

focus facts on community living

CENTER FOR LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP
OKLAHOMA'S FEDERALLY DESIGNATED
UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (UCEDD)

January 2015

ABLE Act Signed Into Law

President Obama signed the ABLE Act into law on Friday, December 19. The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act creates tax-exempt savings accounts for people with disabilities and their families. The final version of the ABLE Act limits eligibility to individuals with significant disabilities, with an onset of disability before turning 26.

Much like existing 529 college savings plans, the ABLE Act will allow individuals and families of children with disabilities to save money for many disability-related expenses such as education, transportation, or employment without jeopardizing important health or income supports. Income earned by ABLE accounts will not be taxed; however, contributions to the accounts are not tax deductible. The amount of total annual contributions by all participating individuals, including family and friends, is limited to \$14,000. For more information, see [AUCD's press release](#) and the National Disability Institute's "[10 things to know about the ABLE Act.](#)"

Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum Accepting Applications

The Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is accepting applications for next year's camp, which will take place June 9-13, 2015. Sponsored by the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC), YLF offers leadership training to high school students with disabilities.



YLF participants are chosen through a competitive application process. All application forms are available at www.okddc.ok.gov or by calling ODDC at 405-521-4984 or 1-800-836-4470. You also may e-mail jenifer.randle@okdhs.org. The application is due by **March 1**. After the application deadline, applicants will be contacted by phone to arrange an interview.

[Click here](#) to see a video about YLF.

Expressions Gallery at 2015 Governor's Conference on Developmental Disabilities

The 4th Annual Expressions Gallery will be showcasing artwork by Oklahoma artists with disabilities at this year's Governor's Conference on Developmental Disabilities. The conference will take place on March 4-5 at the Embassy Suites in Norman. There is no age requirement. Artwork may include painting, drawing, sculpture, pottery, poetry, photography, and quilting (no performance art). Photos of the pieces and an entry form must be submitted to jenifer.randle@okddc.ok.gov by **January 30**. For more information and to get the entry form, visit our website at www.ouhsc.edu/thecenter. For more information about the conference, visit www.okgovconfdd.com.

Learn & Lead

Vision

All people with disabilities and their families are valued participants in community life.

Mission

Partners making a positive difference in the lives of people with disabilities and their families through learning and leadership.

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If you would like to submit information to be published in the newsletter, please e-mail or mail our Editor. Be sure to include the source, description, and contact information relevant to the information you are submitting.

Email:
Learn2Lead-UCEDD@ouhsc.edu

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OK-AHEAD Scholarship Opportunity

OK-AHEAD offers scholarship money to Oklahoma students with disabilities for post-secondary education. Scholarship applications must be postmarked on or before **March 1** for the subsequent academic year. Scholarships can be applied to any Oklahoma technology center, or any two-year or four-year college or university. Three \$500 scholarships are awarded annually. Please contact [Brenda Dawes](mailto:Brenda.Dawes@ouhsc.edu) at 1-888-885-5588 or visit <http://www.ok-ahead.org/scholar.html> for additional information and application.


MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Jan. 24-25:** Bodies, Boundaries, and Sexuality: Workshop for Parents, Individuals, and Professionals - Hosted by DSAT and Autism Center of Tulsa Marriot Tulsa Hotel Southern Hills - [Click here](#) to register.
- Feb. 7:** "Inclusion and Curriculum Modification to Meet Student Goals" Integris Baptist Medical Center, 3300 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City Visit www.dsaco.org/workshop/ to register.
- Feb. 18:** Joining Forces Annual Conference Moore Norman Technology Center, South Penn Campus 13301 S. Pennsylvania, Oklahoma City, OK Register at: 2015joiningforces.eventbrite.com
- March 4-5:** Governor's Conference on Developmental Disabilities Embassy Suites, Norman, OK Visit www.okgovconfdd.com for more information.
- March 10:** On the Road Family Perspective Conference Red River Technology Center, Duncan, OK Contact sally-selvidge@ouhsc.edu for more information.

Looking for more events?

Visit our website at www.ouhsc.edu/thecenter/newsandevents.

focus facts
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