

Disability Services as a Career—
Why we love it...in spite of it!

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Presentation Overview

- Top 10 Reasons for loving what we do will include
 - Basic information about working in DSS
 - DSS roles and responsibilities
 - Advantages
- From Various Perspectives
 - Private university
 - Large public university
- Our Goal
 - Make you feel good about the profession

#10 – Get to be an architect...

- Build it and they will come
- Solidify the need/value
 - Essential part of the institution
- Promoting your services
 - To faculty
 - To students
 - To administration



#9 – Get to be rich....

- Rich in personal satisfaction
- Rich in knowledge
- Range of pay for profession
 - \$44,500-\$63,000*
 - Benefits of working in educational setting



*2008 data

#8 – Get to “wow” people with paper...

- Importance of Policies & Procedures
 - Consistency
 - Paper trail (or “electronic” trail)
- Forms
 - Intake
 - Accommodation Request
 - Release of Information
 - Faculty notification



#7 – Get your own virtual hat rack...

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advisor | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpreter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate | <input type="checkbox"/> Club sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Database manager |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mediator | <input type="checkbox"/> Counselor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget manager |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor | <input type="checkbox"/> Retention Specialist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> “Recruiter” | |



... hats to avoid

- Enabler
- Diagnostician
- Doctor/nurse
- Driver
- Escort
- Banker
- Mother

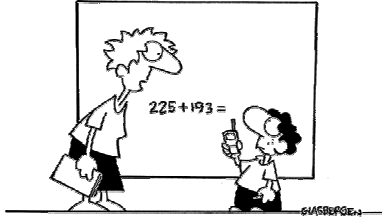


#6 - Get to be a "Bill Gates..."

- Bring out your inner "Techy"
- Low tech vs. high tech
- Technology
 - Text conversion
 - Alternate formatting
 - Database management
 - C-print / CART



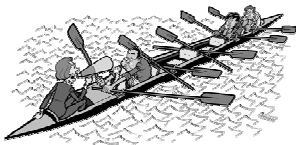
There's always a learning curve...



"You have to solve this problem by yourself. You can't call tech support."

#5 – Get to avoid unemployment...

- Job security and Section 504
- DS becomes essential
 - To the students and to the institution
- Letter of the law vs. the spirit of the law



#4 – Get to “reach out and touch someone...”

- Support from your colleagues & others
- No time to be passive!
- “The only wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.”
--Socrates



Appropriate touching...

- Conferences / Workshops
- Electronic Discussion Groups
 - AHEAD affiliates
 - AHEAD listserv
- Personal Contacts
- Internet resources
- Visits to other offices
- Publications
- Mentoring
- Friends!

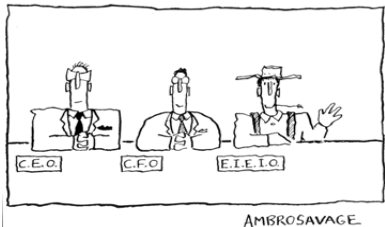


#3 – Get to be a leader...

- Leader - a person who guides or inspires others
 - As opposed to authority
- Leadership
 - Within your institution
 - State and national
- A good leader has good ethics

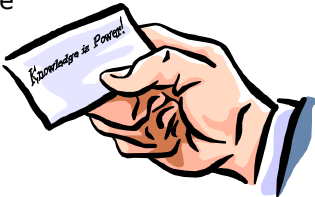


You can be a leader without a title...



#2 – Get to be an “expert...”

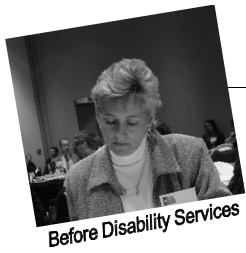
- Diversity of backgrounds
- Expertise – use the resources



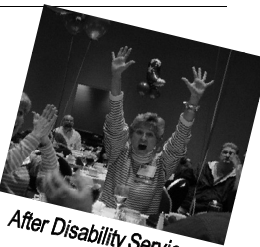
#1 - Get to make an impact...

- Institution
- Faculty
- Students
- Community
- Other Service Providers





Before Disability Services



After Disability Services

DS - A great job!

Thanks...

...enjoy the rest of the conference!