Jordan Award for special contributions by an organization.

Mary Ann Board, of Andrews, Texas, received a Barbara Jordan Award for special contributions by an individual. Ms. Board's accomplishments include the development and coordination of the first program for physically disabled students at the University of Houston and development and implementation of all phases of volunteer programs at the Lighthouse for the Blind in Houston. She is the author of several publications designed to teach independent living skills to physically disabled individuals and she has developed and taught several learning modules for severely disabled individuals in the area of interpersonal communication skills, human sexuality, stress management and consumerism.

The winner of the Barbara Jordan Award in the audio/visual category was GSD&M Inc., of Austin, Texas. The video tape presentation the agency created was for Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital of Gonzales, Texas. The tape describes the services of the hospital. GSD&M produced a tape to show the human side of those with disabilities, that it is difficult to learn how to use a changed body.

Christopher Evans received a Barbara Jordan Award for the feature article he wrote for the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*. Evan's feature focused on a local couple with disabilities. In a sensitive article, Evans quoted Bill Bradbury as he described himself and his wife Donna as "just ordinary people out scratching like every one else."

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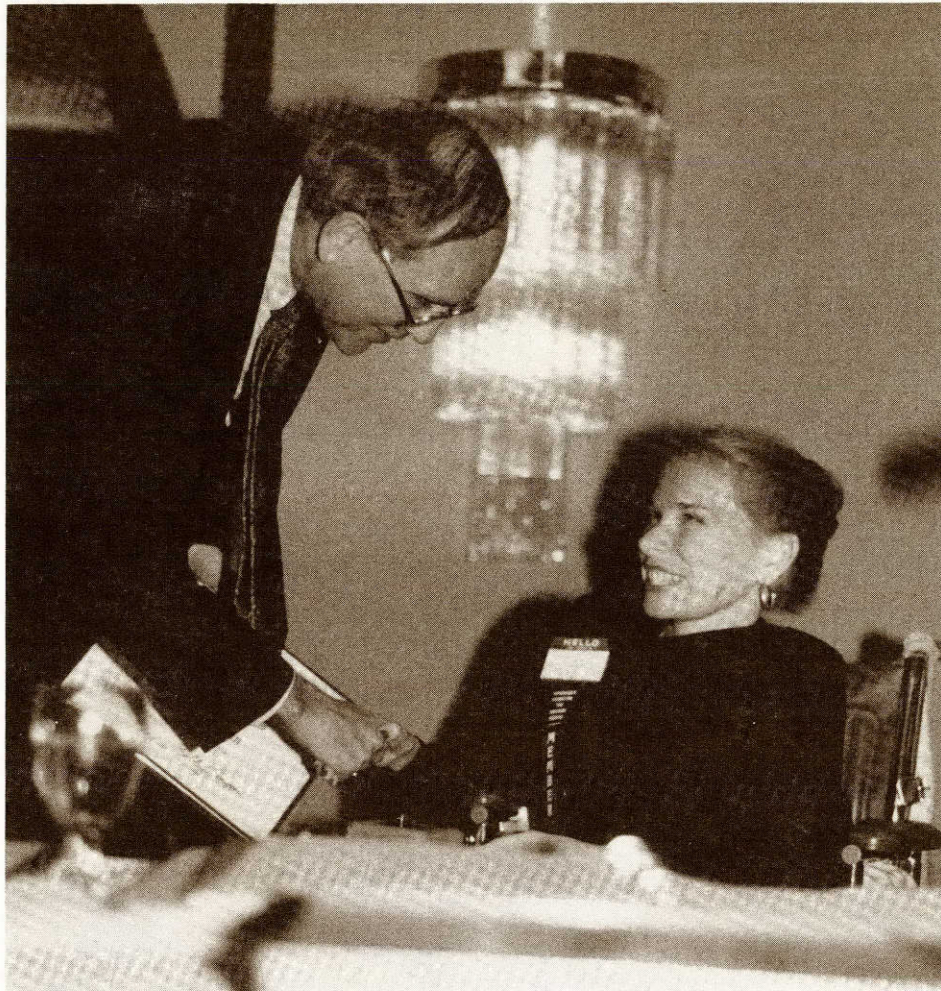
Nosek Delivers Welcome Address

Margaret (Peg) Nosek, Ph.D., newly appointed Chairperson of the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons, welcomed attendees at the Employment Awards Luncheon on October 1. Nosek asked participants to raise their voices with hers in celebration of independence.

She called for Texans to commit as partners in the fight for independence. Nosek offered this challenge, "To all employers goes the challenge of removing unnecessary restrictions which prevent people with disabilities from entering or advancing in employment. Economic self-sufficiency is the single most powerful factor in maximizing options and control of one's life. To all legislators goes the challenge of removing disincentives to employment and productivity which currently permeate the service providing system. To them also goes the challenge of securing our rights to equal opportunity to participate in society."

A resident of Houston, Nosek is assistant professor of the Department of Rehabilitation at Baylor College of Medicine and Director of Research at Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU). She is president of the board of the Houston Center for Independent Living and co-chair of the independent living committee for the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association. She has authored numerous documents and publications on issues relating to persons with disabilities and is currently a consultant to the National Council on the Handicapped assisting with the Council's report to Congress due in 1986. Nosek replaces Bobby C. Simpson who recently relocated to Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Nosek's new ideas have already begun to shape Committee activities. Her long term goal for the Committee is to "gain the commitment of all the citizens of Texas to join in the fight for independence, to help create options and help prepare disabled persons to make choices and live an independent life-style,"



Austin Mayor Frank Cooksey thanks GCDP Chairperson Margaret A. Nosek for recognizing the efforts being made in Austin to make the city more accessible.

PCEH Names Rochlin Acting Director

Chairman Harold Russell has announced the appointment of Jay F. Rochlin as Acting Executive Director of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Rochlin, on executive loan to the President's Committee from AT&T, replaces Bernard Posner who is currently on leave and will retire as Executive Director on January 4, 1986.

Prior to being appointed to his present post, Rochlin served as Executive Assistant to the Chairman, having joined the Committee in January of this year. He has been working to expand employer involvement with the President's Committee and the Committee's Job Accommodation Network (JAN). JAN is a computerized system providing information to employers about worksite accommodations for employees with disabilities. Rochlin was instrumental in establishing JAN.

Transition to Independence

The theme of the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons general meeting and employment awards luncheon October 1, was "Transition to Independence". The meeting kicked off National Employ the Handicapped Week held October 6-12, 1985.

The event drew more than 200 persons to the Wyndham Hotel, Southpark, in Austin. There was a mixed audience of private employers, governmental agency personnel, disabled individuals and educators from primary, secondary and higher education.

Joan Standlee, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, provided remarks that were timely and well received. She opened the morning program on a light note. "It's always nice to be among the movers and shakers;" and quickly moved to more serious matters. "There are thirteen million disabled persons of working age — 8.7 million of those are out of the labor force. Most of these persons are employable — *but*, something is not working well because they are *not* currently employed."

Margaret (Peg) A. Nosek, newly appointed GCDP Chairperson, presented commendations to individuals and organizations striving to increase the economic independence of disabled Texans.

The Business Advisory Council and El Centro College accepted their award for the establishment of a unique program of Computer Programmer Training for Disabled Persons.

Bob Kafka and Stephanie Thomas were recognized for their visible approach to advocating on disability issues and bills during this past legislative session.

The City of Austin received an award for the public approval of massive renovations in the Parks and Recreation system and creation of a fully accessible recreation center.

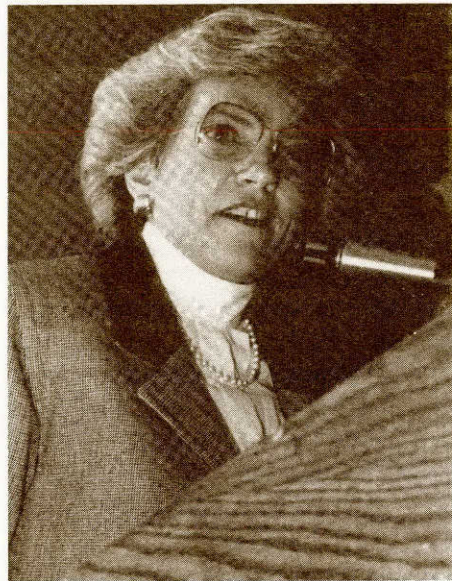
Three workshops focused on innovative programs which have been developed to provide support to disabled persons during the transition

from educational or institutional settings into the work environment.

The first workshop, Employer Initiatives, focused on the Dallas computer training program for disabled persons and a unique supported employment program at Austin's Brackenridge Hospital.

Secondary Education Initiatives were addressed in the second workshop which described Project PASSAGE, Klein ISD, and Transition: School to Work, Houston ISD.

TRC Commissioner, Vernon M. Arell, TDMHMR Commissioner, Gary



The dynamic and enthusiastic Carole Rylander served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the Employment Awards Luncheon.

Miller and TEA Deputy Commissioner, Tom Anderson offered agency perspectives on the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 129 directing agencies to initiate joint agreements to facilitate entry and use of transitional services by disabled Texans.

At the awards banquet Carole Keeton Rylander, representing Governor White, presented the award "Disabled Person of the Year" to Wayne Leavitt of Carrollton. Leavitt was a physical education major in college when an accident left him partially paralyzed and made him a wheelchair user. He owns his own

business, Medical Rehabilitation Aids, teaches wheelchair tennis and basketball and donates time to community service organizations for disabled persons.

Honored as "Small Employer of the Year" was the Sheraton Reservations Corporation, Austin, cited for its willingness to hire and promote disabled persons within the company. Although some jobs require modification for new employees with disabilities, Sheraton representatives claim the small investment is worth gaining a reliable employee.

As "Large Employer of the Year", Individual Development Center (IDC), a Wichita Falls agency, has helped to employ more than 550 disabled persons during the past six years. A successful contract with the Sheppard Air Force Base commissary food services led to 43 other military bases starting similar programs nationwide.

Steve Johns, "Public Employee of the Year", is Handicap Services Manager for the City of Dallas. Johns spearheaded an accessibility campaign for the city as well as a program to employ disabled persons in city jobs.

"Physician of the Year", Duane Hinshaw from Garland, was cited for his volunteer work as Chairman of the Garland Area Rehabilitation Center and as a board member of North Texas Rehabilitation Services, Inc.

Neil Schneiderman, M.D. accepted the "Governor's Citation for Meritorious Service". Schneiderman raised nearly \$400,000 to build an apartment complex for retarded young people in Dallas. He also serves as President of the Association for Independent Living for Disabled Persons.

Recipient of the "Governmental Agency of the Year" award, the Veterans Administration Data Processing Center, was lauded for having an outstanding recruitment and employment program for disabled persons. Fifteen percent of the Center's one thousand employees have a disability.

If you are interested in nominating an outstanding individual or employer for a Governor's Citation, nomination packages are currently available. Contact John Burns, GCDP staff representative, at 512/445-8270.

Fact, Fiction and Fantasy...Disabled Persons in the Media

Attendance reached 90 at the media conference held November 8 at Dallas' Lincoln Hotel. Media professionals, agency people, employers, disabled individuals and others attended. Participants learned about four disabled individuals' personal perspectives on media coverage and also had opportunity to interact with each panelist.

Alex Burton, Dallas radio commentator and a delightful M.C., began the morning by introducing the panelists beginning with Linda Woodbury from Austin. Woodbury is currently writing two books, operates her own business "Communications Adaptations" and previously worked for the Texas Commission for the Blind in several professional capacities.

The next panelist Bob Kafka is president of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities as well as ranch director of Easy-J-Ranch and president of Texas Paralyzed Veterans.

A native New Yorker, and now a resident of Lubbock, Arlene Landsman participated as a panelist. Landsman had polio in 1944, is the mother of three sons and Arlene's oldest child is disabled. Arlene majored in music education and currently works for the Parks and Recreation Department. She was also a star in the award winning documentary "Murray and Arlene".

Kathy Weldon, GCDP member, is an adaptive teacher for the blind and deaf-blind at Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center in Austin. She is also a professional dancer, member of the Commission on Arts, and was the first Miss Deaf Texas in 1976.

Opening the conference, Burton said he felt there was a definite concern among disabled individuals that proper coverage in the media is lacking and that media professionals have fallen into the use of inappropriate phrases such as "deaf and dumb".

Burton provided time for each panelist to express areas of concern and then directed questions to the panelists and entertained questions from the audience.



Larry Johnson, GCDP Committee Member and father of 6 children, commented at the media conference, "In a conversation with my 2 oldest daughters they spoke of how annoyed they get with their peers because they ask lots of questions like, 'Doesn't it make you feel bad to have a blind father? My daughters' typical response is, 'I don't know. I have never had the other kind.'"

The panelists were asked which words annoyed them most when the media describes particular handicaps. Panelist Kafka said that "inspirational" always makes him feel as if the hand of God is touching him. "You know they are not saying you are an inspiration — because they do not want to grow up and be disabled ... and they don't want their sister to marry a disabled person. So why are we inspirational?" Kafka asked.

Weldon commented that is often helpful to ask hearing impaired or deaf persons how much hearing loss they have instead of assuming the individual is deaf. She feels the media can do a great deal by just providing opportunities for disabled persons to express their opinions.

Arlene Landsman enjoys humor. For instance, because Arlene uses crutches she goes up flights of stairs backwards. Arlene said, "My friends would ask, 'Arlene, are you coming or going?'" Landsman feels that there is an appropriate use of humor in reporting on disability issues.

Moderator Burton asked Linda Woodbury if she considered herself just another minority. Woodbury said, "I see myself as an individual with individual needs. And, you know, I feel that it is OKAY to be different."

And how do each of you handle "disabled" versus "handicapped", Burton asked.

A person from the audience commented that the word "handicapped" originally meant "cap in hand begging on the street". Disabled people sat on the street with cap in hand begging. The independent living movement encourages the use of the word "disabled" versus "handicapped" to help overturn this negative image.

Chris Evans, a print journalist, stated that he has been writing about disabled people for about 10 years. He stated that reporters often feel like they have to come up with an amazing and inspirational story. Personally, Evans would rather interview Roger Staubach than interview a disabled individual, which he finds intimidating.

Panelists were asked what the most important issue is that disabled people deal with today. Kafka suggested that services for disabled people should be integrated into services currently offered to other persons. "I would not want to have a certain apartment complex totally modified", Kafka said. "Instead, I would like to see apartment complexes throughout the city offering several accessible apartments". He knows from experience that there is a tendency to separate disabled people as evidenced by special transportation, special housing. But when budget cuts come those special services are often cut or eliminated.

Maggie Kennedy, Dallas Times Herald, placed some of the responsibility for poor media coverage on agencies and disabled individuals. Kennedy said that story ideas need to be well thought out before presenting to the media. She suggested that people read the paper, watch the news and come up with a story the media can't refuse.

In a final comment affirming Ms. Kennedy's point, Kathy Weldon said, "We need to work together as a team. You educate us and we will educate you."

Alex Burton urged the audience to participate in the continuation of the dialogue between disabled advocates and media professionals at next year's media conference. The date and place of the 1986 conference will be set later.



Chris Evans, Fort Worth Star Telegram, won a Barbara Jordan Award for his sensitive article focusing on the Bradbury family, Bill and Donna and daughter Autumn. Photograph by Fort Worth Star Telegram



Chris Evans, right, and Bill Bradbury, left, exchange view points on appropriate terminology concerning disabled individuals.

Barbara Jordan Award Winners Announced

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Bradbury went on, "We want to buy a house like other people do. We want to be able to send our daughter, Autumn, to college. We want our own piece of pie, so to speak, and we don't want any more than we deserve to have."

Lois Brown, a reporter for *The Garland Daily News*, received an award in the print news category. She was the author of a story on the graduation of special students from the Garland Cooperative Training Center. Her coverage of the graduation of these special education students from Garland, Mesquite and Richardson presented the realities of these students and did not diminish their achievements. Ms. Brown's article stressed that the graduation was the achievement of an important goal. The students fulfilled the same qualifications as other students in public schools, even though the classes were based on the individual's level of capability. Brown's accepting comments were emotional, "If 15 years ago my sister had had this type of opportunity, perhaps her life would have been different . . . This award means so much to me."

Dallas radio station KRLD-AM received a Barbara Jordan Award for

public affairs programming. Several of the station's personalities, as well as noted persons from the Dallas/Fort Worth area, interview 50 of the school's residents, asking them what they want for Christmas. These interviews are then aired on KRLD and special operators take the calls of pledges from listeners. After the gifts are collected and delivered, a party attended by Santa Claus, is given for the children. This past year, more than \$164,000 in cash and gifts were given.

Public Address, Inc., was this year's winner for the award in the public relations category. The Austin-based company put the emphasis on highlighting abilities in a 20 page booklet produced for the Texas School for the Blind. The brochure presents the school as a progressive, innovative, dynamic and above all caring environment for learning.

Dennis Johnson, medical reporter for WFAA-TV in Dallas, is the winner of the Barbara Jordan Award for a TV News Feature. Johnson won the award for his story on Darren Brown, a young boy from Plano, Texas who uses a bionic arm. Darren Brown and his parents, Rick and Linda, were recognized at the banquet.

Gordon Blocker Incorporated of Dallas received a Barbara Jordan award in the TV Documentary category. The company created an hour-long documentary which shows the remarkable recoveries of four young people who sustained severe head injuries. The show, titled "Broken Rhymes," documents new trends in the treatment of head injury victims and the extraordinary results these treatments are achieving.

The winner of the Barbara Jordan Award in the TV Public Service Announcement category is Public Films, Inc., of Houston, Texas. Within the confinement of a 30-second PSA, Public Films created a message for the Institute for Rehabilitation and Research of Texas Medical Center in Houston. The announcement makes a strong, positive statement about not underestimating the potential of those who have had a spinal cord injury.

The San Antonio Light, one of San Antonio's daily newspapers, is the winner of the award in the print advertising category. Beginning in October 1982 and continuing through the present, the *San Antonio Light* has produced space and copy preparation weekly for advertisements that promote the hiring of qualified workers with disabilities. The 14-inch ads were published 52 times in 1984, which gives a current advertising value of \$16,900 per year.

The Barbara Jordan Award for Employment of a Disabled Media Professional was presented to Michael Tamez, a disc jockey for radio station KRLB-AM of Lubbock, Texas. Tamez has been totally blind from birth due to congenital glaucoma. KRLB-AM management interviewed Tamez and chose him for the job because of his outstanding performance and enthusiasm.

Each winner of the award received a three-inch bronze medallion designed by David Deming, internationally prominent Austin sculptor. The awards are named in honor of one of Texas' most distinguished citizens, Barbara Jordan, professor of the University of Texas, LBJ School of Public Affairs and former U. S. Congresswoman.



Each year during December KRLD is involved in a public service campaign of "playing Santa Claus" to 1,500 mentally impaired children at the Fort Worth and Denton State Schools.

P.L. 94-142 Marks "10th" Birthday

December 1985 marked 10 years since the passage of Public Law 94-142, the Education for all Handicapped Children Act. The law provides disabled children and their parents the right to a free and appropriate education, the right to due process, the right to confidentiality and the right to nondiscriminatory testing.

Governor Mark White signed a proclamation declaring December 3, 1985, as "Special Education Day in Texas". On that day, Myra McDaniel, Secretary of State, presented Donnie Rettburg, an Austin child enrolled in special education, with a proclamation and helped him cut the "birthday" cake.

Advocacy, Inc. worked with various organizations and parents across the state to select children enrolled in special education to be interviewed by the media in their local communities. This public awareness effort will lead to improved quality of education for disabled Texans.



Donnie Rettburg and Advocacy's public information officer, Desiree Russell, shared in the festivities surrounding the 10th Birthday of 94-142.

Changing the Service Delivery System A New Beginning

The Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities will host its third annual conference on Wednesday and Thursday, February 19 and 20 at Austin South Plaza.

"Changing the Service Delivery System — A New Beginning" will focus on 13 grant projects involved with community living programs, early childhood intervention services and independent living skills training.

Additional information is available by contacting the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities at 512/445-8867.

Canoeing Expeditions for Disabled and Ablebodied Individuals

Date	No. of Days	Minimum Age	Tuition	Course No.
Canoe Expeditioning, Wilderness Camping, Rock Climbing: Minnesota/Canada Border Lake Region. Voyageur OB School				
6/22-7/6	15	16	\$ 800	MD-17
8/24-8/31	8	16	650	MD-18

"Your disability is your opportunity," said Dr. Kurt Hahn, founder of Outward Bound. Outdoor expeditions provide a chance to gain insights into oneself and others, through canoeing, rock climbing and other activities. For additional information call toll free 800/243-8520.

“Serve” Becomes Honorary Texas Canine

On November 14, Governor Mark White met “Serve”, the seeing eye dog who lost a leg performing her duties as guide for her blind master. Serve has become a household name in Japan after saving her master’s life. So far over 4,500 letters of love have been received by Serve mainly from children moved by the story. The book, “Hold Out! Serve” is a best seller for primary school children in Japan.

Governor White sent a certificate to Serve making her an Honorary Texas Canine. He also designated a special welcoming committee composed of Judge Bob Thomas, Chairman, Council on Disabilities; Terry Goodman, Executive Director of the Council on Disabilities; John Wilson, Executive Director of the Texas Commission for the Blind; and Virginia Roberts, Executive Director, Governor’s Committee for Disabled Persons. This welcoming committee hosted a special luncheon and reception in honor of Serve and her master.

The events were a tribute to the friendship of Texas and Japan and to the unity of all disabled persons. The student jazz band from the Texas School for the Blind entertained at the reception where special dog

treats for Serve, cookies and other refreshments prepared by students at the Texas School for the Deaf were served. The cookies were formed in the shape of the manual deaf sign for “I love you”. Bill Miller and Victor Galloway, Superintendents of the respective schools, and their staff gave wholehearted support to the students’ participation. The management and staff at the Commission for the Blind Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center where the events were held also provided outstanding support.

The Japanese delegation and their Texas hosts enjoyed the festive occasion that celebrated the bond of friendship established that day and their unity in concern for disabled persons.

GCDP REPORT

The GCDP Report promotes employment and public awareness of the abilities and special needs of persons with disabilities. This quarterly GCDP Report is published by the Governor’s Committee for Disabled Persons.

Communications may be addressed to: Cindy Counts, Editor, GCDP Report, 118 East Riverside Dr., Austin, Texas 78704. You may also call (512) 445-8741 VOICE or TDD.

Taped Copies of the GCDP Report will be provided upon request.

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National Directory of Training and Employment Programs

The Directory is an easy-to-use resource guide to assist employers in their search for trained and job-ready workers. It will also assist individuals who have disabilities in their search for training and employment programs available to them.

The Directory may be obtained by writing Ray Sanchez, Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Room 351-D, HHH Building, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201. There is no charge while the supply lasts.

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