

# The Independence

A L A B A M A A P S E

**ABOUT ALABAMA APSE**

- Still strong after 12 years.
- New Decade of Collaboration on the Horizon
- Leader in supported employment training
- Looking for people who want to get more involved

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**ALABAMA APSE & ACDD READY FOR THE NEXT DECADE !**

Alabama APSE and the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities are extremely excited about the conference and training event planned for June 23- 25, in Montgomery. Some of the highlights include a pre-conference, on June 23rd featuring Denise Bissonnette. Denise is one of North America's most sought-after trainers and speakers on career development, job development, workforce development, and "true livelihood". This highly acclaimed, one-of-a-kind presentation offers a practical, innovative and proactive approach to job development and challenges the employment professional to look beyond traditional

methods for achieving placement results. If you work with individuals with



Denise

disabilities and other barriers, and feel discouraged in your efforts to work with employers in the midst of tough economic times, you don't want to miss this special training opportunity. Denise

is the author of "Beyond Traditional Job Development" as well as numerous other publications. She works closely with Corporate sector companies like Oracle, EDS, Hyatt Hotels and SHRM to enhance their Workforce Diversity efforts. Following her pre-conference presentation on June 23, Denise will provide the opening keynote on June 24. If you haven't done so already, make your plans to attend this year's event. It promises to be one of the best conferences in 2010 addressing disability related issues and employment. For more information on the conference, visit [www.al-apse.org](http://www.al-apse.org).

**AL - APSE PARTNERS WITH DMH**

Alabama APSE is partnering with the Alabama Department of Mental Health to plan and host certificate-based "Employment First" training. DMH was awarded a stimulus grant from the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services to establish

supported employment in Hale, Sumter, Greene, Pickens and Bibb Counties. DMH elected to partner with AL-APSE to provide the training necessary for quality services. This training is scheduled for March 24 - 26, 2010. Alabama APSE has an

established reputation for planning, hosting and conducting quality training on issues related to employment for people with disabilities. For more information on training events, visit [www.al-apse.org](http://www.al-apse.org) or email AL-APSE at [alabamaapse@aol.com](mailto:alabamaapse@aol.com).

## ALABAMA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RISES TO 11.1 PERCENT IN JANUARY, HIGHEST LEVEL IN 26 YEARS

Alabama's unemployment rose to 11.1 percent in January, giving the state its highest mark in 26 years and tying Alabama for eighth among the states in joblessness. The state Department of Industrial Relations reported that the rate was up from December's revised 10.9 percent and increased significantly from the 8.1 percent recorded a year ago. The last time Alabama hit 11.1 percent unemployment was January 1984.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics released a report showing Alabama tied with North Carolina for the eighth highest unemployment rate among the 50 states. Ranking higher were Michigan, Nevada, Rhode Island, South Carolina, California, Florida and Illinois. Keivan Deravi, an economist at Auburn University Montgomery who has advised state officials for many years, said he and other economists expected the increase in January.

Deravi predicted the state's jobless rate will inch higher until peaking at 11.3 percent or 11.4 percent in spring. By late spring, he expects to see some small signs of gradual improvement. <http://blog.taragana.com/business/2010/03/10/alabamas-unemployment-rate-rises-to-111-percent-in-january-highest-level-in-26-years-39951>



## ACDD CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT

*The place to improve the world is first in one's own heart and head and hands.*

Robert M. Pusig

Once again, the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities is offering "stipends" to attend this year's AL-APSE & ACDD conference in June. The funding will cover conference registration, hotel and food for the two day conference on June 24 - 25. The pre-conference day scheduled for June 23 will not be funded

by the Consumer Involvement Fund. For consideration, applicants must submit the



application found in the

conference registration brochure. You can request a brochure by emailing [alabamaapse@aol.com](mailto:alabamaapse@aol.com) or contacting Byron White at 334-353-7713. Selected applicants will be notified in May. Those approved will need to arrange their own transportation to and from the conference.

## ALABAMA APSE VISIBLE AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2010

Alabama APSE will have recognized presence at this year's national conference scheduled for June 8 - 10 in Atlanta. Two breakout sessions are scheduled in the "Chapter Leadership Track" at the conference. These include "Make your Chapter Sizzle...It's All About

Partnerships" and "Are You Ready for the Tax Man? How to Prepare Your Chapter for an Audit". Presenters for these sessions include Byron White, Lisa Alford and Henry Barclay, III. Alabama APSE was recently audited by the IRS. The chapter appreciates the hard work of it's

treasurer, Lisa Alford in preparing for the audit and the representation and support of our accountant, Mr. Henry Barclay, III. Alabama APSE passed the audit with flying colors and will continue to be recognized as a non-profit organization under the umbrella of the

national office.



**AL - APSE AWARDS 2010**

Alabama APSE is seeking nominations for its annual 2010 awards. The winners will be recognized on the afternoon on June 24 during the conference. Categories include Supported Employees of the Year,

Employers of the Year, Professional of the Year, Brenda McComb Leadership Award, Family of the Year and the Supported Employment Agency of the Year. A nomination form can be found at the AL-APSE website. You can also email AL-APSE at [alabamaapse@aol.com](mailto:alabamaapse@aol.com) to request a nomination form. The deadline to submit nominations is May 15. Following the awards presentations, a reception is planned to honor the winners and to celebrate

the partnership between AL-APSE and ACDD. This themed event "A New Decade of Success" will mimic a traditional New Year's Eve party. Attendees should be prepared to help the organizations officially ring in the new decade as they look forward to a successful future of collaboration to improve and expand employment and possibilities for people with disabilities. Don't forget to submit your awards nominations by May 15!



**NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED  
ADVOCATE TO VISIT ALABAMA**



**Julie Petty** will be a featured speaker at this year's AL-APSE and ACDD conference. She is an accomplished self-advocate from Arkansas who established her state's People First and helped it grow statewide. Julie is a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a Bachelors Degree in journalism. Her work in the self-advocacy movement has been recognized nationally. In August, 2009, she joined the

staff of Partners for Inclusive Communities where she works on various projects to educate people with disabilities. When not working, Julie enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons. Don't miss your opportunity to meet Julie Petty.

*"Our Chapter  
Will Only Be As  
Strong as Our  
Membership...  
Sign Up  
Today... We  
Need You!"*

**PUT ME IN COACH  
CONFESSIONS OF A FOOTBALL WIFE**

**Barbara Dooley** has been making people laugh for years with her Southern tales of football, family and foolishness. The wife of legendary football coach Vince Dooley, Barbara is featured weekly on the Paul Finebaum radio show during college football season. She quickly became one of his most recognized and popular guests. In addition to public speaking, Barbara is an accomplished

real estate agent in Athens, Georgia. Though she has spent much of her life playing second fiddle to football, Barbara has come away with rich stories that thread the fabric of her life, including her battle with, and victory over cancer.

Don't miss your opportunity to meet and hear Barbara Dooley at this year's conference.



**AL-APSE  
&  
ACDD  
2010  
A New Decade  
of Success!**

**June 23 -25,  
2010  
Montgomery  
Renaissance  
Hotel**

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.AL-APSE.ORG



A L A B A M A   A P S E

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Alabama APSE is part of a 5,000-member organization with chapters in over 31 states. APSE was formed to improve and expand integrated employment opportunities, services, and outcomes for persons experiencing disabilities. Supported employment enables people with disabilities who have not been successfully employed to work and contribute to society. Supported employment focuses on a person's abilities and provides the supports the individual needs to be successful on a long-term basis.

**MISSION**

The mission of the Alabama Chapter of APSE is to enhance innovative individualized employment opportunities, promote careers, and improve the quality of life for individual with significant disabilities by providing education, technical assistance and training, advocacy and support to people, family members, employers, and employment specialists. AL-APSE intends to encourage the development and expansion of employment with supports through coordination, collaboration communication, and choice by way of a team effort.