Exploring Academic Support Services

Welcome to the Disability Resource Center (DRC)! We have been serving individuals with disabilities here at Norco College for over 18 years!

The Disability Resource Center, formerly known as the Disabled Student Programs & Services, was born of the DSP&S program in 1961. RCCD, nationally recognized for innovative practices in meeting the academic and career training needs of the community, became the first public post-secondary institution in the country to begin a program of support services specifically for students with disabilities. DPS&S programs provided services to only twelve students with disabilities that first year. In 2011, the colleges serve approximately 2,000 student district wide, quite an increase!

The DRC/DSP&S programs offer comprehensive support services and accommodations thru its independent offices at all three colleges within our district; Moreno Valley College, Norco College, and Riverside City College. Additionally, the very latest in adaptive computer technology is available to our students. Please feel free to email us, give us a call or better yet drop by our offices, meet the staff and take a tour!

Ask Dr. Joe

Ask Dr. Joe will be a recurring column in which our counselor, Dr. Joe Reynolds, will field questions and concerns about students, faculty and the college experience as it relates to ADA, advocacy, and disabilities in education. Please submit your letters or comments you would like to see addressed to Leona.Crawford@norcocollege.edu

Professional Development

The DRC is NOT just for students; we are as much of a resource for faculty and staff as we are for students. DRC staff conduct workshops and consultations to all areas of Norco College.

If you would like further information or would like to request a presentation for your dept. or committee, please don’t hesitate to contact our offices! We are happy to tailor a presentation to suit your needs.
Meet the Staff

Members of Team DRC!

When not in the office, he can be found plotting his next trip to somewhere in the world or hiking a trail of the local mountains.

Dr. Koji Uesugi
Assoc. Dean of Special Funded Programs

Dr. Koji Uesugi oversees the DRC, EOPS/CARE, and Career, Transfer & Job Placement Center at Norco College. He has over 15 years of experience in education, which includes teaching in K-12 and administration in two-year and four-year colleges. He grew up Covina, CA before leaving for UC Davis, where he earned his B.A. in English. Upon completing two years of teaching English in Japan, he returned to the states and went onto complete his M.A. in American Studies at CSU Fullerton, M.A. in Education at Claremont University, and Ed.D. at UCLA. When he is not on campus, Koji spends his time with his wife and two daughters. No dogs in the family yet, but maybe someday.

Mr. Keith Coleman
DRC Specialist

Mr. Keith Coleman is the current DRC Specialist and has been with the DRC/DSP&S Programs in various capacities for 6 years. He also has prior experience serving students in the Admissions & Records Department here at Norco College, and currently holds a B.S. in Business from the University of Redlands.

Ms. Leona Crawford
Support Service Specialist

Ms. Leona Crawford is the Support Services Specialist for the DRC and has been with the programs for 7 years. She is currently working on her B.A. in Business Management at the University Of Redlands School Of Business and will immediately begin her M.A. in Educational Counseling with PPI Credential also at the U of R School of Education. When not working in the center, she can be found in the garden, reading a favorite book or relaxing with her family.

Dr. Joe Reynolds, CRC
DRC Counselor/LD Specialist

Dr. Joe Reynolds is the current DRC Counselor and Learning Disabilities Specialist here at Norco College. He is originally from Florida. He completed his Bachelor’s degree from Florida State University in 1984 and went to work in the areas of social work and mental health. After receiving his Masters degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Doctorate in Special Education from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fl, he has worked with students with disabilities exclusively at the community college level for over 16 years.

Technology

To accommodate the variety of educational limitations experienced by students who are served by the DRC, Norco College has acquired adaptive technology which includes:

- Scan & Read Technology
- Screen Magnification Software
- CCTV’s
- Ergonomic & Alternate keyboards
- Visual Idea-mapping software
- Screen readers
- Voice Recognition
- Large Monitors
- Talking Dictionaries
- Math/Tutorial/CAD software
- And much more....

The students are:

*The most important people on our campuses, Without them there would be no need for us.*

Not a cold enrollment statistic but flesh and blood human beings with emotions and needs for guidance.

*Not individuals to be tolerated as we go about our business...They are our business.*

*Not totally dependent on us—but our jobs are totally dependent on them.*

*Not an interruption of our work, but rather, the purpose of it.*

~Anonymous
What faculty & staff really need to know

Ask before you help
Just because someone has a disability, don’t assume she needs help.” If the setting is accessible, people with disabilities can usually get around fine. Adults with disabilities want to be treated as independent people. Offer assistance only if the person appears to need it. And if she does want help, ask how before you act.

Be sensitive about physical contact
Some people with disabilities depend on their arms for balance. Grabbing them—even if your intention is to assist—could knock them off balance. Avoid patting a person on the head or touching his wheelchair, scooter or cane. People with disabilities consider their equipment part of their personal space.

Think before you speak
Always speak directly to the person with a disability, not to his companion, aide or sign language interpreter. Making small talk with a person who has a disability is great; just talk to him as you would with anyone else. Respect his privacy. If you ask about his disability, he may feel like you are treating him as a disability, not as a human being. (However, many people with disabilities are comfortable with children’s natural curiosity and do not mind if a child asks them questions.)

Don’t make assumptions
People with disabilities are the best judge of what they can or cannot do. Don’t make decisions for them about participating in any activity. Depending on the situation, it could be a violation of the ADA to exclude people because of a presumption about their limitation.

Respond graciously to requests
When people who have a disability ask for an accommodation at your business, it is not a complaint. It shows they feel comfortable enough in your establishment to ask for what they need. And if they get a positive response, they will probably come back again and tell their friends about the good service they received.

With any disability, avoid negative, disempowering words, like “victim” or “sufferer.” Say “person with AIDS” instead of “AIDS victim” or “person who suffers from AIDS.” It’s okay to use idiomatic expressions when talking to people with disabilities. For example, saying, “It was good to see you,” and “See you later,” to a person who is blind is completely acceptable; they use these expressions themselves all the time!

Many People who are Deaf communicate with sign language and consider themselves to be members of a cultural and linguistic minority group. They refer to themselves as Deaf with a capital “D,” and may be offended by the term “hearing impaired.” Others may not object to the term, but in general it is safest to refer to people who have hearing loss but who communicate in spoken language as “hard of hearing” and to people with profound hearing losses as Deaf or deaf.

*Full publication is available online at www.unitedspinal.org

Disability Spotlight

Psychiatric Disabilities
(Mental Illness)

People with psychiatric disabilities may at times have difficulty coping with the tasks and interactions of daily life. Their disorder may interfere with their ability to feel, think or relate to others. Most people with psychiatric disabilities are not violent. One of the main obstacles they face is the attitudes that people have about them. Because it is a hidden disability, chances are you will not even realize that the person has a mental health condition.

Stress can affect the person’s ability to function. Try to keep the pressure of the situation to a minimum.

People who have psychiatric disabilities have varying personalities and different ways of coping with their disability. Some may have trouble picking up on social cues; others may be supersensitive. One person may be very high energy, while someone else may appear sluggish. Treat each person as an individual. Ask what will make him most comfortable and respect his needs to the maximum extent possible.

In a crisis, stay calm and be supportive as you would with anyone. Ask how you can help, and find out if there is a support person who can be sent for. If appropriate, you might ask if the person has medication that he needs to take.

http://www.unitedspinal.org/disability-etiquette/
News & Upcoming Events

Priority Registration goes online!

For Summer 2011, DRC will pilot Priority Registration via Web Advisor. Once students have been cleared for registration, they will be able to perform registration online.

DisAbility Resource Center Program Email

All members of the college community may now reach the program via email with our new email address: DRC@norcocollege.edu.

RCCD Co-Hosts CAPED

The Region IX CAPED 2011 Convention “Connecting the DOTS” is scheduled for October 16 – 19, 2011 at the Marriott Hotel in Riverside.
For more Information go to: http://www.caped.net/convention/index.html

DRC Counseling

Meet with your DRC Counselor!

Please be advised that DRC counseling services will not be available in the month of July. Therefore, we urge students to schedule counseling appointments with our office between now and June 30, 2011.

Future Features

Now that introductions are out of the way, future issues of the DRC Quarterly will contain various spotlights and content such as:
- Faculty/Student/Staff Heroes
- Celebrities with Disabilities
- Common Misconceptions
- Recognition Awards
- Disability Resource Center
  - Center for Student Success
  - Second Floor Suite 205
  - Norco College
  - 2001 Third Street
  - Norco, Ca 92860
  - General Info 951-372-7070
  - VRD/TDD 951-372-7010

Myths and Facts about People with Disabilities

Everybody’s fighting some kind of stereotype, and people with disabilities are no exception. The difference is that barriers people with disabilities face begin with people’s attitudes — attitudes often rooted in misinformation and misunderstandings about what it’s like to live with a disability.

Myth 1: People with disabilities are brave and courageous.
Fact: Adjusting to a disability requires adapting to a lifestyle, not bravery and courage.

Myth 2: All persons who use wheelchairs are chronically ill or sickly.
Fact: The association between wheelchair use and illness may have evolved through hospitals using wheelchairs to transport sick people. A person may use a wheelchair for a variety of reasons, none of which may have anything to do with lingering illness.

Myth 3: Wheelchair use is confining; people who use wheelchairs are “wheelchair-bound.”
Fact: A wheelchair, like a bicycle or an automobile, is a personal assistive device that enables someone to get around and become more independent.

Myth 4: All persons with hearing disabilities can read lips.
Fact: Lip-reading skills vary among people who use them and are never entirely reliable.

Myth 5: People who are blind acquire a “sixth sense.”
Fact: Although most people who are blind develop their remaining senses more fully, they do not have a “sixth sense.”

Myth 6: People with disabilities are more comfortable with “their own kind.”
Fact: In the past, grouping people with disabilities in separate schools and institutions reinforced this misconception.

Today, many people with disabilities take advantage of new opportunities to join mainstream society.

You can read more about these common misconceptions at:
http://www.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ntl_myths_facts