

DISABILITY RESOURCE NETWORK OF BC FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Spring 2017

Message from your Executive Committee

Welcome and thank you for taking your time to read your second bi-annual newsletter!

DRNBC has several committees, one of which is the Provincial Executive Committee and it has the following functions:

- Support the DRNBC's mandate
- Represent field based concerns in a coordinated fashion to the Provincial Ministries responsible for post-secondary education
- Raise public and government awareness about the educational needs of people with disabilities
- Identify issues of interest and concern to the members of DRNBC
- Be an information sharing body to all personnel regarding disability related issues in the post secondary system

Please visit our website to learn more about our provincial organization: <http://www.drNBC.org/>

The DRNBC is actively recruiting interested individuals to sit on several of our provincial communities. We currently are recruiting for the following committees:

- Membership Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Advocacy Committee
- Executive Committee

If you are interested please let us know and we'd be happy to talk to you about each of the committees.

The DRNBC for PSE is a provincial organization committed to providing programs and services, professional development, resources and news events that effect individuals who have a disability (disabilities), in the British Columbia Post Secondary Education system.

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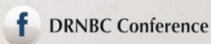
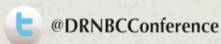
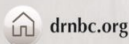
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WHERE TO NEXT? NAVIGATING POST-SECONDARY TRANSITIONS

Disability Resource Network of B.C.
for Post-Secondary Education
34th Annual Conference

May 23 and 24, 2017
Vancouver, B.C.



Join us for Disability Resource Network of B.C. for Post-Secondary's two-day annual conference that brings together community members, students, and educators from across the province to share knowledge, new ideas, the latest research, and opportunities to connect and network with others in the field.

When: Tuesday, May 23rd and Wednesday May 24th, 2017

Where: Vancouver Community College (VCC), Downtown campus

250 West Pender Street, Vancouver

This year's theme **Where to Next? Navigating Post-Secondary Transitions** investigates how we react and adapt to changing environments. Students transitioning into, through and out of post-secondary environments go through rapid transitions and can often feel that they are expected to figure it out on their own. Rapid change can lead to feelings of vulnerability, anxiety, isolation, ambivalence and other new areas of emotional terrain as students learn to navigate their own path. Transitions can be especially difficult when students face additional barriers, disabilities and challenges. Other members of the community, including staff, faculty, service providers, government, and families, encounter transitions and change as they strive to keep their knowledge and practices current in an ever-evolving field.

DRNBC embraces social media!

The DRNBC is trying to reach as many of you as possible and spread the word about the great work we do in the province.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

<https://twitter.com/DRNBC>

<https://www.instagram.com/drnbcfps/>

Student Stories and Successes

My name is **Beth Vinet** and I am writing to share my experience at Okanagan College in Salmon Arm where I am on student council. I believe I am the first Adult Special Education student to be on student council. I am a second year student in Special Education. I decided I wanted to do something that was out of my "comfort zone". When I started the process of running for student council I never actually believed I would be successful in getting the position.

My Applied Skills instructor, Caroline Miege, introduced the idea to me last year. She arranged for me to do a sit in on a student council meeting and also to volunteer for a couple of student events. I had a good experience volunteering and helped make me more confident to run for council the next year.

In September of 2016 I had to start the process by getting nominated. I had to approach at least ten students to ask if they would support my nomination. I did approach some students that I knew but I also had to ask strangers if they would be willing to nominate and be able to explain why I wanted to be nominated. I felt it was important to have someone from the Adult Special Education program on



student council to make those student's voices heard and also to role model for other students what a person can be capable of doing.

On student council I have participated in a number of events. I attended a weekend orientation at Sun Peaks Resort in September. Some of the events are; sexual health awareness day, international women's day, ping pong tournaments, and bottle water free day. I am also working on the "Let's Get Consensual" campaign. I have become more confident as a person since being on student council and feel more able to try new things. I have enjoyed working with the other students on the council. It has been a lot of fun and an amazing experience. I plan to run again next year for a position on student council.

Kiosk Expansion

by *Leanne Mihalicz and Saskia Stinson*

Over the past 3 years, the Education and Skills Training, ESTR, program at Thompson Rivers University has integrated a unique project-based learning initiative into their Retail and Kitchen streams. The ESTR Kiosk has successfully provided students with job specific training as well as creating a more accessible, visible and inclusive program on campus.



Each year the project has grown in products, partnerships and sales, which has resulted in a need for expansion. By transforming one of the existing classrooms into a Retail Training lab, the added space would provide opportunities for enhanced training through both simulated learning activities and real practice as a “store front”. The construction of the Retail Training lab will begin this spring and the grand opening will be September 2017.

This expansion will bring greater opportunities to:

- Provide more “practical” training for ESTR students in Kitchen and Retail
- Serve food products directly from ESTR kitchen (kitchen and retail labs are connected with a serving window)
- Showcase more local products
- Partner with other TRU programs and community
- Offer unique events (mini workshops, mini-luncheons, etc.)
- Instill student pride, confidence and ownership in operating a business
- Support provincial initiatives of inclusion, further studies and employment for people with disabilities



The Sharing Corner

Each month we'll bring you some tips, links and items of interesting . This month we have some links of general interest for you to check out!
Interactive links for students:

AccessNow: <http://accessnow.me/> Better Together– This app uses crowdsourcing to pin-point the accessibility status of locations on an interactive map. Search for specific places or browse to see what is nearby with the accessibility features you need. If the info isn't already on our map, you could add it yourself and contribute to our worldwide community. Download this app for free from i-tunes.

The Dark Table: 2611 W 4th Ave in Vancouver <http://www.darktable.ca/about.html> The blind dining concept originated in Switzerland in the home of a blind man–Jose Spielmann–who blindfolded his guest in an attempt to show them what eating is like for a blind person. The Dark Table offers excellent cuisine, in addition to the blind dining experience. The dining room is completely dark. All of the serves are blind or visually impaired individuals who are trained to ensure the comfort of guest. Several graduates and students of the Program for the Visually Impaired at VCC have found jobs at the Dark Table.

Kalvonix & Big Love: Students of KPU Calvin Tiu and Rick Kumar provide a unique mix of workshop instructions ,spoken words and rap music to engage and inspire their audiences so they can share their stories. Their current focus is “ Frontier Poetics” KPU's rap outreach workshop. Check out the link for more details. <https://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/Frontier%20Poetics%20Brochure.pdf>

More Student Success Stories from KPU....

Leanne Hall of APPD Student Success Story

I was so nervous to attend university but KPU helped to break me out of my shy shell. The Access Programs for People with Disabilities Program (APPD) opened up a whole new world for me and I couldn't be happier. I was not sure what I wanted to do for a job and they gave me support and skills to find a career in childcare. During my time in Work Exploration and Job Preparation, my self-confidence grew; I made many life-long friends and became an active member of my community. It's like my life opened up!

The work experiences gave me the opportunity to try different types of work and I soon realized working with children was the right choice for me. I took Vocational Skills Training-Childcare Option and the Family Childcare Program. All of my instructors while at KPU were supportive and patient as I worked through my programs. Since graduating, I have a part time job in a daycare and Chairperson of the Surrey APPD Alumni Group. I was honoured to have received the Lieutenant Governor's Medal at my convocation ceremony Spring 2015.

Mary Kurianparambil of APPD Student Success Story

I graduated from the Access Programs for People with Disabilities program from KPU in June 2014. Currently, I am working as a Mortgage Indexer on contract with the CIBC Bank (Administrative Support). APPD is an outstanding and remarkable program for people with disabilities. I am very grateful to my teachers in the APPD program. During this program, I gained work experience by volunteering which increased my knowledge on the workforce and also made me a 'people person' which in turn increased my confidence. I strongly recommend that individuals with disabilities should attend APPD program to increase their quality of life and enable them to contribute to society.

Navpreet Bhatthal of APPD Student Success Story

My experience in APPD was great. I learned what I liked and what I didn't like, what my weaknesses are and what my strengths are. This program teaches what work life is like compared to not working. It's a great way to get out there and try new things and see if you're ready for work. Today, I work at Tim Horton's because of this program. I would recommend this program to anyone. In fact, I totally urge you to join APPD.

Douglas College launches Kiosk Project

Having been inspired by the success at TRU, the Basic Occupational Program at Douglas College recently launched its Kiosk Project aptly named *Gifts in a Jar*. The project began as a service learning project undertaken by a staff member in the department. Patti Roos, an Instructional Facilitator, prepared the ground work upon which the program was launched. With support from within the College, we were able begin operations this Winter and have developed a small but impressive product line.

The retail and business students who are involved in the project has been afforded the opportunity to manufacture, market and sell the products, enhancing their skills along the way. We are continuing to develop the project and are busily planning our product line for the coming year.

All profits of the project will be directed to the Douglas College Foundations in support of student bursaries!

