

focus facts on community living

CENTER FOR LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

OKLAHOMA'S FEDERALLY DESIGNATED

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (UCEDD)

June 2015

Vyonda Martin Retires after 22 Years at the Center for Learning and Leadership



The Center for Learning and Leadership (CLL) greatly appreciates Associate Director, Vyonda Martin, for 22 years of service to people with developmental disabilities and their families in Oklahoma. During more than 40 years working in the developmental disabilities field, Vyonda played an integral part in bringing person-centered practices to Oklahoma. She guides people with an inclusive approach to leadership and teamwork that contributed to the success of the Family Support Partnership Council, the Keeping Families Together project, and now in the Supporting Families Community of Practice initiative. "Vyonda has always focused on supporting families and also on ensuring that communication between and among providers and agencies about the needs of families and people with disabilities are focused on the needs and respectful of the people being served," said CLL/UCEDD director, Dr. Valerie Williams. "She is dedicated to creating and facilitating positive practices and does not tolerate 'bashing' or speaking badly of anyone since that does nothing to address the situation at hand and alienates people from participating fully." We wish Vyonda well in her retirement and future work as a community volunteer.

Google Supports People with Disabilities

Google is launching a new initiative "The Google Impact Challenge: Disabilities." The company will donate \$20 million to organizations that use technology to improve the lives of people with disabilities. This initiative works to build awareness, identify solutions and help



increase access for the one billion people with disabilities in the world. Google is inviting people with disabilities and organizations that support them to submit ideas to the company on where the money could have the greatest impact for people with disabilities. Ideas for funding can be submitted to Google by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/pfop6fg>. The company will accept ideas until September 30, 2015 at 2:00 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time. Google has already committed support to the Enable Community Foundation, which connects people who need prosthetics with people who use 3D printers to create them at no cost. Google also plans to work with World Wide Hearing, which has developed an app to detect hearing loss using a smartphone. To learn more about the initiative and the groups Google will fund, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ou273sw>

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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.

focus facts is published for the Center for Learning and Leadership, Oklahoma's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). It is disseminated to a statewide and national network of people interested in developmental disabilities.

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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Oklahoma Self-Advocacy Network presentations accepted for the 2015 Southwest Disability Conference

Members of the Oklahoma Self-Advocacy Network (OKSAN) have been selected to present two sessions about the Self-Advocate Leadership Training (SALT) at the 2015 Southwest Disability Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 6th through October 9th. The first session, *Teach Us to Do It Ourselves: Development of Self-Advocate Leadership Training*, will focus on how self-advocates developed the SALT content and training approach. During the second session, *Leadership: Developing your Skills and Working with Others*, self-advocate trainers will lead an interactive discussion on important leadership traits.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- June 19:** Free Autism Screening, 11 a.m.
Easter Seals, 701 N.E. 13th Street Oklahoma City, OK 73104
For more information, call (405) 239-2525
- June 23:** DDS Waiting List Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Oklahoma State Capitol Complex, Sequoyah Building, Room C-47
2400 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105
For more information, email wanda-felty@ouhsc.edu
- June 24:** Caregiver Support Group, 11 a.m.
Easter Seals, 701 N.E. 13th Street Oklahoma City, OK 73104
For more information, call (405) 239-2525
- June 27:** Cytomegalovirus Awareness Family Fun Run/Walk
Cameron University- The Aggie Mile (McMahon Centennial Complex)
2800 W. Gore Blvd. Lawton, OK 73507
For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/p2bjpqz>
- July 18:** Oklahoma People First Annual Membership Rally, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Oklahoma People First Offices
1145 E. Main Norman, OK 73071
For more information, contact Lance Davis at (405) 701-2077.

Looking for more events?

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



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