

August 2014

# Iowa Rehabilitation Association

## Special Interest Articles:

- President's Report
- NRA Conference Report
- NRA Pre-Conference
- IRA Award Nominations



Lindsay Walker  
President

## President's Report

Hello fellow IRA members!

The time has come- we are counting down the days to the 2014 National Rehabilitation Conference, which is making its way to our great state of Iowa this October! Our conference committee has been working diligently to make sure that everything is lined up to have a wonderful event, and we won't stop until we know that our great state is represented!

With that being said, I think it would be wonderful that we make sure to let our fellow colleagues who are attending from around the nation know about the great things we are doing here in Iowa in the world of rehabilitation. I would love to hear from you, our members, about the innovative and creative endeavors we have been doing throughout the state to serve individuals with disabilities. Do you have a great success story you would like to tell, or did your office do something that has made an impact on your community? I would like to discuss the great things that we are doing as a brief part of my introduction at the conference and I would love to hear your stories! Please don't hesitate to email me about something that you are doing to make a difference!

To continue on that, I feel that it is vital that we as members should always share ideas, resources, and suggestions for others in the field on how we can continue to improve in our field. If you would like to share any stories for our future newsletters, or for the conference this fall, please don't hesitate to email me at [lindsaywalker103@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaywalker103@gmail.com).

I look forward to seeing you all at the 2014 National Rehabilitation Conference in Des Moines in two months! It is Iowa's time to shine.

Best regards-

*Lindsay Walker*



Diane Hernandez  
President-Elect

## Conference Report

We are so lucky to be hosting the National Rehabilitation Conference here in Des Moines. From **Thursday, October 30 through Sunday, November 2, 2014** (Thursday is the pre-conference) we will have the opportunity to learn from the best from all across the nation.

First we have fabulous keynote speakers:

**Dr. Richard Deming**, the Founder and Chairman of Above + Beyond Cancer, a public charity in which people whose lives have been touched by cancer participate in adventurous, physical endeavors – including recent trips to Mount Kilimanjaro and Everest Base Camp. Upon completing a program, advocates work as citizen-lobbyists, speakers, writers, and fundraisers, who are driven to reduce the burden of cancer across the globe. Setting goals, working toward them and achieving what might have at one point felt impossible – hey, that is what we work to help people do every day!!

**Jeff Huffman**, Founder and Head Coach at Huffman Healthcare and Disability Consulting, has been involved in the creation of a first-of-its-kind hotel where teaching and employing people with disabilities will be just as important as accommodating overnight guests. What a great way to learn about public/private partnerships!!

**Steve Wooderson**, CEO of Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, is going to update us on the current status of legislative activity regarding the Workforce Investment Act and other national priorities impacting the public vocational rehabilitation program. We all need to understand these issues more completely.

Plus, want ethics CEUs? We got them. **We have an ethics session in almost every break out session.** There will be at least five opportunities to studies various issues regarding ethics.

There are presentations specific to rural communities, veterans, brain injury, mental health, transition, job development and the importance of counselor self-care. There is truly something for everyone and ever session offers variety and a wealth of information.

Don't delay! Go to <http://www.nationalrehab.org/> for information on registration, hotel and travel!!!

*Diane Hernandez*

## NRA Pre-Conference

The details of the 2014 NRA National Conference are being finalized and it's going to be a great time. To kick things off right, there will be pre-conference sessions and activities on Thursday Oct 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be three breakout sessions in the morning with wide ranging topics so everyone will find something of interest. Dr. Therese Wilkomm will present on **Assistive Technology Solutions in Minutes-Using Ordinary Items in Extraordinary Ways**. Therese is the Director of the New Hampshire State Technology Program with the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire and is an assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. She is also known nationally and internationally as "The MacGyver" of Assistive Technology, which intrigues me no end. Russell Thelin, the Executive Director of Utah Vocational Rehabilitation will give a presentation regarding **Placement Strategies, Leadership for Meaningful Cultural Change**. This session is being sponsored by NARL and is free to NARL members. As an incentive, there will be a \$30 registration fee for non-NARL members however there will be the option to use the fee to join NARL. Jeffrey Truthan will present on **What Else Can Someone Do: Transferrable Skills and Labor Market Research**. Jeffrey is the President of SkillTRAN and has 41 years of experience in the rehabilitation field consisting of working for Public VR and Software Development for rehab. Jeffrey's session is being sponsored by NASPPR/VEWAA.

In the afternoon, Therese will continue her presentation on Assistive Technology and Jeffrey will present on **Employment Numbers: How Do You Figure That?**

After the sessions, there will be meetings of IRA, and NRA Divisions, including Transition. When those are completed, the Exhibit Area will open as well as the Silent Auction. There will also be a First Timer's Reception to welcome members and non-members alike who may be attending the National Conference for the first time.

The pre-conference will be Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> followed by the National Conference that will run Oct 31<sup>st</sup> through November. Don't forget to register soon and make your reservation at the Des Moines Marriot. Hope to see you there!

*Jeffrey Morgan*

### **Book Your Hotel Today!!!!**

#### **Des Moines Marriott Downtown**

700 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50309

To take advantage of the special group discount of \$104+tax per room per night, please visit the Marriott Group Registration Website, [click here](#), or call Marriott Reservations at 800-514-4681. Ask for the National Rehabilitation Conference Group Rate - Code NRA.

Reservations must be made no later than October 7, 2014.

The Des Moines Marriott Downtown is the ONLY official conference hotel for our event and they will not call you or email you unsolicited. Please do not hesitate to contact the NRA offices at [conference@nationalrehab.org](mailto:conference@nationalrehab.org) to verify hotel reservation sites and/or correspondence.

## **Conference Schedule**

### **(Subject to Change)**

#### **Thursday (Pre-Conference), 10/30/2014**

- 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Registration
- 9 a.m. – Noon Assistive Technology Solutions in Minutes-using Ordinary Items in Extraordinary ways—Therese Wilkomm, Ph.D
- The Rehab Way-Leadership for Meaningful Cultural Change  
Russ Thelin, Utah Vocational Rehabilitation
- What Else Someone Can Do: Transferrable Skills and Labor Market Research- Jeffrey Truthan, President
- National Organization on Disability's Intensive Career Transition Support Model™ -  
- Maggie Casteel MS, LPC, CCTP
- 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Awesome iPad Apps. Adaptations, and Accessories -- Therese Wilkomm, Ph.D
- SkillTRAN Employment numbers, How Do you Figure That?-Jeffrey Truthan, President, SkillTRAN
- 4 p.m. IRA Meeting Nominations/Elections  
NRA Division Meetings  
Transition Division
- 5 p.m. First Timer's Reception  
Exhibit Area  
Silent Auction Opens

#### **Friday, 10/31/2014**

- 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Delegate Certification  
Continental Breakfast
- 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Registration
- 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Keynote: Dr. Richard Deming, MD – Above and Beyond Cancer

Dr. Deming will share the experiences of four Above + Beyond Cancer journeys that he has led to dramatic locations in Africa, Asia and North America. These journeys take cancer survivors on life-transforming adventures. The journeys ultimately are less about getting to the tops of mountains, and are more about the self-knowledge and wisdom one learns along the way. When all is said and done, when the backpacks and hiking boots are put away, life begins again, with a dramatically altered perspective. Priorities are re-ordered. Life is a gift and not a single minute should be "un-lived"

10:45 p.m. –  
12:15 p.m

1. Culture and the CRC Code of Ethics - L. Robert McConnell DPA, CRC
2. Concussion/Mild Brain Injury Update: Symptoms, Differentiation, Life and Work Implications -- David S. Demarest PH.D
3. Has your “Good News” been muffled by the noise of old habits? -- Amy Whitten, JD & Becky Russell
4. Supporting Farmers with Disabilities in Gainful Employment– A Collaborative Effort -- Tracy Kenninger & Vienna Hoang PhD, CRC
5. Community Conversations for Improving Employment Outcome of Transition Age Youth (TAY) with Emotional, Intellectual, and Behavioral Disabilities (EIB): World Café Approach -- Dr. Madan M. Kundu, Dr. Fong Chan, Dr. Ebonee Johnson, and Dr. Alo Dutta
6. Care For Yourself, Care For Your Clients: A Mind-Body Approach -- Christine Paul MS, CRC

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

1. Best Practices for Working with Consumers with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder -- Kathleen Glynn M.S., CRC
2. An Alternate Credential for Vocational Evaluators: Its 4th Year!! -- John W. Lui Ph.D., MBA, CRC, PVE
3. Ethical Considerations for Working w/ Transition Age Individuals w/ Disabilities -- Dr. Mary-Anne M. Joseph, CRC
4. Communities of Practice: Sharing Information for Best Practices in Vocational Rehabilitation -- Priscilla Matthews MS, CRC, PVE
5. Changing employer attitudes: Human resources graduate students’ exposés -- Lori A. Bruch Ed. D, CRC, LPC & William G Wallick Ph.D., SPHR
6. Pathways for Academic Career & Employment – PACE -- Mike Williams-Iowa Dept. of Ed., Mialisa Wright-Kirkwood, Lori Card-DMACC, Kelsey Hollen-SWCC, and Molly Hippen- Iowa Valley

3:15 p.m. –  
4:45 p.m.

1. The Ethics of Counselor Wellness: Why My Happiness Matters to My Clients -- Joseph E. Keferl Rh.D., CRC & Elizabeth Skyles MS, CRC
2. Empowering Individuals with Mental Illness: From Diagnosis to Dignified Independence -- Chrissy Whiting, MS, CRC
3. VR and Autism Converging for Success -- Dr. Mark H. Yeager, FAAIDD & Tarea Stout, MS, L.P.C.
4. Neurobehavioral Rehabilitation in the Workplace: Helping Individuals with Cognitive & Behavioral Challenges Succeed -- Tom Brown, BS, CBIST
5. Changing students’ lives through service delivery and system development -- Ruth Allison, MBA
6. Why Do People Act That Way? -- Jill Olson, Ed.S. -- Consultant with The Results Group, LLC

IRA Meeting Conclusion  
NRA Division Meetings

**Saturday, 11/1/2014**

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Registration

8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
Silent Auction Opens

9 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Keynote: Jeff Huffman -- If You Dream it You Can Achieve It!

If we are ever going to change employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities it will be through post-secondary education and training. But we must dream big, Huffman will share with you the dream and vision of how one such Dream has become a reality. Now we must build more dreams. If now us who? If not now when?

10:15 a.m. –  
10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. General Session: Steve Wooderson -- A View from the Hill

Wooderson will update the participants on the current status of legislative activity regarding the Workforce Investment Act and other national priorities impacting the public vocational rehabilitation program. Participants will be provided with the opportunity to hear how the disability community has rallied to have their voice heard in the halls of Congress and what is expected in the weeks and months ahead. He will also share a perspective on the challenges, opportunities and leadership needed to create a new vision for the future of the program.

11:45 a.m. – 1p.m. Lunch on Your Own

- 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
1. Ethical Issues in Recordkeeping, Really?! -- John W. Lui, Ph.D., MBA, CRC, PVE
  2. A Vocational Rehabilitation Systems Approach: Examining Value in Counseling Skills -- Darlene Groomes PhD, CRC, LPC & Jeffery Haight
  3. Offender Re-entry: Vocational Rehabilitation's Emerging Challenge -- Terri Miller, MHR, M.Ed, LADC, CRC
  4. Re-Energizing Yourself: Stress Management for Rehabilitation Professionals -- Carl Sabo , PhD, CRC
  5. Rehabilitation of Combat Veterans: A Wounded Warrior's Perspective -- Victor L. Medina

2:30 p.m. --  
2:45 p.m. Break  
Silent Auction Closes

2:45 p.m. –  
3:45 p.m. Poster Sessions

- 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.
1. An Ideal Union: Job Placement and Vocational Evaluation -- Dr. Juliet H. Fried Ed.D, CRC, CVE, PVE; Paige Tidwell MRC, CRC, CVE, LPC, PVE, Debra Homa Ph.D., CRC, CVE, PVE and Shawn L. Zimmerman M.S., CRC, CVE, PVE.
  2. Membership Recruitment and Retention -- Kim Nortz MRC, LVRC, CRC, CDMS & Shelia C. Browning, Deputy Director Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services Continuation of Keynote Address – Jeff Huffman
  3. Living Independently in Post-Secondary Education Setting -- Dr. Mary-Anne M. Joseph, CRC
  4. Individuals with Diabetes Mellitus: Vocational Rehabilitations Implications and Outcomes -- Carl Sabo, PhD., CRC
  5. Lou Ortale Lecture David Mitchell

- 5:30 p.m. -- 6 p.m. Delegate Assembly  
 6:30 p.m. -- 7 pm President's Reception  
 7 p.m. Awards Banquet

### **Sunday, 11/2/2014**

- 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
 8:30 – 9 a.m. Memorial Services  
 9 – 10:30 a.m.
1. Circles of Ethics: The Impact of Proximity on Justice and Fairness – Cristine Wildermuth, Ed.D.
  2. Basic Counseling Techniques all Rehabilitation Counselors Can Use -- James J. Quinn LPC, CRC, NCC
  3. Promoting and Supporting Evidence-Based Rehabilitation Practice -- John Lui PhD, MBA, CRC, PVE
  4. Leadership Styles & Challenges -- Bruce Reed PhD, CRC, LCDC
- 10:45 a.m. –  
 11:45 a.m.
1. Exploring the Relationship between Employment Status and Mental Health Kenneth Hergenrather PhD, CRC
  2. Ergonomics and Injury Prevention in the Workplace -- Pramila Kalaga MS, CPE
  3. Refresher on Effective Counseling Skills and Techniques -- Ray Feroz Ph.D., CRC, NCC, LPC
  4. Application of Ethics to Vocational Assessment and Evaluation -- Juliet H. Fried, Ed.D., CRC, CVE, PVE & John W. Lui, Ph.D, MBA, CRC, PVE



## IRA Awards – Time to Recognize Our Colleagues

Hello fellow IRA members!

The National Conference is quickly approaching and word is spreading quickly that there will be plenty of great topics, speakers and vendors present to continue our goal of striving to grow our Iowa Rehabilitation membership. As members, we have the opportunity to nominate those around us who have shown exceptional leadership skills, developed longstanding relationships with businesses in their respective communities and continued to advocate for all individuals with disabilities. Each year we can show our support by nominating such individuals for their work during our Awards Luncheon to celebrate with them and let them know we stand behind their efforts.

This year, we have the opportunity to present 5 awards. Please take a moment to review each of these awards and their brief descriptions. Should you have a person that you would like to nominate for the specific award, the applications and additional information is located on our website, or you can contact me and I would be happy to forward this on. I would like to take a moment to personally thank my Iowa colleagues and the board for allowing me to finish out this year as your Vice President. It has been a pleasure working with so many wonderful people and I have learned so much through the role of assisting our current and past presidents. As I have relocated to my new home and am starting to get situated in my new role as a VR Counselor in the State of Wisconsin, I am humbled by all of the friendships that I have made and continue to maintain. Without my involvement with IRA, I know that I would not be able to share this feeling of comfort knowing that I can rely on my colleagues, no matter the distance, to mentor me.

Sincerely,

*Jessie Schneider, MS CRC*

Vice President

All award information and applications are located on our website. Here is a brief overview of each of the award opportunities:

### **The Gerry Byers Award for Outstanding**

Gerry Byers spent most of his adult life dedicated to helping persons with disabilities achieve their employment goals, and to the National/Iowa Rehabilitation Association. He spent 30+ years employed as a placement specialist for the State of Iowa Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVRS) assigned to the Council Bluffs office. As a member of NRA/IRA, he was tireless in his efforts, particularly in the area of membership. This award is presented to an individual who has provided service to IRA as a whole, is an active member of IRA and has held an office with IRA.



### Chuck Wood Memorial Award

This award is given to recognize the achievements of a person with a disability who has attained a high level of independence, self-reliance, and self-sufficiency in the community. Someone who has demonstrated achievement of his/her goal of independence in community and personal life.

### IRA Achievement Award

The nominee must have an identifiable disability and must have been involved in some type of rehabilitation process. Success has been shown through placement in competitive or sheltered employment for at least three months. The nominee has shown competency in taking care of most personal daily living skills.

### Bill Donohue Memorial Award

This award is provided to a professional who has demonstrated the most outstanding efforts in placing Iowans with disabilities. The recipient of the Bill Donohue Award will be presented with a plaque and savings bond. There is no requirement of being involved with JPD, IRA or NRA

### IRCEA Counselor of the Year Award

This award is specific to an individual who has given time and commitment beyond the call of duty. The nominee must be a current member of the NRCA and be verified as working as a rehabilitation counselor.

#### Board for 2014

**President:** Lindsay Walker  
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## Exhibiting and Sponsorship Opportunities

The National Rehabilitation Association (NRA) and the Iowa Rehabilitation Association chapter (IRA) would like to extend an invitation to you and your organization to increase awareness of your provided services and merchandise at the 2014 National Training Conference, which will be held October 30-November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Downtown Marriott in Des Moines, Iowa.

### Why Exhibit?

Our National Annual Training Conference brings together rehabilitative and assistive technology (AT) professionals nationwide, supporting individuals with disabilities, to become actively engaged in our communities, to gain new knowledge in our field and to network with colleagues and industry nationwide. We invite you to take this opportunity to reserve an exhibit table, where you can connect with the Midwest and National rehabilitation and AT market, as well as reach out to more than 300 expected attendees for this year's conference.

[NRA Exhibitor/Sponsor Prospectus - download printable registration form here](#)

<http://www.nationalrehab.org/external/wcpages/wcmedia/documents/2014/2014%20Annual%20Conference/2014%20Exhibitor%20Prospectus.pdf>

Online Registration is available for Exhibitors and Sponsors, [click here](#).

<http://www.nationalrehab.org/events/2014-Annual-Training-Conference-Exhibits%2c-Sponsors-and-Advertiser-Registration-95/details>

### Unable to Exhibit?

If you are unable to attend this year, we also have great, affordable sponsorship and advertising opportunities available. As a donated sponsor, you can choose how your donation will be utilized during our National conference. As an advertiser, you have four different size options available to place your logo or ad in the conference program, which will be distributed to all attendees and support professionals.

### Questions?

Should you have questions, please contact the following individuals

- Application Submission and Payments - Michael Romero ([membership@nationalrehab.org](mailto:membership@nationalrehab.org)) or call 888-258-4295 ext. 302
- Ad Submissions - Diane Hernandez ([diane.hernandez@mchsi.com](mailto:diane.hernandez@mchsi.com))
- Additional Questions - Lindsay Walker, 2014 Exhibitor Committee Chair ([lindsaywalker103@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaywalker103@gmail.com))

# National Rehabilitation Association



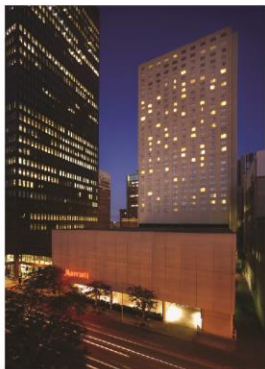
*Des Moines, Iowa*

## 2014 Training Conference

### “Meeting of Two Rivers”

Where Opportunity & Rehabilitation Unite

Hosted by Iowa Rehabilitation Association Chapter



**10/30/14  
to 11/2/14**

Make reservations at the  
**Des Moines Marriott Downtown** by  
calling 1-800-514-4681. Ask for the  
*National Rehabilitation Conference*

*Group Room Rate - Code NRA*

Rate \$104 + Tax | per room per night

*Make special accommodation requests as needed*

### *Speakers*

**Dr. Richard Deming** is the  
Founder and Chairman of  
*Above + Beyond Cancer*.  
*Above + Beyond Cancer* is a  
public charity with a mission  
to elevate the lives of those  
touched by cancer, to create a  
healthier world.

**Jeff Huffman** is the Founder  
and Head Coach at *Huffman  
Healthcare and Disability  
Consulting*.

*Photos Courtesy of the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Des Moines Marriott*

# 2014 National Rehabilitation Association Conference

**October 30 - November 2, 2014**

**Des Moines Marriott Downtown  
700 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50309**

Link for Registration:

[http://www.nationalrehab.org/cwt/external/wcpages/programs\\_events/registration.aspx](http://www.nationalrehab.org/cwt/external/wcpages/programs_events/registration.aspx)

Link for Hotel:

[http://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkIdData=National%20Rehabilitation%20Association%20Conference%5EDSMIA%60NRANRAA%60104%60USD%60true%6010/28/14%6011/2/14%6010/07/2014&app=resvlink&stop\\_mobi=yes](http://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkIdData=National%20Rehabilitation%20Association%20Conference%5EDSMIA%60NRANRAA%60104%60USD%60true%6010/28/14%6011/2/14%6010/07/2014&app=resvlink&stop_mobi=yes)

Iowa Rehabilitation  
Association

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.iraiaowa.org](http://www.iraiaowa.org)  
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