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SSD Newsletter (Fall 2018)

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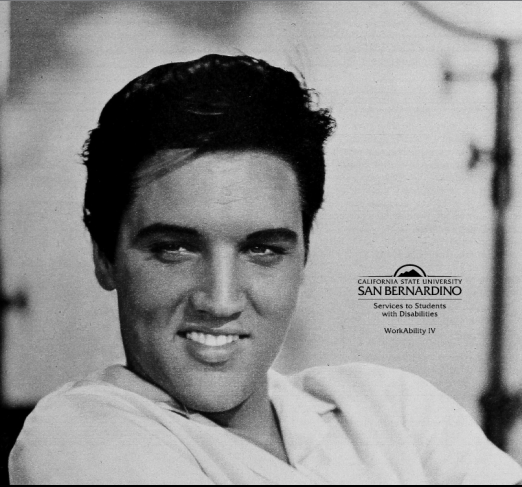
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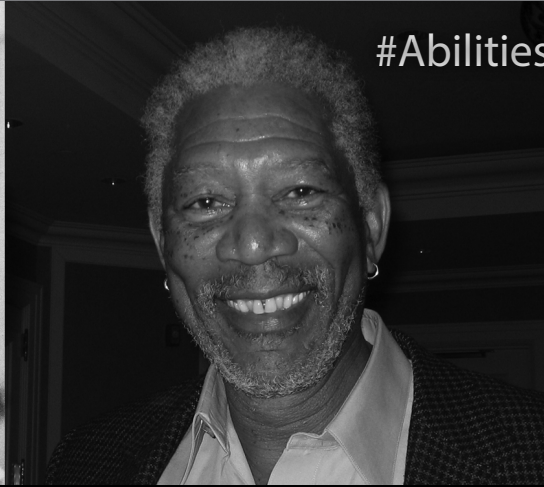
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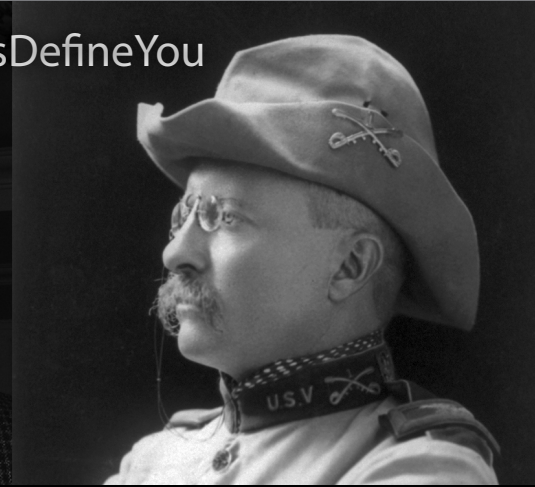
Elvis Presley
Actor
Singer
U.S. Army Veteran

Workability IV



Morgan Freeman
Actor
Golden Globe & Academy Award Recipient
U.S. Air Force Veteran

PDC SSD



Theodore Roosevelt
26th President
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army Veteran, Rough Rider



SSD and WA-IV salute our nation's service members and veterans.

WE DEFINE THE *Future*

Barstow College's Accessibility Coordination Center Visits SSD



Barstow Community College's staff and students and SSD's Christeena Johnston

On October 2, SSD hosted the Barstow Community College's Accessibility Coordination Center and Educational Support Services Office. Ten students and staff members including Director Christina Calderon participated in the event. The goal of SSD's outreach program is to raise awareness of the services and options available at California State University, San Bernardino for students with disabilities who are seeking to continue their education beyond community college. Daniel Carr, SSD Advisory Board member, emceed the event. The program included a SSD and WorkAbility IV services presentation, a student panel, and a campus tour.

SmartPens for PDC

SSD is excited to announce that it received funding through a Vital and Expanded Technologies Initiative (VETI) grant to purchase 20 SmartPens for our Palm Desert Campus office. Marci Daniels, director of Services to Students with Disabilities, remarked, "The addition of these SmartPens will greatly benefit our PDC students and alleviate wait lists as overall SSD has experienced a 40% increase in requests for SmartPens and the number of students requesting SmartPens increased by 24% over the previous year." The SmartPen is such an effective tool that it eliminates the need for a peer note-taker. Students registered with either SSD can check out the SmartPen free of charge. For more information about the PDC SmartPen program, please contact Rosie Garza at 909-537-8117 or email her at rgarza@csusb.edu.

SSD and WorkAbility IV Present at a Statewide Conference



Elizabeth Perez, WA-IV, presents at the CAPED convention


On, October 21, Marci Daniels, director of SSD and WorkAbility IV (WA-IV), Elizabeth Perez, WA-IV program administrative coordinator, and Agustin Ramirez, director, Veterans Success Center (VSC), presented, "Exploring Vocational Mentorship: A Method to Improve Graduation Rates Among Disenfranchised Students" at the California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED) 2018 Annual Convention. The session explored WA-IV's and the VSC's vocational mentorship programs constructed to improve graduation rates by fostering a sense of belonging to professional networks for two historically disenfranchised student populations – those with disabilities and veterans. Participants learned how to build congenial relationships between faculty, students, and professionals focused on vocational preparation and intellectual skills development and how mentorship can counteract discrimination. The participants gave the speakers a round of applause and said it was an excellent presentation.

Now Recruiting Mentees for the New Coyote Career Network

The Coyote Career Network (CCN), a new mentorship program offered through WA-IV, connects students with disabilities with CSUSB faculty, staff, and professionals with disabilities who have agreed to serve as mentors. Students meet with their mentors once per month to learn about the career roadmaps that their mentors, who are working in their major or desired career field, followed to obtain their positions. Mentors also provide education and career advice and professional activities such as reviewing resumes and cover letters. Mentoring takes place through a variety of mechanisms: Zoom, face-to-face, and by telephone. WA-IV staff are in the process of recruiting 25 students to participate in the CCN Mentorship Program. If you are interested in being part of this exciting opportunity, connect with Susan Trapp at Susan.Trapp@csusb.edu.

Coyote Career Network

Reach for success by networking with someone who can help you navigate achievement within your chosen profession.



70%
of fortune 500 companies
use mentoring programs
because they work

WA-IV's new Coyote Career Network

Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities



Christina Rodriguez, Water Resource Institute, presents at WRP and Internship Workshop

The Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities (WRP), coordinated by the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and the U.S. Department of Defense, is a recruitment and referral program that connects federal and private sector employers with highly motivated college students, graduate students, and recent graduates with disabilities who are eager to showcase their abilities in the workplace through summer or permanent jobs. WA-IV staff coordinates and helps prepare students for this exciting opportunity. During fall quarter, 40 students completed their applications, participated in mock interviews, and completed an interview with a federal recruiter for a possible internship/job. On October 17, WA-IV facilitated

a workshop on WRP and Internship Preparation, where 16 students learned how to seek, prepare, and secure internships including WRP, the Water Resource Institute (WRI), HACU, CSUSB department internships, and other internships in the community.

Spotlight

Aidee Avila-Lambaren

Through the WorkAbility IV program, Aidee Avila-Lambaren successfully interviewed with the Workforce Recruitment program. Avila-Lambaren describes her experience: “In fall of 2017, I was interviewed by a federal recruiter, and a couple of months later I received an offer to intern for the Navy Northwest Public Affairs Office in Silverdale, Washington. This was my first time ever relocating for a job position, and with a lot of angst and some fear, I took a leap of faith and moved. I began my internship in September 2018 and it is expected to end in March 2019. I hope that this position turns into a permanent job for me, but if it does not, I am still very grateful for the opportunity that has been presented to me. I am glad I had this opportunity through the WorkAbility IV program at CSUSB, and recommend other students to take advantage of opportunities provided by the career departments on campus; you never know where you could go, or the experiences that you will obtain.”

Aidee Avila-Lambaren
Student Intern, Public Affairs
Navy Region Northwest

Cristina Sanchez



Cristina Sanchez and her dog Rogue

Cristina Sanchez recently joined our staff as an American Sign Language interpreter. Ms. Sanchez is a graduate of California State University, Northridge where she earned a bachelor's degree in deaf studies with a concentration in American Sign Language interpreter education in 2015. Sanchez said, "I love what I do and it makes me very passionate about my work. I also enjoy martial arts, line dancing and hiking with my dog. I am the very proud dog mom of a 90-pound Doberman; who thinks she is a 10-pound lap dog. I am honored to be joining the CSUSB team and looking forward to working with all of

you! GO COYOTES!" Ms. Sanchez's expertise and passion will be a great asset to our deaf and hard-of-hearing community at CSUSB.

Karmela Yahyakashani



Karmela Yahyakashani
SSD's Physical and Visual Disabilities Specialist

Karmela Yahyakashani began her career as the physical and visual disabilities specialist with the SSD office at CSUSB in September 2018. Karmela developed a strong sense of devotion to helping individuals with disabilities after reading Helen Keller's autobiography at a young age. After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in communicative disorders from CSULA, she gained in-depth experience working as both a speech language pathologist and audiologist assistant, in various clinical settings. Karmela's passion and desire to help others naturally gravitated her towards her graduate program at CSULA, where she obtained a Master of Arts in special education with a credential in Clinical Rehabilitative Services, Visual Impairment and Blindness: Orientation and Mobility Specialist. Prior to

her employment at CSUSB, Karmela worked as a visual impairment and blindness specialist for the VA Hospital Blind Rehabilitation Center, as well as in both San Bernardino County and Riverside County Unified School Districts. One of Yahyakashani's strongest beliefs is that anyone, regardless of their disability, is capable of increasing their quality of life, level of independence, and personal and/or academic goals, given they have equal opportunity. Karmela hopes to bring her passion, awareness, and insight to current and future students, faculty, and staff at CSUSB.

Gloria Hunter Provides Much Needed Services during the Holy Fire

SSD's very own Gloria Hunter, staff interpreter I, provided critical American Sign Language interpreting services to community members at the Evacuation Center in Lake Elsinore during the recent "Holy Fire." Because of her experience, Hunter gained tremendous respect for the Red Cross. "From the first day of the fire when there were hundreds of evacuees at the center to the last day when there were only three, the Red Cross volunteers gave 100% effort providing the same outstanding support and services throughout the emergency. The evacuees were grateful for their dedication and effort," stated Hunter. SSD is proud to have such a dedicated staff member on its team.