The *Disability Download* is a compilation of disability-related news, special announcements, events, and updates from the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD).

Sign up for the *Disability Download* here.

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Happy Holidays!

AAPD Disability Download

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**December 15, 2017**

**AAPD Initiatives**

**Today’s Interns Determine Tomorrow’s Outcomes**
AAPD’s Summer Internship Program develops the next generation of disability rights leaders. Please consider making an end of year tax-deductible contribution to support the next generation of disability rights leaders.

**Welcome Carrie Wade, AAPD Programs Manager**
AAPD is excited to announce that Carrie Wade will be joining the staff as the Programs Manager. She will coordinate and implement all of AAPD’s national programs, including the Summer Internship Program, REV UP Campaign, Disability Mentoring Day, AAPD Paul G. Hearne Leadership Awards, Disability
Rights Storytellers Fellowship, and NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship. Carrie’s first day is in mid-January 2018.

**2018 AAPD Leadership Awards Gala**  
*March 13, 2018 | Washington, DC*

The AAPD Leadership Awards Gala provides a unique opportunity for AAPD’s partners, supporters, and colleagues to show their support of disability rights and inclusion for all Americans with disabilities, while bringing together the disability community with business and government leaders for one night each year. **Early Bird tickets are on sale now until January 15, 2018.**

**The Benefits of the Disability Equality Index**

Twenty-seven years after the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, unemployment rates for people with a disability remain higher than the general population. Helena Berger, President and CEO of AAPD, joins Comcast Newsmakers to discuss the benefits of the Disability Equality Index (DEI), a benchmarking tool that helps organizations assess where they stand on the spectrum of disability inclusion.

**Registration for the 2018 Disability Equality Index is Now Open!**

The Disability Equality Index (DEI) is a unique, joint initiative of AAPD and the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN). It serves as the nation’s most trusted annual benchmarking tool allowing America’s leading corporations to self-report their disability inclusion policies and practices. This evolving index objectively scores each corporation on a scale from 0 to 100 — 100 representing the most inclusive. **Eligible companies can register to participate in the 2018 DEI now through January 12, 2017.**

**2017 AAPD Paul G. Hearne Leadership Award Recipient Honors Congressman Steny Hoyer and Awards College Scholarships to**
Disabled Youth
Project ASCEND, a college scholarship program and youth civic engagement nonprofit, announces the class of 2017 Project ASCEND Scholars. With the financial assistance of the AAPD Paul G. Hearne Leadership Award, this scholarship initiative provides five $1,000 college scholarships to disabled students living in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Project ASCEND founder, Ola Ojewumi, is a recipient of the 2017 AAPD Paul G. Hearne Leadership Award.

Establish or Join the REV UP Disability Voting Coalition in your State
The purpose of REV UP State Disability Voting Coalitions is to influence election and policy outcomes at the local, state, and national level. We have Coalitions established and developing in 21 states and are working to expand to more! We are looking for leaders who can pull together and organize advocates in their state to work together around voter registration and engagement activities and help establish a strong, diverse Coalition. The 2018 mid-term elections are less than a year away - contact us if you are interested in getting involved.

Support AAPD through the Combined Federal Campaign
CFC #11551
The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is a workplace giving program that provides federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

Get Involved

Rising Leaders Mentoring Program
The Rising Leaders Mentoring Program is a six-month career mentoring opportunity that connects college students and recent graduates with
disabilities to business professionals from US Business Leadership Network (USBLN) partner companies. The deadline to apply is December 18, 2017.

**January nTIDE Lunch & Learn Webinar**

*January 5, 2018 / 12pm ET*

On the first Friday of every month, corresponding with the Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs report, the National Trends in Disability Employment (or nTIDE) Lunch & Learn series will offer a live broadcast to share the results of the latest nTIDE findings as well as news and updates from the field of disability employment.

**ACLU Summer Advocacy Institute**

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Summer Advocacy Institute will bring together a diverse group of students entering their junior and senior years of high school from across the United States to participate in an advanced, first-hand learning experience for the next generation of social justice advocates. Applications are due by January 19, 2018.

**The Mobility Unlimited Challenge**

The Mobility Unlimited Challenge, sponsored by the Toyota Mobility Foundation, in partnership with Nesta’s Challenge Prize Centre, is seeking teams from around the world to create game-changing technology that will help radically improve the mobility and independence of people with paralysis. The deadline to apply for the first round of awards is February 7, 2018.

**Annual Disability Statistics Compendium Release**

*February 13, 2017 | Washington, DC or Online*

Join the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics (StatsRRTC) for the release of the 2017 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium. Participants are invited to join the event either in-
person or online. The Compendium release briefing will include a briefing and overview of the new Compendium, a data panel discussion, as well as several invited speakers.

**AUCD Leadership Academy**
The AUCD Leadership Academy is a week-long program designed to enhance the skills of current and emerging leaders from the disability network to build coalitions to improve systems of supports and services. **The application deadline is March 2, 2018.**

**Survey: Measuring Quality of Life in People with Disabilities: Implications for Mental Health Clinicians**
The University of Northern Colorado is seeking your help to improve the quality of mental health care available for individuals with disabilities. In this survey you will be asked questions about quality of life, disability identity, and current relationships in order to better inform clinical practices in mental health. There are no right or wrong answers in this survey. The survey will take approximately 15-20 minutes of your time. Please consider offering your experience to help improve mental health care for people with disabilities.

**Ride Share Accessibility Survey**
Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco is collecting information about the experiences of people with disabilities using Uber, Lyft, and other ride share services. The purpose of this data collection is to make ride share services more accessible for all.

**Survey of User Needs for Wireless Technologies**
The purpose of this survey is to learn how people with disabilities of all ages use wireless technology. The survey includes questions about cell phones, tablet computers, and newer technologies like smart watches and smart home
Assistance Animal Survey
The Southwest ADA Center is carrying out research into the use of service animals and other assistance animals by people with disabilities in public settings.

Disability Research Consortium Fellowships
Mathematica offers two Disability Research Consortium fellowship programs to graduate students - the summer fellowship program and the dissertation fellowship program.

Resources

Commitment to Digital Accessibility: Best Practices for Inclusive Technology
January 17, 2018 | 2pm-3:30pm ET
Digital accessibility is a civil right: the right to participate in all that is offered on websites, mobile applications, and through other technologies. Join one of the country’s leading disability rights lawyers for a lively presentation on digital accessibility basics.

Hamilton Relay College Scholarship
The Hamilton Relay Scholarship supports high school students who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or have difficulty speaking with a $500 college scholarship. The deadline to apply is March 1, 2018.

Priced Out
The Priced Out report, co-authored by the Technical Assistance
Collaborative and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force, documents the nationwide housing affordability crisis experienced by people with disabilities.

**Disability Language Style Guide**
The style guide - developed by the National Center on Disability and Journalism - is intended for journalists, communication professionals, and members of the general public who are seeking the appropriate and accurate language to use when writing or talking about people living with disabilities.

**Rural Matters: The Geography of Disability in Rural America**
The objective of this study, conducted by the Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities, is to depict the distribution and demographics of people with disabilities living in rural areas and the services available to them.

**Neglected for Too Long: Dental Care for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**
This short National Council on Disability (NCD) issue brief provides insights into the lack of dental care many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) continue to experience due to a shortage of properly trained dental care providers.

**Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) for Spinal Cord Injury (SCI), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Burn Injury**
The Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) summarizes research, identifies health information needs, and develops information resources to support the Model Systems programs in meeting the needs of individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and burn injury (Burn).
News and Op Eds

Removing Employment Barriers for People with Disabilities
"We must do more to remove barriers to employment, ensure competitive pay and offer support to businesses that hire and retain people with disabilities. I will continue to champion legislation that helps all Americans find good-paying jobs and achieve financial independence. It’s time we all work together to ensure people with disabilities have the support needed to succeed in the workforce and can enjoy a healthy retirement." - U.S. Senator Bob Casey (PA), Ranking Member Special Committee on Aging

597 days. And still waiting.
10,000 people died in the past year while stuck in a backlog of judges' disability cases.

Explaining Our Bodies, Finding Ourselves
"In July of 2016 Molly McCully Brown and Susannah Nevison met for the first time at the Sewanee Writers’ Conference in Tennessee. As working poets with physical disabilities, a condition each explores in her work, they found much in common and quickly became friends, and have grown closer over time. These essays make up a dialogue about being disabled in an able-bodied world that arose from their friendship."

Falling Off the Cliff
This four-part series reports on the crises many families face when children with disabilities grow to adulthood and “age out” of eligibility for many services and supports.
Airbnb and Advocacy Groups Working Together to Make Travel Easier for People With Disabilities

Airbnb, the California Council of the Blind (CCB) and the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFLIC) recently announced they will continue to work together to build on Airbnb’s ongoing work to make travel more accessible for people with disabilities.

TV Including More Characters With Disabilities

The number of characters with disabilities on prime-time television is at a record high, a new report finds, though the representations remain far short of reflecting real life.

Job Openings

If you are a nonprofit organization working in the disability rights and/or social justice space and have a job opening you would like shared in the Disability Download, please email communications@aapd.com. For additional job postings please visit the AAPD Career Center at jobs.aapd.com.

Alliance Center for Independence

Direct Support Professional

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Director of Public Policy

Atlanta Legal Aid Society

Disability Integration Project Staff Attorney

Campaign Legal Center
Communications Campaigns Manager

Center for Disability Rights, Inc.
Policy Analyst

Disability Law Center
Executive Director

Forefront
Director, Public Policy & Advocacy

National Employment Law Project
Director of the Work Equity Program

National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
Program Manager, Affiliate Relations & External Affairs

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