



Employment First: Not Just a Slogan! **APSE** **2010 Conference – Atlanta, GA**

Call for Presentations

The 21st Annual National APSE Conference will take place from June 8 – 10, 2010 in Atlanta, GA. The APSE conference focuses exclusively on employment of people with disabilities in the community, and it is **the** premier event for sharing knowledge, expertise and ideas on the latest and best innovations to make employment for all a reality. We are looking for individuals who can help us make this one of the best conferences!

Based on feedback from past conference attendees and APSE members, changes have been made in the request for proposal process to ensure that conference sessions are of the highest quality possible and address the latest innovations in the field of integrated employment for people with disabilities.

- As detailed below, APSE is soliciting proposals for specific topics within 7 theme tracks. APSE is requesting that individuals interested in presenting consider presentations on the specific themes identified.
- Individuals may submit proposals on their own behalf. In addition, individuals may suggest or nominate other individuals as presenters.
- In an effort to ensure conference content that is new and different, sessions that were presented at previous national APSE conferences will generally not be considered.

Please note: APSE appreciates the interest of potential presenters and time required to develop a proposal. However, the proposal submission process is a competitive process, and only a limited number of proposals will be accepted. Proposals will be reviewed by the Conference Committee, and those sessions that best meet the needs of conference attendees and overall conference goals will be selected.

THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 12, 2010.

Presenter Requirements

- All presentations must support APSE's mission to improve and expand integrated employment opportunities, services, and outcomes for people with disabilities.
- As a membership organization focused on advocacy, APSE has limited resources, and is unable to pay for travel or speaker fees for conference presenters.
- All presenters must be APSE members at the time of submission of proposal. If you're not an APSE member, please join online at: www.apse.org or call 804.278.9187.
- Presenters are responsible for bringing and/or covering the costs of audiovisual equipment used during their sessions.

If you have any questions regarding the call for presentations, please contact Betsy Elwood at: betsy@apse.org; 804-278-9187.

Theme Tracks and Suggested Sessions

Proposal suggestions are being requested under the seven themes listed below. APSE is particularly interested in sessions on the specific topics listed under each theme. Proposals for other sessions on best practices within these themes are also welcome. APSE members have asked for increased opportunities to discuss and dialogue on relevant issues and to use the conference as a community where attendees challenge and learn from each other. Therefore, APSE is strongly encouraging sessions that involve open discussion, dialogue and debate, resulting in clear priorities and action after the conference for attendees and APSE as a whole.

- **Job Development and Marketing**

Suggested session topics: a) Job development during tough economic times; b) Expanding beyond traditional and typical jobs; c) Speaking the employer's language: "You say accommodation I say supporting productivity"; d) Strategies for accessing employment in federal, state and local government; e) Use of social networking technology for job development; f) Being systematic and strategic in job development activities; g) High growth, emerging sectors, green jobs: making sure people with disabilities are at the table; h) Labor market trends and utilizing labor market information; i) Dealing with on-line applications and testing; j) Cross-agency job development strategies; do they make sense?; k) The challenge of ex-offender issues; l) Employer & service provider open discussion

- **Consumer, Family and Self-Advocacy**

Suggested session topics: a) Understanding your service options; b) Choosing a quality service provider; c) Taking charge of your employment services and supports; d) Your employee rights and responsibilities; e) Getting serious about employment: real wages, not just a supplement to benefits; f) Families as essential partners; h) Effective consumer advocacy for a pro-employment agenda and policies; i) Spreading the pro-employment message among your peers

- **Transition from School to Adult Life**

Suggested session topics: a) Best practices in creating employment experiences during high school; b) College and other post-secondary options leading to employment; c) Transition: Why is success so difficult?; d) How do we get schools to focus on employment?; e) Adopting UDL principles in transition planning; f) Transition: Rethinking the whole process; e) Accessing general career and technical education

- **Public Policy & Funding**

Suggested session topics: a) Funding options for employment supports; b) Employment First: Real change or a passing fad?; c) Effective public policy advocacy; d) The ADA at 20: Where it stands; e) Getting the system unstuck; f) The case for community employment as cost effective

- **Quality Service Delivery**

Suggested session topics: a) Raising expectations: part-time work and staying on benefits isn't good enough; b) Integrating individuals within general job training to expand work skills; c) Behavior issues: not an employment barrier; d) Employment success for individuals who stretch the limits; e) Building the service system of the future; f) Solving the transportation challenge; g) Accommodations and assistive technology: is lack of staff knowledge and creativity getting in the way?; h) Self-employment: examples of best practices; i) Self-employment: are people really earning a living?; j) Job coaching: recognizing the complexity; k) Quality post-placement supports; l) Moving organizations from facility to community-based employment

- **Leadership & Personal Development**

Suggested session topics: a) Ensuring integral roles for job seekers in services: can we do better?; b) Community employment as a choice: discussion & debate; c) Responding to the needs of diverse populations; d) Strengthening the direct service workforce; e) The 21st century workplace: working across generations; f) Building an APSE chapter; g) Our future leaders: where will they come from?; i) People with most significant disabilities: are they being forgotten?; j) Core employment values and beliefs: what are they, how do we integrate them, how do we make sure they aren't forgotten; k) Integrating a strong employment focus within professional pre-service education

- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse**

Suggested session topics: a) Evidence-based practices; b) Dealing with ambivalence about going to work; c) Working with veterans with mental health issues; d) Creating a pro-employment culture; e) Disclosure of psychiatric disabilities in the workplace; f) Using a peer support model

Submission Instructions

To submit a presentation proposal, please complete the Call for Presentations on-line application at www.apse.org. While submission of responses on-line is preferred, individuals may also complete the attached Call for Presentations response form, and submit the form by email. Information to be included in the response:

1. Session title, presenters, session format, theme track. All sessions will be 1 hour and 15 minutes long.
2. A short description of the session (approximately 200 words) that summarizes the planned content of the session and the how the session will promote innovation and help move the field of employment of people with disabilities forward.

While submitting on-line is preferred, if you are not submitting on-line, your proposal may be emailed as an attached Microsoft WORD document to: betsy@apse.org (When saving your document, please save as : Last Name, First Name – Call for Proposal 2010.)

If you have questions or need assistance in preparing your response to the Call for Presentations, please **contact Betsy Elwood** at: betsy@apse.org; 804-278-9187.

The submission deadline is February 12, 2010.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality of the proposed presentation, and the presentations support for APSE's mission and values. The conference program committee will review all proposals, which may include follow-up with interested presenters to further discuss the presentation proposal. Lead presenters will be notified of the committee's decision by March 12, 2010.

2010 National APSE Conference Proposal Application

Atlanta, Georgia - June 8-10, 2010

Check one:

I am submitting this proposal on behalf of myself

I am suggesting/nominating this individual as a presenter on this topic. (Please include as much of the requested information as possible in the application.)

If suggesting/nominating a presenter:

Your name:

Phone:

Email:

Session title/topic:

Theme Track (select only one):

Job Development & Marketing

Quality Service Delivery

Consumer, Family & Self Advocacy Issues

Leadership & Personal Development

Transition from School to Adult Life

Mental Health & Substance Abuse

Public Policy & Funding

