

What is NJ AHEAD?

NJ AHEAD (New Jersey Association on Higher Education and Disability) is a highly-active statewide resource which connects postsecondary disability service providers, compliance officers, and administrators from all colleges/universities throughout New Jersey as well as a few in neighboring states. It is an affiliate organization of international AHEAD, and is coordinated by an Executive Board of elected officers.

NJ AHEAD traditionally offers meetings on the first Friday of each month to facilitate workshops, professional training, roundtable discussions, networking, and problem-solving relevant to the field. Telephone and internet consultations with fellow members is a frequent by-product of the connections made at the meetings, which are attended by newly-hired as well as veteran disability service providers. Quite a bargain for \$50 annually per institution or center!

Almost all meetings are held at no additional charge to members, and institutions can send more than one representative each month. Very often, faculty is invited to participate as well, adding another dimension to the discussions. Locations rotate among campuses throughout the state so as to make it as feasible as possible to attend. Webcasts and audioconferencing are also arranged when feasible.

In addition to our in-house presentations, past and recent topics/speakers have included:

NJ Statewide Speaker Series*

- Director Emeritus Richard Harris of Ball State University (IN)
- Dr. Robert Brooks, “The Power of Mindset: Creating Positive Classroom Environments; Nurturing Motivation, Hope, and Resilience in College Students with Disabilities”
- Rick Lavoie, “The Motivation Breakthrough: Turning on the Tuned Out Student”

Section 504/ADA (as amended)

- Attorneys Salome Heyward and Jeanne Kincaid
- Former AHEAD Executive Director Jane Jarrow

Asperger’s and other autism spectrum disorders

- Jane Thierfeld Brown from UCONN School of Law
- NJ ASPEN representatives
- Vincent Varrassi of Varrassi Educational Associates

Psychological disabilities

- Dr. Donald Meichenbaum (in coordination with NJ3C conference)
- NAMI representatives

Mathematics accommodations and strategies

- Dr. Paul Nolting of Manatee Community College (FL)

Other sample topics

- Documentation procedures and interpretation
- Policy development across campus
- Universal Design in Instruction (UDI)
- Dissemination of information from summer conferences attended
- Adaptive technologies through PEPNet-Northeast, RFBD, Kurzweil, Dragon Naturally Speaking, etc.
- Learning and test-taking strategies to share with students
- Stress management to prevent service provider burn-out
- Annual UPENN Disabilities Symposium

Dates/Topics for AY 2010-2011:

Friday, Oct. 1, Jane Jarrow/RCNJ

Friday, Nov. 5, Best Practices/Middlesex CC

Friday, Dec. 3, Students with Psychol. Dis./NJCU

Friday, Feb. 11, Notetaking Webinar

Friday, Mar. 4, Sustaining Success with Less Roundtable/Middlesex CC

Friday, Apr. 1, two options: UPENN or rebroadcast of Notetaking Webinar

Friday, May 6, Students with Hearing Loss/Thomas Edison St. Coll.

Thursday, June 2, Alternative Media Issues & Ethics/Caldwell

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