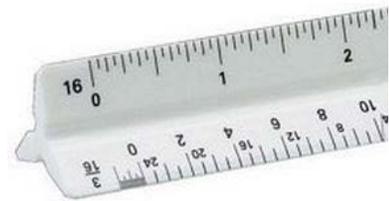


New England Center

May, 2014

Introductory Architecture Plan Reading Workshop - May 21 in Concord, New Hampshire

Architectural designer Meghan Dufresne, LEED AP from the New England ADA Center will give a 3-hour introductory workshop on reading architectural floor plans and understanding accessibility issues.



The workshop, co-sponsored by the New Hampshire Governor's Commission on Disability and the New England ADA Center, will train people to understand, interpret, and measure sets of architectural drawings, and determine primary accessibility issues according to the Americans with Disabilities Act and state laws.

This event is free and open to the public. The target audience is individuals with disabilities, family members, area agency advocates, city officials, legal officials, builders, and contractors.

Where: New Hampshire Governor's Commission on Disability 121 South Fruit Street, Room 116 Concord, NH 03301

When: May 21, 1:00pm-4:00pm

[Learn more and register for the workshop by 5/15/14](#) or contact Meghan Dufresne at [617-695-1225](tel:617-695-1225), x230, mdufresne@ihcdesign.org

Call for Poets with Disabilities for Poetry Slam

In celebration of the 24th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), we are thrilled to seek poets with disabilities to participate in a Poetry Slam. We seek poets who can captivate, connect, and energize an audience. Good presentation skills a must!

The call is open to poets of all ages living in New England who have a disability. All works must be original creations by the poet.

The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2014.

The Poetry Slam will take place in Boston on July 23rd from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Institute for Human Centered Design at 200 Portland Street, Boston.

[Learn more about the poetry slam and download the application](#) or contact David West, New England ADA Center, at dwest@IHCDesign.org by June 1, 2014.

Photo: Live Statue of poetry, 1911, Jan Vitezslav Dusek, sculptor.



New England AHEAD Spring Conference in Worcester, Massachusetts, June 3

Register for the New England Association of Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) spring conference which is taking place on Tuesday, June 3rd from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Worcester State University in Worcester, Massachusetts. This conference is specifically designed for Disability Services/Accessibility Professionals, Faculty, and Technology Services Professionals.



New England AHEAD would like to see accessibility and universal design become the foundation of all online learning materials. The New England ADA Center will be exhibiting at this conference. [Join us by registering for the conference!](#)

Submit Nominations for the New Hampshire Governor's Commission on Disability Awards by June 16

The New Hampshire Governor's Accessibility Awards is a yearly event that recognizes outstanding accomplishments and leadership within a business, organization or by an individual that supports independence, inclusive, accessible environments and services for individuals with disabilities. The awards will be given out by the Governor near the anniversary of the date the ADA was signed into law at the end of July 2014.



Contact Joyce Lanier, Governor's Commission on Disability, at [603 271-4174](tel:6032714174) or joyce.lanier@nh.gov for more information about award criteria, and [view a nominating form](#). **The deadline for nomination submissions is June 16, 2014.**

Maine Legislature Establishes Commission on Independent Living and Disability

The Maine legislature succeeded in passing a Joint Study Order establishing the Commission on Independent Living and Disability. Commission members will meet with members of the disability community from across the state of Maine with the goal of evaluating the current situation and gauging the ongoing needs and goals of those who are part of the independent living movement.

[Visit this bill's page on the Maine Legislature Website.](#)



Maine Public Broadcasting Reviews the Fair Housing Act and Applicable State Laws

Maine Public Broadcasting Network (MPBN) aired an informative radio show reviewing the Fair Housing Act and applicable state laws in the state of Maine.



What do renters and landlords need to know? Learn about fair housing laws,

your rights as a renter, and what reasonable accommodations landlords are sometimes required to make. Also hear a discussion of fair housing issues affecting veterans and people with disabilities.

[Listen to the broadcast online.](#)

Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Disabilities Title II Case Study

The Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Disabilities (GCD) offers this brief case study detailing how it responded to a request for an individual with a hearing impairment.

[Read more about the actions proposed by the GCD, and the result of the GCD's recommendations.](#)



IHCD's Inclusive Education Team Returns from Providing a Week of Trainings in Moscow

The Institute for Human Centered Design's (IHCD's) inclusive education team has just returned from five days of visiting schools and holding trainings on best practices for inclusive education in Russia.



While in Moscow, the team made up of Willa Crolus, Director of IHCD's User/Expert lab & Coordinator of Public Programs, Lise Capet, Inclusive Product and Technology Designer and Stacy Hart, ADA Trainer and Information Outreach Specialist visited two schools, hosted three video conferences, held two days of trainings for teachers and specialists in schools, presented at Moscow's Pedagogical University, and met with many students and parents of students with disabilities. This trip was funded as part of a grant awarded to IHCD by the U.S. State Department.

Photo: Front row, second, third and fourth from left, IHCD's Lise Capet, Willa Crolus and Stacy Hart.

Job Posting: Director of Disability Services at Southern New Hampshire University

Southern New Hampshire University is currently seeking a Director of Disability Service for the College of Online and Continuing Education division.



[Read more and apply for the position.](#)

National News

National Park Service Invites Public Comment on Rule to Revise Regulations Governing Service Animals in National Parks

The National Park Service (NPS) invites public comment on a proposed rule to revise regulations governing service animals in national parks.

The proposed rule would define a service animal as a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for persons with disabilities. The work or tasks a service animal is trained to perform must be directly related to the person's disability. Other species of animals would not be considered service animals, but park superintendents would have the authority to allow the use of miniature horses by individuals with disabilities when appropriate.



[Read the full press release.](#) The NPS will accept public comment on proposed rule 36 Code of Federal Regulations § 2.15 through June 17, 2014, at: <http://www.regulations.gov>

HUD Awards \$29 Million in Housing Grants to Help Low-Income People Living with HIV/AIDS

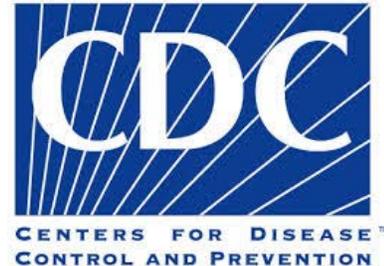
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced \$29 million in grants to assist more than 1,200 extremely low-income persons and families living with HIV/AIDS annually. This funding will provide these households with a stable living environment, which is essential to accessing healthcare and HIV related services. In addition to housing assistance, these local programs will provide access to the needed supportive services such as life skills, job readiness services and employment training.



[Read the full press release.](#)

CDC Study Finds People with Disabilities Don't Get Enough Exercise

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study has found that adults with disabilities are less active and have higher rates of chronic disease than the general population. Given the health benefits of physical activity, understanding physical activity, its relationship with chronic disease, and health professional recommendations for physical activity among young to middle-age adults with disabilities could help increase the effectiveness of health promotion efforts.



[Read more about the study.](#)

Bill Would Help Parents of Disabled Children Save for the Future

The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, or ABLE Act, would allow tax-free savings accounts, similar to programs that help families save for higher education, to pay for special need services.

"The momentum for the ABLE Act continues to grow. We can pass this bill and pass it this year," Senator Casey said. "I've personally spoken to President Obama and leaders in the House and Senate about this legislation. I'm confident we're going to provide these families a way to help their children have a better future."



[Read a New York Times Editorial urging passage of the ABLE Act.](#)

Gallaudet University & Office of Personnel Management Expand Career Opportunities for Federal, State, Local and Nonprofit Employees Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Gallaudet University and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) are partnering to promote educational development and career advancement opportunities for federal employees who are deaf or hard of hearing and enrolled in the university's Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program.



The MPA program is designed for professionals who work in local, state, or federal government agencies, or nonprofit organizations.

[Read the full story.](#)

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The New England ADA Center is a member of the ADA National Network funded by US Department of Education through National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation and Research Grant # H133A110028.

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