



APSE Conference and Training Committee Update – January 2010

By Cesilee Coulson, Co-Chair

Welcome to Atlanta 2010!! Early registration is open for the 21st Annual National APSE Conference!

We are really excited about the conference in 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia June 8-10th titled, “Employment First! Not Just a Slogan.” Whether you are someone who has been to all 20 of the previous conferences or you are coming to your first national extravaganza, this will be an opportunity to network, learn, laugh, think critically and effect employment opportunities for years to come. In order to make this event the best conference EVER, we need **YOU** to make it happen. We need **YOUR** energy, we need **YOUR** wisdom and we request **YOUR** presence to make this event the greatest gathering of the employment community in the country! So, now that we have your attention here is what is shaping up for the conference this year.

When you arrive in Atlanta, you’ll become part of a growing number of APSE members who are in critical conversations and development of the next generation of supported employment policies and services in the United States. Never has it been so important to bring together people from every corner of our country to work collectively to achieve a common goal. And, with the opportunity afforded to continue to meet on the national level at the APSE employment conference, we continue a rich tradition of working collectively to improve the employment outcomes of people with disabilities.

At the conference you’ll have the opportunity to:

- Network with the newest job developers in the field, the emerging leaders
- Network with the veteran leaders of employment services
- Learn about new innovations in services
- Learn about the latest in employment policy development

- Develop new strategies to implement in your local community
- Make new connections and be linked into the national network on employment for people with disabilities
- Share your ideas and innovations
- Make new commitments to increasing and expanding employment opportunities in your community

Last year at the 2009 conference in Milwaukee, the APSE conference committee started on a journey. Our goal was simple. “BE BOLD AND ASK EVERYONE TO JOIN US.” We have had many conversations about the strength of the membership of APSE in our conference planning deliberations. We feel strongly that the APSE membership has the collective wisdom and spirit to lead and develop the next generation of employment opportunities for people with disabilities. As we welcome and invite you to Atlanta this summer, we are busy crafting another BOLD conference opportunity that will bring us together again to collaborate, create and leave with new vision and support for the critical work of developing and maintaining employment opportunities for people with disabilities. See you in Atlanta!