A Wonderful Visit

There are defining moments in our lives that can shape or even transform who we are and what we aspire to become. May 25, 2011 was such a day for the students of Norco College, where we were blessed with a visit by musical legend, Mr. Stevie Wonder. An opportunity to spend the afternoon with an iconic figure whose music and humanitarian efforts transcend every boundary imaginable was truly amazing.

A select group of EOPS students were chosen to share the stage with Stevie Wonder to participate in what was billed “A Conversation with Stevie Wonder: Overcoming Challenges to Achieve the Dream.” In addition to sharing his message of hope, overcoming obstacles, leaning on God, and following one’s passion, he listened to the personal stories of our students. At the conclusion of the dialogue session, Stevie Wonder graciously performed a medley of his famous hits to a roaring crowd in the college theater.

“I will forever hold on to the words of inspiration that you so kindly shared with us and your life’s testimony...It was truly an unforgettable experience that I will proudly be able to share with many others in order to inspire them the same way I was.”

This amazing day was made possible by the partnership between Inspire Everyone Media Group and EOPS to raise awareness of the extraordinary things that people can accomplish if they discover the inspiration and purpose to do so.

Koji M. Uesugi, Ed.D.
Myths and Facts about People with Disabilities

Myth 7: Non-disabled people are obligated to "take care of" people with disabilities.  
Fact: Anyone may offer assistance, but most people with disabilities prefer to be responsible for themselves.

Myth 8: Curious children should never ask people about their disabilities.  
Fact: Many children have a natural, uninhibited curiosity and may ask questions that some adults consider embarrassing. But scolding curious children may make them think having a disability is "wrong" or "bad." Most people with disabilities won't mind answering a child's question.

Myth 9: The lives of people with disabilities are totally different than the lives of people without disabilities.  
Fact: People with disabilities go to school, get married, work, have families, do laundry, grocery shop, laugh, cry, pay taxes, get angry, have prejudices, vote, plan and dream like everyone else.

Myth 10: It is all right for people without disabilities to park in accessible parking spaces, if only for a few minutes.  
Fact: Because accessible parking spaces are designed and situated to meet the needs of people who have disabilities, these spaces should only be used by people who need them.

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

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
Everyday Heroes

Technology is her specialty

Dinah Minkler is an Adaptive Technology Specialist employed at the DSP&S offices at Riverside City College. She began her career in 1993 as a clerk for a 3 year Deaf and Hard of Hearing Grant. She acted in an interpreting and clerical capacity as well as a liaison with the other colleges. Dinah is a CODA (child of a deaf adult) and interpreting has been a part of her life since she was very young.

When the grant ended, she transferred to Tutorial Services at Riverside City College. She worked in that capacity for 16 months and returned to DSPS through a Workability III grant where she worked as a clerk for about 2 years. As the DSP&S Program grew, the need for an Accommodations Specialist became apparent and she was hired into that position. She provided and coordinated accommodations for approximately 850 students district wide, including classroom accommodation as well as tracking equipment use. In 2009, she moved into the position of Adaptive Technology Specialist, providing training to students who qualify for adaptive software use. She works at all three colleges within the district and we are especially lucky to have her!

Dinah spends one day per week here with us at Norco College where she uses our High Tech Center to train students in the appropriate software for their documented disability. If you are interested in Adaptive Technology as a career or resource and would like more information, you may find her here in the Disability Resource Center on Thursdays.

Disability Spotlight

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors. They include autistic disorder, Rett syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, pervasive developmental disorder—not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) and Asperger Syndrome. ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances. Some persons with ASD excel in visual skills, music, math and art.

Some challenges that face students with ASD are:

- Social Understanding
- Executive Functioning
- Sensory Integration
- Cognitive Rigidity
- Self-acceptance/Self-advocacy/Self-disclosure
- Emotional Regulation
- Grandiosity/Know-it-all-ism
- Difficulty with Transitions
- Life Skills/Hygiene/Wellness
- Poor Sense of Direction

You can learn more about this topic at:
http://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism

~Student Stars~

“I don’t need “easy” I only need “possible.”

**Name:** Andrew Stockle  **Age:** 25  **SoCal Native**  **Career Goal:** Teach math in K-12

**Educational Goal:** Transfer to Cal State San Bernardino

**Sports Affiliation:** Played basketball with the Rolling Bears

**Hobbies:** Movies, basketball (Lakers fan), football (49ers fan)

**Toughest challenge:** Vision "It effects everything, I’ve learned to cope very well in spite of it."

**Great accomplishment so far:** “I never envisioned going to college, yet here I am, preparing for graduation in Norco College’s 2012 class in June with my AA in philosophy and language arts.”

**Disability:** Visual and mobility limitations

Andrew working with his in class note taker, Alejandro Arreola.
Did you know.....

That during the Fall 2011 semester DRC:

◊ Administered 482 tests
◊ Prepared for 157 e-book requests
◊ Coordinated 5886 hours of note taking assistance
◊ Performed 33 high tech center trainings & special orientations
◊ Fulfilled 33 requests for adaptive furniture
◊ Norco DRC continues to serve 500+ students

Upcoming Events

DRC Brown Bag Series

During Spring 2012 session, the DRC will host a series of brown bag chats held at the college hour that will cover topic such as Disability Etiquette, Adaptive Technology, Diversity Equity & Compliance, SWD & the impact on Faculty. The chats will be held at the college hour and locations will be announced.

DRC gets a senior interpreter

Mr. David DiLeo will now be working at the DRC on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week to handle all of the interpreting and real time captioning requests for Norco College DRC students. Stop by and say hello to David next time you are in the building.

Priority Registration for DRC moves Online!

Students may now use Web Advisor for their Priority Registration. Students must visit the DRC office in advance to be cleared prior to the published registration dates. Contact the center

Disability Resource Center

Please submit your questions or comments to the editor:

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