APSE will meet this summer just a few steps from the Freedom Trail for the 17th Annual Conference — with the very fitting conference theme of “Start a Revolution” for freedom and independence for people with disabilities. This year’s conference promises wonderful opportunities to learn and share with others who are committed to expanding integrated employment in the community. Join your colleagues from across the country and help Start a Revolution for Supported Employment!

General Sessions
In the spirit of the Old South Meeting House, each morning of the conference will feature a terrific speaker to inspire our revolutionary spirit. The conference kicks off with Andy Imparato, well-known national disability leader and President of the American Association of People with Disabilities. Andy will challenge us to act on a shared agenda of employment for all. Day Two starts with a can’t-miss event featuring David Harp, internationally acclaimed cognitive scientist and speaker, with entertaining strategies for effectiveness lifestyles. Actress and motivational speaker, Geri Jewell, will use her comedic talent to inspire us be the Paul Revere’s of the community, spreading the word of ability, diversity and human potential.

(continued on page 3—Conference)
I was honored recently with the opportunity to share information about APSE with the Job Training and Placement Report (JTPR). The interview will run in the April and May issues of that publication, or you can view the interview at www.apse.org. It was indeed an honor to be able to speak on your behalf and tell the JTPR readers, APSE is led by a solidly committed group of volunteers with unquestioned dedication to the mission of APSE. Our members and State Chapters share this dedication to competitive, community-based employment.

I cannot be prouder of this organization and all that we accomplish. While we have a dedicated staff who watch over us daily and work very hard on our behalf, they will be the first to tell you there is no way they could take credit for all that APSE does. Indeed, it is the dedicated group of volunteers who care about the mission and who are willing to add to an already busy professional and personal life hours of APSE work that make our work possible.

For example, thanks to Wendy Quarles, Becky Banks, Laura Flint, Dennis Born, Debbie Stallard-Reed, Alysia Pascaris and Faith McCalla, we just hosted a very successful conference on mental health and employment in New York City. You can read about that on the front page of this issue. And Angie Neal, Cindy Thomas and their committee from MA APSE and the Institute on Community Inclusion at the U Mass, Boston are planning an even larger and equally thrilling event for Boston this summer.

We will truly Start a Revolution in June, and we will be able to do so, thanks to the hard work and undaunted commitment by so many of you, the APSE members!

Keep up the good work and SE will continue to serve!

GALLUP POLL REVEALS GOOD NEWS FOR COMPANIES HIRING WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES !

The Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation (JVR) recently reported a survey of consumer attitudes towards companies that hire people with disabilities. The study was a collaboration between America’s Strength Foundation, Center for Social Development and Education (University of Massachusetts – Boston), and The Gallup Organization. The following information is a brief summary of the article, which can be read in its entirety in JVR, Volume 24, Number 1, 2006, page 3. JVR is available on-line free of charge to APSE members. A print copy of this volume is also available from APSE. To order a copy, call 804-278-9187.

Employers’ attitudes have long been the primary focus of “attitude literature” on disability employment. This study went directly to the buying public, and asked 803 randomly selected consumers about their attitudes toward companies that hire individuals with disabilities.

The Results?

The public overwhelmingly favors companies that hire employees with disabilities!

Of those participants with direct experience with people with disabilities in a work environment, 91% felt that job performance of their co-worker with a disability was “very good” or “good”. Almost all of the participants that have been served by an employee with a disability were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the services they received.

92% of the participants were “more favorable” or “much more favorable” toward companies that hire people with disabilities. Hiring ‘people with disabilities was just behind ‘providing health insurance’ and ‘protecting the environment’ in the favorability ratings.

96% shared the belief that companies who hire people with disabilities help them lead more productive lives.

This is a very important document. APSE and others committed to widening the workforce doors thank the authors for their contribution to the “field”. The results provide a strong tool for employment specialists, people with disabilities, and others who are working with the business community to create new job opportunities.
OUTSTANDING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
SLATED FOR BOSTON

Andy Imparato, (Day One), who will be the opening keynote speaker, is the President and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), a national nonprofit organization advancing political and economic empowerment of people with disabilities. He has also been general counsel and director of policy for the National Council on Disability, an attorney advisor with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, counsel to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy, and a staff attorney/Skadden Fellow with the Disability Law Center in Boston. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and was honored by the U.S. Jr. Chamber of Commerce as one of their Ten Outstanding Young Americans (2005). Andy is a popular speaker on disability issues, with a perspective that is informed by his own experience with bipolar disorder.

David Harp (Day Two) will show APSE members how to be more effective in their work and daily lives with an address that will be both serious and entertaining. Harp is an internationally acclaimed teacher of cognitive behavioral science, as well as author of two dozen books on subjects ranging from meditation to music. He will no doubt inspire us to broaden our professional and personal reach.

Geri Jewell (Day Three), actress, comedian, and motivational speaker, will close the conference. As Cousin Geri in the 1980’s sitcom “The Facts of Life”, she broke new ground by addressing disability awareness issues as the first person with a visible disability to regularly perform on national television. She can now be seen on the Emmy-winning HBO hit series “Deadwood” as well as daytime’s “The Young and the Restless”. About to appear in her first film debut, Geri is also popular on the comedy circuit. Geri very skillfully uses her personal experience with cerebral palsy to turn the focus from disability to a true celebration of ability. (See picture of Geri Jewell on page 1 of this issue.)

LOOKING FOR AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO SHARE YOUR MESSAGE WITH SE PROVIDERS AND CONSUMERS, ETC?
RENT A BOOTH IN THE CONFERENCE EXHIBIT HALL, BUY AN AD IN THE CONFERENCE BOOKLET OR BECOME A CONFERENCE SPONSOR!
Info at www.apse2006.org or 804-278-9187

CONFERENCE THEME TRACKS
Like the Red Socks, this year’s break-out sessions feature a terrific line-up, with over 70 thematic concurrent sessions.
• Best Practices
• Customized Employment
• Family and Consumer Issues
• Job Development
• Placement Support
• Policy Trends
• Program Management
• Research to Practice
• School to Career Transition
• Self-Employment

Exhibits, Silent Auction, and the APSE “Store” - Visit APSE’s own version of the Faneuil Hall Marketplace, where attendees can see the latest tools and products for enhancing and expanding integrated employment, compete for their favorite auction item, and purchase original art and other items from APSE entrepreneurs. Join the reception in the exhibit area for mingling and connecting with friends old and new before heading out for an evening in the city.

Membership Breakfast - Join the APSE Board for breakfast at the annual meeting. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about APSE and share your thoughts with the APSE leaders.

APSE Dinner by the Sea - An evening on the Boston waterfront just a short distance from the site of the Boston Tea Party, will feature a lobster dinner and APSE awards.

SE 101 - The seventh annual Supported Employment Institute features 2 1/2 days of training on supported employment by some of the best and brightest in our field.

Forum for Employers - APSE invites the business community to a breakfast and a morning of sessions focused on employers.

The Social Security Administration encourages people to work through a number of federal work incentive supports. However, understanding how to maximize these supports, decrease dependence on state and federal benefit programs, or even transition off of state and federal benefits is a daunting task for individuals and their support system—family members, service providers, vocational counselors and other advocates.

Despite vast amounts of training, support, and BPAO services available to them, beneficiaries (and many service providers) continue to limit work activity and inadvertently minimize employment outcomes because of the fear of jeopardizing federal and state benefits. Some employment providers are still advising individuals to “Stay below Substantial Gainful Activity, so you do not lose your benefits.” This results in beneficiaries working less hours or turning down opportunities for advancement, rather than working to their fullest potential. They are not aware of, and thereby not using, the work incentive supports that are available to them.

To help guide individuals and their support personnel through the work incentive maze, Congress established the Benefits Planning, Assistance and Outreach Program (BPAO) in the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act. Through this program, several states are beginning to assess ways to build capacity for benefits counseling and support services and address the need for more benefits counseling, assistance, and long-term benefits support management. State strategies utilized include:

1. Collaboration between BPAO programs and Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) to create a seamless system of benefits counseling and legal services, (Massachusetts);
2. Collaboration between employment agencies to fund a benefits counselor position to work with individuals referred by VR, (Maryland);
3. Co-location of benefits counselors within One-Stops to ensure benefits counseling is part of a comprehensive employment delivery system;
4. Creation of an Advanced Referral System with collaboration between the BPAO and a community mental health center to ensure beneficiaries have supports they need, (Illinois); and
5. Creation of a Benefits Information Network to increase capacity for benefits counseling services and build collaboration between VR, Employment Service Providers, Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach providers and the Social Security Administration, (Indiana).

Indiana’s BIN
This article describes Indiana’s pilot, Benefits Information Network (BIN), which was established in 2005, and the preliminary outcomes of the project.

Like many other states, in Indiana the growing need for benefits planning and assistance has resulted in waiting lists for these services. The BIN was created to: (1) Reduce the waiting lists for BPAO services while increasing the ability to serve more beneficiaries, and, (2) Develop a mechanism for increasing the involvement of providers and VR counselors in supporting work incentives throughout the entire employment process.

To facilitate work incentive supports, the BIN recruited employment providers (such as employment networks, disability navigators, and supported employment agency staff) who have a primary relationship with the consumer, knowledge about the individual’s income, employment, living arrangements, and goals, and who have the capacity to collect important information to be shared with BPAO counselors. This information may include general contact information.
mation; disability information; involvement with agencies and support systems; employment information; accommodations; living arrangements; Social Security benefits information; other state and federal benefit information; resources; medical and health insurance information; Ticket to Work information; and basics about potential identifiable work incentives.

Providers were invited to participate in four days of training to help them develop conversational knowledge of federal and state benefits and work incentives. Providers were also trained to understand how to gather intake information for benefits analysis and advisement. This included how to access information with releases from the Social Security Administration (such as the Benefits Planning Query and other SSA information) and how to collaborate effectively with federal and state personnel (such as Medicaid caseworkers, SSA claims representatives, and housing authority representatives and others). Ongoing trainings and support are offered on a monthly basis through teleconference training sessions and network meetings between BPAO staff and the Benefits Information Network Personnel. Trainers include experts on work incentives and the Social Security Administration Area Work Incentives Coordinator.

Preliminary Results
This pilot is currently assessing the quality, quantity and satisfaction rating of the services associated with creating a network of professionals to collaborate with benefits counselors and VR to support work incentives and improve employment outcomes. Thus far, the results indicate that, in general, (a) benefits counselors appreciate the collaboration with providers who understand work incentives and can provide information on a beneficiary’s work status and

and identify work incentives; (b) BIN personnel are highly invested in supporting work incentives, as they understand how federal and state provisions can support employment outcomes; (c) VR counselors are satisfied that their customers are working toward self-sufficiency as their cases are progressing toward closure; and (d) beneficiaries are receiving work incentive support.

Through the project, Indiana is creating a network of professionals who know and understand work incentives and can support BPAO benefits counselors to gather information about beneficiaries’ employment, benefits, and available work incentives. The project is ensuring: (a) collaboration between employment providers and VR counselors, so beneficiaries can better understand, implement, track and follow-up with work incentives; (b) support of work incentives over time with ongoing follow-along supports; and, (c) improvement of broader collaboration among local provider agencies, VR, Workforce Development, BPAO programs, and the Social Security Administration.

The BIN is just one way to help build capacity and improve services so that beneficiaries have the information and support they need to make the right choices. For more information, on the Benefits Information Network in Indiana, feel free to contact Becky Banks at bebanks@indiana.edu.

THE APSE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN theADVANCE FOR SUPPORTED ENTREPRENEURS

The APSE Foundation announces a new program sponsoring limited advertisement in theAdvance for entrepreneurs with disabilities. See page 12 for the first Foundation sponsored advertisement for fashion design by Mikelle.

If you are an aspiring artist, service business person, or owner of an enterprise that benefits from supported employment, the Foundation invites you to e-mail us at apse@apse.org for more information.

If you wish to make a tax deductible donation to The APSE Foundation to help support this initiative, mail your check to:

The APSE Foundation
1627 Monument Avenue
Richmond, VA 23220

and identify work incentives; (b) BIN personnel are highly invested in supporting work incentives, as they understand how federal and state provisions can support employment outcomes; (c) VR counselors are satisfied that their customers are working toward self-sufficiency as their cases are progressing toward closure; and (d) beneficiaries are receiving work incentive support.

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The BIN is just one way to help build capacity and improve services so that beneficiaries have the information and support they need to make the right choices. For more information, on the Benefits Information Network in Indiana, feel free to contact Becky Banks at bebanks@indiana.edu.
Impressive numbers the effectiveness of evidence-based SE. APSE will continue our collaboration with those who made this such a strong event. We look forward to our next steps, beginning with a number of sessions on mental health and SE in Boston."

Headlining the conference were keynoters Robert Drake, PhD, well known for his evidence-based supported employment work at Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center, Susan Parker, Director of Research and Policy, Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor, and Moses Armstrong, nationally recognized for his Peer Support work at Vinfen Corporation in Cambridge, MA.

Conference Sessions included: Managing Outcomes that Continuously Improve Services and Business Performance, Bill McCarriston, CARF; Facilitating Quality Employment Supports, Katty Inge & Grant Revell, Virginia Commonwealth University; Removing the Myths and Fears of Employment, Cheryl Bates-Harris, National Disability Rights Network; Implementing SE for Veterans: A First Year Report, Charles McGeough, & Ralph Zaccheo, VHA Psychosocial Rehab. Programs; Evidence-Based SE: Making it Work, Laura Flint & David Lynde, NH-Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center; Customized Employment and Customization: Promising Practices to Increase Employment Among People with Disabilities, Gary Shaheen, Advocates for Human Potential/CHETA & Joe Marrone, Institute for Community Inclusion; The Impact of Benefits Counseling on Employment Outcomes for People with Psychiatric Disabilities, James Smith, Vermont Work Incentives Initiative; Integration of Employment and Clinical Services: Translating Evidence-Based Practice into the Real World, Alycia Pascaris, Center for Rehabilitation and Recovery; Colleen Gillespie, NYU Wagner, & Susan Buchannan, Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service; Person-Centered Career Planning and People with Reputational Impairments: Supporting People with Mental Health Concerns or Inmates with Developmental Disabilities, Thomas Golden, & Carol Blessing, Cornell University, Connie Ferrell, Integrated Services; Supported Self-Employment in Maryland, Ann Rea & Morris Traenen, Way Station, Frederick, MD; Motivational Interviewing for Supported Employment (Parts 1, 2 and 3), Marie Oehler, SUNY Buffalo; If You Think Work is Bad for People with Mental Illness, Try Poverty, Unemployment and Social Isolation, Joe Marrone, Melissa Roberts, Integrated Employment Institute, UMDNJ-SHRP, Gary Shaheen, & Melodie Pazolt, Clearview Employment; Self-Help and Peer Support, Judi Chamberlin, National Empowerment Center; New Research on SE, Gary Bond, IN-Purdue Univ. of IN; Job Development: Steps to Success, Linda Carlson & Galen Smith, Univ. of KS School of Social Welfare; Sitka Stueve, Wyondot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare; Cognitive Training and SE in Severe Mental Illness, Susan McGrurk, NH-Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center; The Ticket to Work Developments, Dan O’Brien, Office of Employment Support Programs, Social Security Administration; Developing Successful Supported Employment Programs for Recovery, Faith McCalla & Elizabeth Van Houtte, The Career Connection Employment Resource Institute and Integrated Employment Institute; Customized Employment and Housing: Recovery for Homeless Adults with a Psychiatric Disorder, Rob Richardson, Indianapolis Private Industry Council & Bruce Schnaith, Easter Seals Crossroads, Indianapolis;
With more rather than less funding, far more individuals with high support needs could become employed.

APSE members recently received an invitation to Start a Revolution for Supported Employment – 1776 Style in communities across the country. With challenges to the SE State Grant funding in the Rehab Act and Medicaid Long Term Services resources in many states, supported employment faces potentially significant losses this year.

According to the President’s budget request, “The 2007 Budget reflects a multi-year Administration effort to reform job training programs, target resources to programs with documented effectiveness and eliminate funding for duplicative and overlapping programs. Consistent with this crosscutting reform, the budget eliminates funding for three programs (Supported Employment State Grants, Projects With Industry and Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers program). The services provided by these programs can be provided by the larger Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants Programs.”

APSE challenges the administration’s position on the SE State Grant Program – both the implication that it is ineffective and the statement that it is duplicative and overlapping with the larger VR State Grant (Title I). While SE can and is paid for through Title I, the SE infrastructure activities as well as direct services covered through the SE State Grant Program cannot be duplicated in Title I without significant increases in funding for that program. The loss of the SE State Grant program would make it far more challenging for the VR system to provide effective supported employment services. This potential loss, coupled with Medicaid challenges, paint a bleak picture.

In urging all APSE members to participate in the Start a Revolution – 1776 Style, Bob Lawhead, Chair of the APSE Public Policy Committee and Director of Employment Link in Boulder, CO, states: “We raised a policy ruckus in 1986 when SE was first authorized in the Rehab Act. It is time to once again Start a Revolution for SE! In 2004 over 22,000 individuals were successfully placed in SE through the VR systems. As a nation that cares about all its members, we should celebrate each of these placements and do all that we can to encourage even higher numbers. .

To join the revolution, advocates are asked to sign a statement of their commitment to the Revolution and send it, along with a check for $17.76, $177.60 or $1776.00 to support this effort, to the APSE national office. A list of advocates signing the commitment will be sent to congressional offices around July 4. As a follow-up, advocates will be encouraged to schedule meetings with federal legislators, who will be in their home districts for the Independence Day break, to educate federal lawmakers back home about SE.

If you want to join the Revolution for SE and do not have a brochure—call 804-278-9187 or go to www.apse.org.
The APSE Regional Chapter Delegates meet quarterly via teleconference and once a year in person at the APSE Annual Conference. In the first teleconference of this year, they covered a number of going issues to strengthen the APSE Chapter Network and also to enhance the benefits to APSE members. Led by Tom Hughes, Council Chair, the delegates discussed the Membership Pilot Project (see p. 10 for details). The Delegates are also currently looking into ways to streamline quarterly reporting requirements for APSE Chapters. Suggestions are welcome! Following recommendations from the Delegates, the central office has recently established a location on APSE’s web site for chapters to share information on conferences, membership recruitment, speakers, etc. The Chapter site is accessible at www.apse.org—“Chapter News”. E-mail or call Betsy Elwood, APSE Chapter Liaison, to share ideas and information from your chapter for posting at this site. The Delegates are also working on plans for a leadership gathering in Boston. And, finally, Deborah Goins, MD APSE President, was nominated and elected to finish Cindy Tucker’s term, as Cindy had recently stepped down. Thank you to Cindy for your past work with the Delegates Council and welcome to Deborah!

The APSE’s Supported Employment Institute premiered the first SE 101 program, a four-day training on the application of SE, at the 2001 APSE Conference. SE 101 has returned by popular demand each year since and has become an integral part of the annual APSE Conference. For individuals unable to attend the series at the conferences, APSE now offers this high quality training year round for front line workers, administrators, management, staff, consumers and family members in a tele-training format. Each session includes a lecture and interactive time to ensure the opportunity to ask questions and dialogue with the presenter. Registrants receive visuals, via e-mail, prior to each session and have access to power point materials as they participate via teleconference. Professional credits are available for the SE 101 Spring Series sessions.

For session descriptions, presenter information, or registration materials, go to www.apse.org, or call Gracie Burwell at 804-278-9187.

Recent Chapter Events:
APSE MO Day on the Hill
SC APSE Annual Conference
OK APSE Annual Conference
APSE MO Prof. Development Day
NC APSE Conference

Upcoming Chapter Events:
April 30-May 2: Empire State APSE Conference
May 4-5: Minnesota APSE State Conference
May 10: Vermont APSE State Conference
June 9: Nebraska APSE State Conference.

Send us your Chapter News for theAdvance and the Chapter News on the APSE Website!

Supported Employment Institute - SE 101 Tele-training Series
2006 Spring Series Began March 14

SE 101—Spring Series Schedule

March 14, 2006 - Foundations of Supported Employment: Bob Niemiec - discussion of the guiding principles and features that influence this approach to working with people who have significant disabilities.
March 28, 2006 - Career Planning, Rob Hoffman - examination of person-centered career planning, with emphasis on best practices in this area, and its implications for people in general and supported employment jobseekers.
April 11, 2006 - Job Development, Gayann Brandenburg - teaching the basic, yet critical, sales skills that are necessary for a successful Supported Employment Professional.
April 25, 2006 - Systematic Instruction, Dan Steere - introduction to essential strategies used to develop comprehensive instructional plans for supported employees.
May 2, 2006 - Public Policy and SE, Bob Lawhead - description of points that can be used to persuade public policy makers that supported and customized employment make sense.
May 9, 2006 - Positive Behavior Supports, Mindy Oppenheim - strategies for teaching and maintaining positive behaviors outside the boundaries of behaviorism.
May 23, 2006 - Supporting People on the Job/ Customer Service, J on Alexander - discussion of the nurturing of ongoing relationships between the employer and the employee and helping the employee and his/her family and supports navigate Social Security, Medicaid, and financial planning, to name a few.
June 6, 2006 - What's Next? The Future of Supported Employment, Katty Inge - discussion of the impact of community-based services, specifically SE, on the organization and management of human service programs. This session will focus on factors and strategies that can minimize resistance to change that ultimately impact the real and meaningful jobs for people with disabilities.
Art Works—Milwaukee
Job Skill Development Through Employment Opportunities in the Arts

Since April of 2001, ArtWorks for Milwaukee, a not-for-profit, job-training enterprise, has opened doors to “at-risk” teenagers, including young people with disabilities, by teaching essential job skills needed for the world of work through the experience of art. ArtWorks employs young adults as Art Apprentices for 8 to 10 week sessions under the guidance of professional Lead Artists. Throughout the course of each program, apprentices master fundamental employment skills while they plan, design and create works of art. Works also include performance (e.g., music, dance, theatre), and publication (e.g., poetry). Apprentices compose artist statements on their works for presentations to ArtWorks’ supporters and local art enthusiasts at the concluding art show(s). The sale of the art and accompanying publications provide support for the program and a commission for the apprentice artist. Apprentices get to enjoy the experience of selling their own work while helping support the mission of ArtWorks.

Based on the premise that the visual arts represent a universal language transcending cultural and ability barriers, Artworks allows individuals to work to their own potential through the creation of art. This requires discipline and an open mind to new ideas. Through art, barriers between different groups are cleared away, allowing the youth to understand one another with clarity, to positively interact with each other, and to effectively collaborate on common goals. Making a creative art project demands a willingness on the part of the author to extend their abilities to their fullest potential.

Preparing for successful careers
ArtWorks for Milwaukee provides intensive, structured and effective employment training for youth through the arts. Young adults apply for art apprentice positions and earn a paycheck while working part-time with professional “lead artists” in the creation of art in a variety of mediums. Through exposure to the arts with professional mentor artists from the community, apprentices engage in concepts and skills fundamental to securing and succeeding in the workplace. Lead artists work in with art apprentices to address important social issues such as workplace tolerance, the value of the contributions that all team members bring to a project and to envision and bring about individual and community aspirations of economic success. Through this process, participants develop capabilities in both the independent and collaborative processes of artistic inquiry and vision.

ArtWorks provides an employment experience for “at risk” youth and young people with disabilities where creative expression leads to assumed responsibility, personal growth and a deeper appreciation for the arts.

Building a stronger community through a strong work ethic
Young people with and without disabilities find themselves especially susceptible to peer pressure based upon the constant barrage of less than positive messages broadcast and displayed by television, radio and on billboards in their neighborhoods. Engaging the apprentices to create artwork for public discourse and for economic benefit teaches the values of developing a strong work ethic, the building of community, thinking critically about social issues and working on group collaboration.

ArtWorks for Milwaukee has worked with over 200 art apprentices. Approximately 20 percent of those artists have reapplied to be hired in subsequent programs. Eighty percent have utilized skills learned through ArtWorks to obtain other employment or gone on to post-secondary education.

ArtWorks for Milwaukee was started by Laura Owens, a founding member of Wisconsin APSE and current Secretary of the APSE National Board of Directors. She is Director of Community Employment Options in Milwaukee and serves on the faculty of the Univ. of WI-Milwaukee. She can be contacted at lowens@ceo-inc-milwaukee.org.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS — AN INVITATION TO DISPLAY YOUR PRODUCTS AT THE APSE CONFERENCE

We are inviting entrepreneurs with disabilities who have art and other products to display and sell during the Silent Auction at the conference. If you or someone you know benefits from supported employment and would like to join us, let us know!

And, in the spirit of full inclusion, this new initiative will not be just for folks with disabilities. We surely have a lot of other talented members within APSE that would share their work if invited. We want to shine the light on all of your talents in Boston.

Sign up TODAY for a slot in the APSE Art and Other Creators Corner Beside the Silent Auction in Boston. Contact Charlie Murphy at MOLIFE@aol.com or Celane McWhorter at celanem@yahoo.com or 804-278-9187.
In response to its state and local chapters and members’ requests, APSE: the Network on Employment Board of Directors is launching a Marketing and Branding Campaign that will feature the organization’s mission of full employment for people with disabilities. APSE staff and leaders are currently working with marketing advisors on a multi-faceted marketing plan. This work is coordinated through the newly formed APSE Marketing and Outreach Committee, under the leadership of APSE Board Member and Committee Chair, Leslie Wilson, and includes representatives of the APSE Board of Directors and several state chapters. Of the various potential marketing plan components, the Committee has recommended that print materials and logo and website redesigns take priority. According to Wilson, a presentation video is also under consideration. APSE Chapters will soon receive copies of a DVD package focused on the popular Choose Work document that highlights the effectiveness and value of SE. This product will be very useful in SE grassroots public policy activities. It will be released in time to strengthen the response to the once again proposed elimination of funding for the State SE Grant Program and other challenges to disability employment in this year’s federal budget and appropriations deliberations.

The APSE Foundation continues to raise funds to finance the marketing campaign. With additional resources, new marketing components will be added. To make a contribution and expedite the various campaign components, please send your check made payable to the “APSE Foundation” and mail to: APSE Foundation, 1627 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220 Ph: 804/278-9187 Email: apse@apse.org

WE ARE LISTENING!
Membership Fees Discounted
April 1 – December 31, 2006

APSE: The Network on Employment Board of Directors has been listening attentively to individual members and state chapters...and we are responding. From April 1 through December 31, 2006, APSE will discount ‘new’ members’ fees 10 percent.

For those individuals who joined as ‘new’ members at the APSE New York Employment First Symposium in April a discount of 20 percent was offered. The same discount will be available to new members joining in Boston. State chapters will also be able to offer the 20 percent membership fee discount to their ‘new’ members who join at their annual state conferences.

Membership Campaign Giveaway...
Calling All Members

APSE is in a giving mood. Any APSE member who recruits $2,500 dollars worth of “new” membership dollars by June 15, 2006 will have their registration fee waived to the annual conference in Boston.

For example, if you recruit two new organizational members at $640 each and 13 professional members at $100 each, you have met the goal and will attend the conference without the registration fee, a savings of $265.

No matter how it breaks down, you have to generate $2,500 in “new” membership dollars to be eligible to have your Boston conference registration fee waived. If you are not planning to attend the conference, for $2,500 in “new” membership dollars, APSE will offer you four tele-trainings at no charge.

To facilitate this campaign, the 2006 APSE Membership Form will include an area where the “recruiter” can be identified. The member has to be “new” and the recruiter’s name has to be on the bottom of the form.

New Payment Option: Use Your Credit Card to Buy Membership in Installments

Please look for the option on the revised APSE membership form to automatically have your membership fee charged to your credit card on an annual, quarterly or monthly basis. For example, if you are a member at the “Professional – less than $17,000” range of $55 and prefer the quarterly option, your credit card will be charged $13.75 once every three months, making your membership fee quite affordable. APSE accepts Visa and MasterCard.

Membership Pilot Sites
Colorado, Kentucky, Maryland, New York, Ohio

To encourage competition among those states participating in the APSE Membership Campaign pilots, the pilot site that has the largest percentage increase in “membership dollars” will be recognized at the annual meeting in Boston. This competition begins immediately.
2006 APSE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name__________________________________________
Organization____________________________________
Address________________________________________
City___________________State______Zip____________
Telephone (_____)_______________________________
Fax (_____)_____________________________________
E-mail__________________________________________

Individual Fees
Includes 1 copy of the Advance/1 vote

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Please provide the following information. I am a (n):
- Consumer
- Family Member
- Student (not yet working in the field)
- Employer
- Professional (please give your job title)

My organization is a (n):
- Advocacy Organization
- SE Provider
- State Agency
- School
- Federal Agency
- University
- Local Agency
- Rehab Facility
- Other (specify)

Payment Instructions: Send check, money order, or credit card information with your application to: APSE, 1627 Monument Ave., Richmond, VA 23220. Canadian members add $10 to rates; other non-US members add $20.

Amount Enclosed (US currency only) ______________________
or fax credit card information to (804) 278-9377
Card Number__________________________________________
Cardholder Signature__________________________________
Expiration Date_________________ VISA MasterCard

I want to pay my membership fee in even installments, to be deducted from my credit card on a monthly or quarterly basis. I will contact the APSE office if I want the installment payments to cease.

Organizational Memberships

Basic Organizational Membership includes member benefits and copies of the Advance for up to 8 people, and 1 vote in elections or other voting issues. Benefits of membership and discounted conference and training registration limited to 8 names provided with the membership. $640 (New member: $576)

Contributing Membership includes copies of the Advance for up to 8 people and 1 vote in elections or other voting issues. Other membership benefits apply to anyone in your organization using your organization’s membership number. Plus unlimited discounted registrations to state and national conferences and training events for anyone in your organization using your organization’s membership number. This constitutes significant savings over a year in registration fees. $840 (New member: $766)

Gold Contributing Membership includes copies of the Advance for up to 8 people and 1 vote in elections or other voting issues. Other membership benefits apply to anyone in your organization using your organization’s membership number. Plus you get an added benefit - unlimited discounted registrations to state and national conferences and training events for anyone in your organization by using your organization’s membership number. This benefit constitutes significant savings in registration fees. Plus Gold Contributor listing in newsletters. Plus a certificate of recognition honoring your contribution for front office display. $1050 (New member: $945)

Organizations must designate individuals who will be covered under an organizational membership below:

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Membership Enhancement–InfoLines Discount

- Apply my APSE discount and start my monthly subscription to InfoLines, the newsletter on SE.
- Apply my APSE discount and RENEW my subscription to InfoLines.

InfoLines: print subscription: $89 E-mail subscription $79

- Yes! I want to contribute to the APSE Foundation $______
- Yes! I want to sponsor a consumer membership. $20.00.

If you were recruited by a current APSE member, complete: Name of Recruiter: ___________________
Recruiter’s APSE membership number: ___________
FashionAble by Mikelle
Advertisement sponsored by
The APSE Foundation.

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**FashionAble by Mikelle**

Winter ‘05–’06 Collection

FashionAble by Mikelle is fun and fashionable clothing for individuals who use a wheelchair.
Growing up, Mikelle discovered that there were limited clothing options that were *functional* and *comfortable*. That’s why she designed clothing that enables individuals to look good when going to dinner, the movies, dancing or anywhere they want to go. Mikelle is full of life, whimsical and resourceful. She hopes that these clothing options inspire you to take on the world while looking your best!

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**APSE: The Network on Employment**

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**APSE 2006 Boston**

June 28—30, 2006