



NARRTC

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTERS

NARRTC News

Issue 5, April 2009

Message from the President

The NARRTC newsletter is designed to provide you with some relevant news from NIDRR & NARRTC, information about upcoming events that might be of general interest to the membership and a feature we call "[Members Spotlight](#)." Members Spotlight will be based on material that you wish the NARRTC community to know about, that has been submitted by you, the members. As always, we want this newsletter to be relevant to you and your concerns! Please send us feedback or comments on any aspect of it to help us make it relevant.

The NARRTC Annual Meeting is almost upon us! We look forward to seeing you in Washington, DC on May 4-5, 2009. In addition to the substantive presentations at the meeting, we want to hear your opinions about the course for NARRTC for the next few years in order to ensure that the organization grows and remains relevant to its membership! See you in Washington!

-- *Marianne Farkas*

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Previous newsletters and other information updates are available on the NARRTC web site: www.narrtc.org.

2009 Annual NARRTC Conference: Better Research, Better Evidence, Better Practice

Dates: May 4-5, 2009

Location: [Holiday Inn National Airport Hotel](#) Arlington, Virginia

Sixteen panel sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to hear 43 presentations based on new evidence and insights gained through NIDRR grant work.

A sample of presentation titles includes:

- *Americans with Disabilities Act Developments: Implications for Research & Knowledge Translation*
- *Development and Validation of a Conceptual Model of Cultural Competence*
- *Evidence-Based Health Promotion Interventions for People with Disabilities: Results of a Systematic Review of Literature*
- *Optimizing Research Design Methodology for Rehabilitation: From Best Evidence to Best Practice*
- *Organizational Best Practices Leading to Job Retention of Person with Significant Disabilities*

In addition, the conference will provide updates on legislation of interest to the disability community and presentations by NIDRR staff on new directions at NIDRR.

Conference Registration Rate: \$385; students, \$110. All registrations must be received by **April 24, 2009**. Visit the [NARRTC web site](#) for all registration information.

Please attend the NARRTC Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting!

NARRTC members will vote on the positions listed below:

- **President-Elect** (1 year term): Elected now and takes office as President at close of 2010 meeting
- **Vice President and Conference Chair:** (1 year term)
- **Members at Large:** (1 year term; may change with By-Laws vote)

If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else for any of these positions, or would like additional information, please contact Wayne Gordon: Wayne.Gordon@mountsinai.org. Nominations will also be accepted at the Business Meeting.

In addition, at the Business Meeting we will:

- **vote on changes** to our bylaws so that NIDRR grantees other than RRTCs, DRRTs, and DBTACs can join the Association;
- **get an update/ask questions on education/advocacy** efforts and upcoming issues that are critical to our members

If you have not done so, please renew your membership by paying your NARRTC dues. Contact Treasurer Nancy Arnold (nancy@ruralinstitute.umn.edu) if you need to check your status.

NARRTC and the Disability Rehabilitation Research Coalition

NARRTC and its cross-disability partners in the DRRC have crafted a series of letters to advocate, among many issues, for a greater level of funding for disability research in various Federal government agencies. In addition, we have commented on the NIDRR Long Range Plan on behalf of our membership. The full text of these letters will be available at our web site ([News & Information](#)).

Member Spotlight

The [National ADA Symposium](#) is the most comprehensive conference available on the Americans with Disabilities Act and related disability laws!

The 2009 National ADA Symposium will be held June 8-10 at Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri. This three day event offers an extensive session schedule on a variety of topics as well as two Professional Development Programs, one for ADA Coordinators and another for those involved in accessible design. Presenters for the 2009 ADA Symposium include representatives from the key federal agencies involved in implementing the ADA such as the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Access Board, and the EEOC.

A highlight of the 2009 Symposium is a Keynote Luncheon featuring United States Senator Tom Harkin as the Keynote Speaker. Senator Harkin was the leading sponsor of both the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991 and the 2008 ADA Amendments Act, and is a major advocate of disability rights.

For more information and registration, visit www.adasymposium.org

The National ADA Symposium is sponsored by the DBTAC-Network of ADA Centers, a project of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). The DBTAC-ADA Centers were established in 1992 by the U.S. Dept. of Education to provide training, technical assistance, and information on the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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NARRTC News is being developed and prepared by [Marianne Farkas](#), [Joann Starks](#), and [Jana Copeland](#). Email us with your comments, feedback, and suggestions for content!

http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/edi/narrtc/pubs/NARRTC_News_Issue2_08081.doc