

DSP News



The Newsletter of the Delaware Conference for Direct Support Professionals

So how did it feel to be a part of history?

Last May, more than 300 of you attended the very first Delaware Conference for Direct Support Professionals at the Sheraton Hotel in Dover. A recorded 239 of you were direct support professionals. By all accounts, the gathering was a huge success.

Some comments from the evaluation forms:

"I had a wonderful experience and felt valued."

"Nice pat on the back."

"It was so very well organized."

"The conference was informative and it was great to interact with other direct support professionals"

During the course of the conference, we asked you to complete a brief survey indicating your interest in a networking organization of direct support professionals in Delaware and the possible benefits of having such an organization. Over 120 individuals, or approximately half of you, completed the survey.

Here's what we learned: 76.7% of you are interested in joining a networking organization for direct support professionals. Among the greatest benefits of having a networking organization, in your opinion, were career

coaching; networking and socializing with other direct support professionals; experiencing values-based training; cultivating leadership; and interpersonal skill development.

We also asked you to identify the most valuable services that you would expect from a networking organization. The most frequently cited responses were health benefits, credentialing/licensing and professional development.

Want to continue this discussion? Join us at the 2007 conference on May 3rd at the Dover Downs Hotel & Conference Center. Among the workshops will be a presentation and discussion of the ideas generated in this survey and how we can begin the process of setting up a statewide coalition of direct support professionals.

The energy and excitement is just beginning. *See you on May 3rd!*

Join us for the 2nd Annual Conference for Direct Support Professionals

May 3, 2007

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Dover Downs

Dover, Delaware

2007 DSP Conference

University of Delaware • Center for Disabilities Studies

www.udel.edu/cds/dspconference • 302-831-3073

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