**Weekly Focus**

**August 24, 2012**

**Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director**

The mission of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission is to ensure individuals with disabilities achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes through integrated services, partnerships and innovation.

Governor Kasich to Address DisAbility Jobs Summit

There is no better gauge of a leader’s priorities than an examination of how they spend their time. So the news that Governor John Kasich will bring his job creation agenda to the Ohio *DisAbility Jobs Summit* is more evidence that the RSC mission to “ensure individuals with disabilities achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes through integrated services, partnerships and innovation,” is shared by the top level of Ohio government.

One of the Kasich Administration’s key goals is to eradicate the silos of service in state government creating successful collaboration between state agencies to the benefit of Ohio citizens. The *DisAbility Jobs Summit* features eight other State of Ohio agencies with missions that overlap ours at RSC. Moreover, the *Summit* will highlight the hands-on involvement of the Ohio Business Leadership Network and will showcase technological innovations to assist Ohioans with disabilities. This combination will allow Governor Kasich to see how his plan to fulfill the RSC mission is being implemented in the field.

Governor Kasich’s presence at the *DisAbility Jobs Summit* marks the second time in 2012 that he has stressed the mission of employment for Ohioans with disabilities as a crucial component of his overall Ohio job creation agenda. In March, I was honored to join Governor Kasich and another team of state agency directors, at Dublin Methodist Hospital for the announcement of the Ohio Employment First Initiative.

That was a great day for Ohioans with disabilities and we have high expectations that the Ohio *DisAbility Jobs Summit* will build upon that momentum and strengthen the working bonds between the collaborators all over the state working to make this vision a reality. I hope to see you at the *Summit*.

Registration for the *Summit* can be made online using the following link:

<http://www.garrisonevents.com/disability_jobs_summit.php>

Picture Caption:

*Governor Kasich (seated) shakes hands with Project SEARCH graduate Micah Hetrick after signing executive order. Standing l. to r. are Greg Moody, OHT Director, Stan Heffner, Superintendent, ODE, John Martin, DODD Director, Kevin Miller, RSC Director and Michael Colbert, ODJFS Director.*

RSC Featured in a New Book on School to Work Transitions

I got a special book this week from authors Maryellen Daston, J. Erin Riehle and Susie Rutkowski. Their book is entitled: *High School Transition that Works! Lessons Learned from Project/SEARCH*. The book is 241 richly detailed pages that show how successful collaborations between business, educators, vocational rehabilitation counselors and most of all families of individuals with disabilities have been able to achieve an astonishing placement rate above 70% for Project SEARCH graduates. The key takeaway from the book is that individuals with disabilities must be seen as people who bring diversity to the workforce and create unique opportunities for the businesses able to capture their talent. Rather than using a philanthropic mind set that hiring individuals with disabilities is a good thing to do, Project SEARCH requires that each internship location have a business case for the program. In lean times, businesses cut back on charity but they double down on productivity enhancements like the Project SEARCH program.

It was an honor and a thrill to see my remarks to a training session last year quoted on page 18 of the book.

The Executive Director of the Ohio RSC Weighs in on Project SEARCH.

“Project SEARCH is so successful because the entire program is embedded inside the sponsoring organization, in support of their mission. Time after time, business leaders tell us opening the door to Project SEARCH has improved productivity of their entire enterprise, as the innovative methods used to train Rehabilitation Services Commission clients are actually at the forefront of the Lean process revolution. It is a joyful experience to see RSC clients have life-changing success through Project SEARCH while adding great value to the organizations that gave them an opportunity. The rapid expansion of Project SEARCH is testimony to the fact that people with disabilities can make a big contribution to business competitiveness as leaders in health care, financial services, government, logistics, and many other industries are now discovering.”

Kevin Miller, Executive Director of Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission

Presented at the Ohio Project SEARCH Quarterly Statewide Meeting, October, 2011

I highly recommend this book for anyone working to assist in a successful school to work transition; it is available for purchase here.

<http://projectsearch.us.dnnmax.com/News/WhatsGoingOn.aspx>

Weekly Focus Moves to RSC Internet Site

The *Weekly Focus* has readers who save editions in their email and we have a vast universe of Ohioans who would be interested in this material if they could easily find it on the Internet. With a Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment that tells us 1,534,355 Ohioans are disabled and with over 111,000 Ohio families faced with the challenge of a successful school to work transition, I believe the content here can be useful far beyond the confines of our limited email list.

So, following in the example of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, which has made their fine publication *Pipeline* a staple of the agency Internet site, RSC is following the same path of enhanced information service to our large and growing share of the Ohio population with a personal interest in the information in each newsletter.

<http://rsc.ohio.gov/wfnews>

Rose Reed Named Interim BSVI Director

The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Assistant Deputy Director Rose Reed will assume additional duties as the Interim Director of the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI). As we reported in the last edition of the *Weekly Focus*, former Deputy Director Dan Connors has left RSC for a position in the private sector providing service to individuals with disabilities.

For more information or questions on stories in this publication please call Shirley Marchi, Community Relations Liaison, at 614. 438.1477.

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**RSC’s Facebook website:**

[**https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ohio-Rehabilitation-Services-Commission/155300754532533?sk=wall**](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ohio-Rehabilitation-Services-Commission/155300754532533?sk=wall)

**RSC’s YouTube website:**

[**https://www.youtube.com/user/OhioRSCTV**](https://www.youtube.com/user/OhioRSCTV)

**RSC’s Twitter website:**

[**https://twitter.com/#!/OHRSC/**](https://twitter.com/#!/OHRSC/)