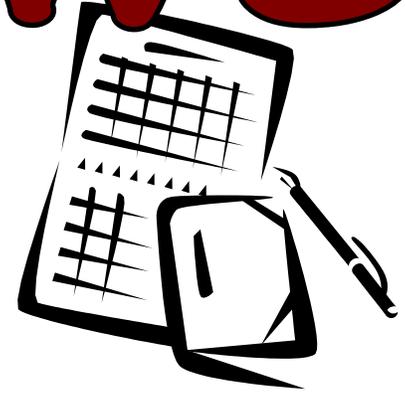


YLF NEWS

Mark your calendars now!

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



“KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE”

March 8-9, 2010

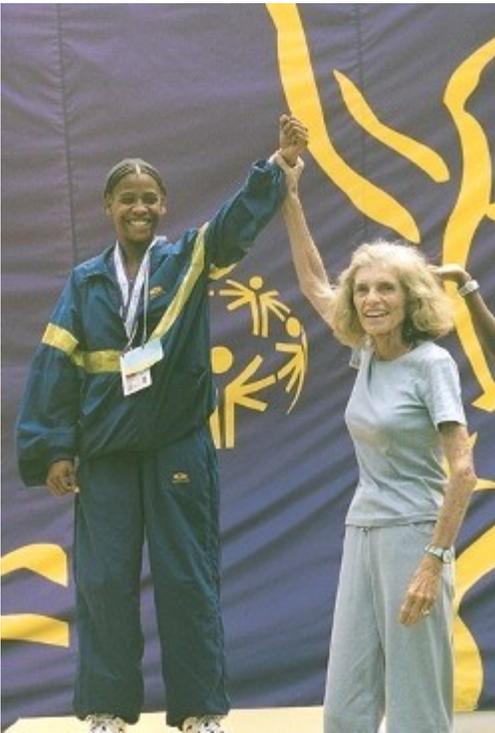
Norman Embassy Suites Hotel &
Conference Center
2501 Conference Drive
Norman, Oklahoma



- **Stipends may be available for attendance! Keep an eye out for the conference brochure!**

Tentative Sessions for the Conference are:

- Housing Assistance through the Housing Authority
- Community Resources
- How to contact your legislators
- Transition from school to work
- Metro Disability Alliance Network
- Transition from Sooner Start to school
- Our very own **YLF Alumni David Blöse**
- will be a part of the panel: Adults with autism establishing independence
- Infusing Self-Determination Instruction into Education, Vocation, and Adult Living Activities
- Adapting learning styles to fit student's needs
- Transition from high school to college or the work place
- ...and many more!



Did you notice the theme of the Governor's Conference? "Keep the Dream Alive?"

This is in honor of **Eunice Kennedy Shriver**, who passed away in 2009. Eunice Kennedy Shriver was the founder and honorary chairperson of Special Olympics, and executive vice president of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. She was a leader in the worldwide movement to improve and to enhance the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities for more than sixty years.

Special Olympics President, Brady Lum, reminded us that "We will continue to work to bring her powerful vision to life to change the lives of those with intellectual disabilities, their families and communities, using sports as the catalyst for respect, acceptance and inclusion."

So advocates, let us "KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE!"



A little about Special Olympics...

Special Olympics is an international organization that changes lives by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect worldwide. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics movement has grown from a few hundred athletes to nearly 3.1 million athletes in 228 Programs in all regions of the world, providing year-round sports training, athletic competition and other related programs. Special Olympics now takes place every day, changing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities in places like China and from regions like the Middle East to the community playgrounds and ball fields in every small neighborhood. Special Olympics provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy and friendship.

Visit Special Olympics at www.specialolympics.org.



YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY?!

January Birthdays

Matthew Wood—YLF 09
 John Paul Reyes—YLF 08
 Loren Drake—YLF 07
 Brett Cunningham —YLF 05
 Trevin Lawson—YLF 05
 Jamie (Brewer) Wheatley—YLF 04
 Patricia (Hurlburt) Keeth—YLF 04

February Birthdays

Ashley Snyder—YLF 08
 Rachel Ware—YLF 08
 Rikney Johnson—YLF 06
 Jody Kiddy—YLF 05
 Shanda Moody—Staff
 Chauncey Goff—Staff
 Krissy Garrett—Staff

March Birthdays

Hannah Fields—YLF 09
 Andy Simms—YLF 09
 David Goodwin—YLF 05
 Dara Austin—YLF 05
 David Smith—YLF 04



www.okylf.pbworks.com



GUESS WHO!

Believe it or not, this is a fellow YLF Alumni and mentor! Now who is it? Any one have any guesses? Who can be the first to give me the correct answer? You may call, e-mail, or mail your answer to:

Ok Developmental Disabilities Council
 2401 NW 23rd St, Suite 74
 Oklahoma City, OK 73107
 - OR -
 Jenifer.randle@okddc.ok.gov
 - OR -
 405-521-4964
 800-836-4470



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Sallie Mae's free scholarship search is the perfect solution for everyone looking for scholarships to help pay for college!

Facts

- Easy-to-use without unnecessary questions.
- Database contains over 2.8 million scholarships worth more than \$16 billion with updates and additions made daily.
- A truly FREE service with no ads and no selling of user's personal info.
- Questionnaire profile also offered in Spanish.

Scholarship Name	YA	Deadline	YA	Amount	YA	User Rating	YA	Match Accuracy	YA	✓
\$1,000 Scholarship Drawing Sponsored by Sallie Mae's CollegeAnswer.com		Varies		\$1,000		☆☆☆☆☆		94%		☐
ABE Essay Contests		Varies		\$5,000		☆☆☆☆☆		91%		☐
ACI-NA Airport Commissioner's Scholarships		4/15		\$5,000		☆☆☆☆☆		96%		☐
AM Short Story Contest		8/15		\$100		☆☆☆☆☆		88%		☐
ALPA Scholarship Program		4/1		\$3,000		☆☆☆☆☆		77%		☐
America's Junior Miss Scholarship Program		Varies		Varies		☆☆☆☆☆		87%		☐
American Fire Sprinkler										

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Users receive scholarship matches immediately and can use advanced features to help their scholarship search succeed:

- Sort scholarships by name, deadline, or award amount.
- Rate scholarships to prioritize which to pursue.
- Adjust the "match accuracy" to see more or fewer awards.
- View a printable calendar listing all scholarships by deadline.

What our visitors are saying ...

"I've used nearly all of the scholarship websites out there and yours is the best!"

– S. Duncan

"The scholarship search is very helpful and well organized. Thank you."

– J. Handley

"Just wanted to say THANK YOU. Your search helped me find some awesome scholarships."

– M. Ko

"Thank you for not selling out my son's name like most websites. Our family appreciates that your service is really free."

– Sammie

Privacy is important!

Our privacy policy ensures protection of users' personal info. Users using our scholarship search:

- Will not receive unwanted e-mails (a.k.a. spam)
- Will not be subject to intrusive advertising

www.CollegeAnswer.com/privacy

* 2.5 GPA * artists * baking an apple pie * band members * broadcast journalists * C average students * Catholics * choir * chemistry majors * cheerleading * children of veterans * computer science majors * confectionary technologists * cosmetologists * criminology majors * debaters * duck calling * education/teaching majors * engineering major * farmers * financial need * forensic psychology * French speakers * gardeners * golfers * grandchildren of alumni * Greek descent * gymnastics * horseback riding * Latino students * leadership qualities * left-handed *

www.CollegeAnswer.com/scholarships

marketing majors * military affiliation * mibsters * registered on CollegeAnswer.com * nursing * overweight students * people named Murphy * performing arts * photography * poetry * Polish descent * political science * promoted vegetarianism * Quaker * quirky brilliance * ROTC * scouting * sing the national anthem * skateboarding * students with disabilities * studying fungus * synchronized swimming * talented musician * track & field * twins * Virginia residents * vocational education * volleyball * water skiers * welding * wildlife conservationists * writers * yearbook *

~ What's up??? ~



YLF Staff (Bodacious) Blake Evans and Haley (Harmonica) Booher were married in November!



YLF 04 Alumni, Mentor & Staff, Jamie (Jelly) Brewer married Richard Wheatley. Mr. & Mrs. Wheatley now live on a ranch in Arizona.



Heather (Heater) Tidmore, YLF Staff member got married to Dustin Caram in the fall!



Congratulations to **Dr.** Jennifer Kauder in completing her doctoral degree. SWEET!!!



YLF Alumni, Mentor, & Staff, Brian (Bratwurst) Smith checked in this month to let us know he will be free from school as of May 2011, graduating from the University of Kansas in May!



YLF 04 Alumni & Mentor, Patricia Hurlburt married Donald Keeth!

*Hey Trisha, send us a photo!



Alumni & Staff: If you have something to share with your fellow alumni, call Jen!

What R U saying?

Internet and text slang can be difficult to understand. It is not so scary though! Keep in mind internet slang's original purpose is to save keystrokes. You can use "emoticons to clarify meaning. Here is a list of some of the most common abbreviations and emoticons:

Slang Abbreviations

AFAIK - As Far As I Know
 AFK - Away From Keyboard
 BRB - Be Right Back
 BTW - By The Way
 CYA - See You Later
 G - Good
 G2G - Got To Go
 GJ - Good Job
 IIRC - If I Recall Correctly
 IDK - I Don't Know
 IMO - In My Opinion
 J/K - Just Kidding
 LOL - Laughing Out Loud
 NFS - Not For Sale
 TYVM - Thank You Very Much
 Newbie, newb, noob - Beginner
 ROTFL - Rolling On The Floor Laughing
 TTYL - Talk To You Later
 W00t, woot - happiness, excited
 TY - Thank You
 W/E - Whatever
 WUU2 - What're You Up To?

Emoticons

:-) Smile
 :-(Sad
 :-/ or :-\ Frown
 :-| Indecision
 ;-) Wink
 :-D Big grin or laughing
 :-P Sticking tongue out
 8-) Wearing sunglasses
 :-O Surprise
 :-X Lips are sealed
 :'-(Crying
 >:-O Angry/Yelling
 >:-(Angry/Grumpy



10 STEPS 2 SUCCESS

You can easily get “information overload” while researching your future career. Follow these steps to explore your career possibilities.

1. Obtain career information from teachers, counselors, parents, and adults.
2. Identify skills and training requirements for your chosen occupation.
<http://www.bls.gov/oco> - <http://okcareertech.org/cac/okcis/okcis.htm> (Try out the trial site of OKCIS. Then check with your counselor to see if your school can give you access to OKCIS -http://www.career_voyages.gov
3. Develop and update a plan of study each year you are in high school and college. For a blank student plan of study:
<http://www.okcareertech.org/okcareerclusters/sixteen.htm>
4. Develop a portfolio to showcase your growth and achievement. Continue to update it as your interests and achievement change.
http://www.quintcareers.com/job_seach_portfolio.html
5. Investigate occupations through job shadowing. Interview people working in your career interest area about their daily work.
<http://www.in.gov/icpr/webfile/formsdiv/48416.pdf>
6. Check labor market information (LMI) to see if jobs in your chosen occupation will increase or decline:
http://www.ok.gov/oesc_web/Services/Employment_&_Training/Career_Resources.html
7. Locate training/education requirements for your chosen occupation: Technology Centers: <http://okcareertech.org/main/map/map.htm> - Military: <http://www.todaysmilitary.com> - College/University: <http://okcollegestart.org>
8. Learn what industries employ people in your chosen occupation:
<http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/home.htm>
9. Research working conditions (indoor, outdoor, overtime, shift work, travel) of your chosen occupation: <http://www.bls.gov/oco> - <http://okcareertech.org/cac/okcis/okcis.htm> - http://www.career_voyages.gov
10. Improve your work ethic and skills through part time jobs and volunteering:
http://www.coe.uga.edu/workethic/on_linelesson.htm



YLF ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT & ACHIEVEMENT CARDS

“BLUE CARDS”

Congratulations to those Alumni who have sent in one or many “BLUE CARDS”! Since the latest reminder, the number of blue cards increased by leaps and bounds... You guys are doing AMAZING stuff in your communities! Continue to share! Here are our blue cards turned in by years as of June '09 (NOTE: Those alumni who mailed in surveys were given a blue card for each survey mailed in):

YLF 2004: **1** Blue Cards
YLF 2005: **17** Blue Cards
YLF 2006: **30** Blue Cards
YLF 2007: **15** Blue Cards
YLF 2008: **6** Blue Cards
YLF 2009: **153** Blue Cards

Thank you to everyone for their community involvement. You never know who is watching or who you are touching by your actions. YLF 2009 Alumni Lauren Morrison enjoys volunteering and had this to say about her involvement. “There’s nothing like knowing I can make someone’s life better.”

***Remember: You’re never too old to send in a blue card. If you’re involved, let us know! If you need ideas, call us!**



A leader is best
When people barely know that he exists
Not so good when people obey
And acclaim him, worst when they
despise him.
Fail to honor people,
They fail to honor you.
But of a good leader, who talks little,
When his work is done, his aim fulfilled,
They will all say, “We did this ourselves.”
—Lao Tsu

I'd love to hear what you think about this poem. What does it say to you?

Send your responses to Jen at:

Ok Developmental Disabilities
Council

2401 NW 23rd St, Suite 74
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

- OR -

Jenifer.randle@okddc.ok.gov

- OR -

405-521-4964

800-836-4470

VISIT: <http://okylf.pbworks.com>

Happy New Year! — JEN