



# NRA - VEWAA Bulletin

Summer 2009



VEWAA is a  
division of NRA

*Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association*

## **NRA-VEWAA Board Members**

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### **Membership Chair**

Paige Tidwell, MRC, CRC, CVE

## **Hope from the President**

*By: Shawn L. Zimmerman, M.S., CRC, CVE*

I am the youngest board member at this time and I came into my presidency with hope and optimism. Before I became president, the field of Vocational Evaluation was deeply impacted by the dissolution of CCWAVES and overall economic hardships. I came into my presidency with never ending optimism and have tried to carry that through our meetings and efforts to grow and maintain our membership.

The VEWAA Board had taken a look at the Strategic Plan that is laid out on our website ([www.vewaa.com](http://www.vewaa.com)) and has made plans to complete several of the goals before the year is up. This is a time for change and a time for all of us come together and start plans for a better tomorrow, but these plans cannot move forward without the help of our members! VEWAA needs you to step up and help us with our strategic plans, which include trainings for people in and around the field, journal articles, membership recruitment, and new faces on the board and so on.

The field of Vocational Evaluation is constantly evolving; we need everyone to come together to help keep it going. Be sure to check out our website and contact us if you have any questions, would like to join our board, or anything else you'd like to be a part of!

### **What's happening in VE?**

#### **North Carolina**

Vocational Evaluation continues to be very active in North Carolina. The semiannual joint training conference with rehabilitation counselors provides needed training and opportunities to network and interact with professionals from across the state. Leadership provided through practicing evaluators, graduate students and faculty from the Vocational Evaluation program at East Carolina University is helping contribute to activities in North Carolina. The next conference will be Oct. 22-23, 2009 in Atlantic Beach, NC. Contact Steve Sligar for more information at [SLIGARS@ecu.edu](mailto:SLIGARS@ecu.edu) or 252-744-6293.

#### **South Carolina**

Recent training on vocational assessment was provided to all the state's Career Planning and Employment Specialists by Dr. Steven Sligar from East Carolina University. The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has an extensive network of centers that provide

Vocational Evaluation and career planning services throughout the state. The training had elements of a "back to the future" trend with renewed focus on tried and proven vocational assessment techniques.

### **VE Registry**

The VEWAA board, in conjunction with the Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute (SVRI) and representatives from Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals (VECAP), met on 6/23/09 to discuss the possibility of developing a Vocational Evaluation registry. The purpose of a registry would be to help maintain the field of Vocational Evaluation, given the disbanding of CCWAVES. Topics of discussion included criteria for entry (for example, educational requirements) and provision of continuing education in VE. The group agreed that a VE Registry would need to be more than simply a list; it would consist of professionals who have received appropriate training and experience who make a commitment to receiving continuing education in the field and to abiding by a code of ethics. The VE Registry planning group will meet again on 7/31/09. We will keep you updated about further developments in future issues of the newsletter and in the VEWAA website (<http://www.vewaa.com>).

## **Note from our Journal Editor**

### **Preserving the History of Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment**

*Michael J. Millington, Ph.D., CRC*

*Director*

*National Clearinghouse of Rehabilitation Training Materials*

There have been two significant and intertwined events this past year that together have secured the history of Vocational Evaluation and work adjustment. The National Clearinghouse of Rehabilitation Training Materials (NCRTM), with permission from VEWAA and support from VECAP, has recently completed archiving the entire collection of VEWAA Journals and housed it in the NCRTM digital library. Currently, every issue can be downloaded as a unit. Soon, the public will be able to search and download individual articles. There is no cost for these downloads, and they are available to the public without restriction. Ongoing work on the collection includes (a) a listing, by issue, of the abstracts on the VEWAA resource page on the NCRTM website; and (b) creating screen-reader accessible pdf documents for the entire collection. The latter task will take considerable time...however; we will process specific articles for screen-reader accessibility by request until the job is complete.

The second event has been NCRTM's acquisition of the historic archives from the Vocational Rehabilitation Institute's (University of Wisconsin-Stout) Materials Development Center. The Materials Development Center was a grant project that ran from 1970 to approximately 1988 that served as an early Clearinghouse for all existing literature and research done on the topics of Vocational Evaluation and work adjustment. The center was an anchor to the VEWA identity and in its span collected annotations and bibliographies on over 3,000 documents ranging from short rehabilitation articles to lengthy research reports and textbooks. Ron Fry, former coordinator for the MDC, was responsible for the safe-keeping of this archive and his advocacy on its behalf led to its transfer to the NCRTM in 45 file boxes. I will note here for posterity, that it traveled across Wyoming through the last blizzard of the 2009 season.

This archive will be digitized as well and made available in accessible formats to the community for research in the coming months. While no firm plans exist as of yet, there have been initial talks between Ron Fry and myself concerning the possibility of using this archive, along with the journal collection and other sources of information to write an evolutionary history of Vocational Evaluation and work adjustment within the rehabilitation counseling profession.

These have been exciting steps in the right direction for the cause of Vocational Evaluation and work adjustment. This history is our identity and it belongs to us all. It provides a foundation upon which to reconstitute the discipline and a trajectory to guide VECAP and VEWAA in their shared stewardship. The journal archive will continue to grow as the new VEWAA Journal has gone digital and will continue to be freely available to the community. As our organizations partner in new initiatives, there will be more history...and the NCRTM stands prepared to collect, disseminate, and see it put to productive use.

Visit the Clearinghouse website for access these and other resources at <http://ncrtm.org>.

Newsletter editors' note: To find digitized issues of the VEWAA Journal, go to Digital Library (under Hot Links on left side), and type in VEWAA Journal under the "Search For" box. Be sure to click "Next Page" in order to see all of the issues.

## **Where Is Certification Now?**

With the dissolution of CCWAVES, the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) has assumed responsibility for maintenance of certification for the following designations: CVE Certified Vocational Evaluation Specialist, CWA Certified Work Adjustment Specialist, and CCAA Certified Career Assessment Associate. Its website, [http://www.crccertification.com/pages/cve\\_cwa\\_ccaa\\_designations/100.php](http://www.crccertification.com/pages/cve_cwa_ccaa_designations/100.php), provides detailed information about the certification renewal process and continuing education requirements. Please note that the CRCC is only providing services for certification renewal through continuing education so that currently certified individuals will be able to maintain their certification. Certification through exam is no longer available, and the CRCC will not provide new certifications. Certification maintenance is strongly recommended, as the CVE remains an important credential, and it will not be possible to obtain certification once it has expired.

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## VEWAA Awards

Each year, VEWAA seeks nominations for awards to individuals who have made significant contributions to the fields of Vocational Evaluation or Work Adjustment. These awards will be presented at the annual National Rehabilitation Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The two award categories are:

### **Paul R. Hoffman Award**

The Paul R. Hoffman Award is given in recognition of innovation and creativity in service to persons with disabilities through professional or technical achievements in Vocational Evaluation or work adjustment. A VEWAA member may nominate a member or a nonmember for this award.

### **VEWAA Service Award**

The VEWAA Service Award is presented annually to a VEWAA member who has made a significant contribution to the organization. This service could have been provided during the past year, or over several years. Only VEWAA members may nominate candidates for this award and more than one person can receive this award each year.

Nominations for either of these awards should include the following:

1. Name, address & telephone number of the person making the nomination.
2. The nominee's name, address, telephone number, job title & place of employment.
3. A narrative explanation of the nominee's contribution or service to VEWAA and to the field of Vocational Evaluation or work adjustment.

Nominations should be sent by 8/21/09 to: [shawn.zimmerman@drs.virginia.org](mailto:shawn.zimmerman@drs.virginia.org)

## Survey

Your input and suggestions are very important for the Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association. The URL link below will take you to a web survey that should take you approximately 15 minutes to complete. You will need to copy this link into your browser. [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=vozOyF6uKzyBdUwwdUr6xA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=vozOyF6uKzyBdUwwdUr6xA_3d_3d)

If you have any difficulties, or if you need the survey in an alternate format, please email [info@vewaa.com](mailto:info@vewaa.com).

Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts and input!

Sincerely,  
VEWAA Board of Directors

## Research Project: Needs Your Assistance!

Dear VEWAA Member:

I am Amanda McCarthy, a clinical faculty member at Northern Illinois University. You have been contacted because you are a member of VEWAA. I hope that you have time to take a short survey.

Below you will find a link to a survey designed to provide information regarding how Vocational Evaluation practitioners' use online resources to answer their assistive technology (AT) questions. AT is considered any item, piece of equipment or product system whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized that is used to increase or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

Technology continues to play a role in the lives of persons with disabilities. In order to ensure VE is a meaningful experience, professionals must take on the challenge of gaining awareness of AT and associated resources. Past research has shown that vocational evaluators report a high rate of using online resources to answer their questions about assistive technology. It is important to understand the nature, type, frequency etc. of the online resources being used to promote appropriate use. We have designed a survey to give insight on this topic.

The survey should take approximately **5 minutes** to complete. Participation is strictly voluntary. Your responses will be confidential. An implied consent form is attached to this email.

Completion of this survey will provide information related to practitioners' use of online resources to answer their AT questions. Aggregated data will hopefully be reported in the near future in professional journals. Your time and contribution are greatly valued.

Survey Link: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=WxldY\\_2brOpEdzX9ahcifUOw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=WxldY_2brOpEdzX9ahcifUOw_3d_3d)

Respectfully,  
Amanda McCarthy



NRA-VEWAA  
215 White Horse Pike  
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### **Greetings from your VEWAA Membership Chair!**

- As of May 2009, VEWAA had over 200 members. The states with the most members include Louisiana, Georgia and North Carolina.
- Hopefully, by now most of you have been contacted by phone or email regarding our most recent survey. Please take a few minutes to complete it, as it will help develop training and membership benefits that are most meaningful to you. The link for the survey is:  
[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=vozOyF6uKzyBdUwwdUr6xA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=vozOyF6uKzyBdUwwdUr6xA_3d_3d)
- If you have not done so already, please check out the VEWAA website at [www.vewaa.com](http://www.vewaa.com) This is where you will find up to date information pertaining to this division and profession. You will also find contact information for each board member. Feel free to contact us anytime.
- Between the archaic membership software and significant staff changes within the NRA office, we have been amiss in getting in touch with our new members. So, if you have joined this past year and have not received your membership packet please contact me at [paige.tidwell@vewaa.com](mailto:paige.tidwell@vewaa.com)
- Lastly, this is a call to all state VEWAA division units Presidents. If you would like us to announce any upcoming trainings or news that is happening in your state, please let me know. We can post it on our website, send out emails or put them in our newsletters.