Do you have news to share? News you want? We appreciate your input in making the VEWAA Bulletin relevant and useful. Our goal is to keep you up-to-date on the latest news and trends in vocational evaluation, and to provide you with a platform to share your experience and observations related to the profession of vocational evaluation and work adjustment. To participate, please email matthewsp@uwstout.edu. Thank you.

NEW!!! Check out the Employment Exchange on the VEWAA website….. Job Openings are listed, and soon a Job Seekers page will be added for individuals seeking employment. Interested employers and job seekers are encouraged to connect through VEWAA’s Employment Exchange.

Call for Board Member Nominations

Are you interested in working with a great group of people to make a difference in your profession? The following Board positions will be open to nominees in the coming year and we invite all interested parties to submit nominations by 10/14/13.

- (2) Board Members-at-Large: January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015
- Student Representative Board Member: January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015
- Treasurer: January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2015
- President-Elect: 3 year commitment
  - President-Elect: January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014
  - President: January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015
  - Past-President: January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

Please send inquiries and/or nominations to Debbie.perry@goodwillky.org, or call at 859-277-3661 to let us know you’re interested!
Greetings!!! The ongoing mission of the Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association (VEWAA) is "putting people to work, in the right job." We work out this mission through a variety of commitments.

VEWAA continues to be committed to representing the interests and needs of human service professionals who work with people in support of their endeavors in training, employment, and education to enhance successful attainment of career goals. These professions may have titles of career assessment professional, vocational evaluator, work adjustment specialist, assistive technology practitioner, transition specialist, employment specialist or other titles of professionals that help persons with disabilities reach successful employment and realize personal goals. One example is that VEWAA encourages and supports professional training opportunities through presentations at various national, regional and state Rehabilitation conferences. Recent conferences include NRA 2012 & 2013, NCVEWAA/VECAP Training Conference 2013, SERNRA 2013, and ORA Training Conference 2013. At these conferences, you find VEWAA members disseminating information that assists both Rehabilitation professionals and the individuals with disabilities they serve to achieve career and personal goals.

The VEWAA Board continues to be committed to its membership which is comprised of rehabilitation and education professionals who provide services to individuals who often need assistance with vocational development and career decision making. Individual members provide services within a variety of settings such as community rehabilitation programs, state rehabilitation agencies, One-Stop Centers, schools and job training programs, and business/industry. One example is that the VEWAA Board advocates for the needs through addressing issues related to changes in the Rehabilitation profession. Recently, the VEWAA Board responded to proposed changes in who gives oversight to RSA; we responded to proposed changes in funding of Vocational Evaluation Long-Term Training Grants; and we responded to proposed changes in Vocational Evaluators needing a license to provide testing and assessment.

The VEWAA Board continues to rise to the challenges of change, and address issues that affect its membership’s ability to provide qualified, competent services. Additionally, VEWAA supports the Registry of Professional Vocational Evaluators (RPVE), which provides credentialing for Vocational Evaluators. More information can be found on the www.pveregistry.org website on obtaining this credential.
The VEWAA Board continues to be committed to providing opportunities for members to network and develop professional relationships. For example, currently, the VEWAA Board is developing a Bylaws Template to facilitate the development of state chapters. This template will be added to the VEWAA website. New or revived state chapters can also receive $500 stipend to assist them with chapter development. Additionally, members are welcome to seek membership for positions on the VEWAA Board, especially members who have not yet been board members. No one is born a board member; it is an opportunity for professional development. Our VEWAA Board also includes a student member representative, through whom we hope to facilitate expanded student membership as emergent professionals. Further, recently, we added the feature of Employment Exchange to our website where members can find postings of employment opportunities.

I invite you to visit the VEWAA website at [www.vewaa.com](http://www.vewaa.com). We are in the process of renovating the site so that it will be an even more useful resource to our membership. I invite you to join VEWAA at various conferences as a participant or a presenter. I invite you to join VEWAA as a member to add your support to the profession. I invite you to consider joining the VEWAA Board to add your voice and skills and expertise to the profession. As a member of the VEWAA Board you would be among other compassionate, caring, and considerate Rehabilitation professionals as are on the 2013 VEWAA Board. Together we can all make a significant difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities in various ways.

### Comments on Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA) Rehabilitation Long-Term Training Grants

Paige Tidwell, VEWAA Board Member and Chair of the Registry of Professional Vocational Evaluators

The RSA requested comments on proposed changes to its Long-Term Training Grants. The following letter was written by Paige Tidwell, VEWAA Board Member and Chair of the Registry of Professional Vocational Evaluators to RSA in response to the request.

I am writing to comment on the Long-Term Training Grant announcement. From a personal standpoint, I am both a counselor and evaluator. I value and appreciate the CRC and CVE credentials that I hold. I submit this comment from two perspectives; one as the current chair of the National Registry of Professional Vocational Evaluators and the other as a state coordinator for the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

The Registry of Professional Vocational Evaluators (RPVE) was created to provide a credential for vocational evaluators who have demonstrated attainment of acceptable standards of education, experience, and knowledge. The intent is to aid in the promotion and quality of the vocational evaluation profession.
Professional Vocational Evaluators (PVE) contribute to the promotion of informed choice in the career development process, vocational rehabilitation planning, employment outcomes and/or workplace productivity by providing vocational evaluation services to guide individuals with employment or career barriers. The credential for PVE is evaluated on the basis of degree attainment and work experience in relevant domains, which include Medical Aspects of Disability, Occupational Analysis/Job Placement, Psychometric Testing/ Vocational Assessment, and Principles of Vocational Evaluation.

Within the last 2 years, over 100 professionals have applied for the PVE credential, with many of those having worked in the vocational evaluation field for quite some time without having a professional credential to demonstrate their knowledge. While applicants are able to demonstrate their education in some of the domains, many have proven to NOT have the adequate education in the Principles of Vocational Evaluation, which is essential for professional vocational evaluators.

In recent years there were approximately 18 graduate programs that provided specific training in Vocational Evaluation. We are currently down to 6 or 7. Although the demand for professional vocational evaluation services continues to rise in the public and private sector, the availability for those who are properly trained has declined, which has a direct impact on the consumers we serve. We feel this is directly linked to the diminished funding for graduate level funding in vocational evaluation.

As the state coordinator over a variety of services to include assessments and evaluations; each and every day I encounter evaluators who have not had adequate training to know how to provide quality assessments or written reports. Training to prepare rehabilitation counselors is essential, however, training as a rehabilitation counselor does not make one a qualified vocational evaluator, which is what is taking place in the field currently. In a time when less is more, it is crucial that the one assessment an individual receives is completed by not only an evaluator, but a qualified evaluator who has the education and training specific to the field.

In summary, I am recommending the following:

1. Increase the funding for Long Term Training grants specific to the field of Vocational Evaluation to include increasing the number of grants available.

2. For the training programs that are in existence, it is imperative that the educators themselves have the appropriate training and credentials in the field of vocational evaluation.

3. Increase funding for training specific in the areas of Principals of Vocational Evaluation, Report Writing, Assessments in Transition, Assessments for those with Most Significant
Disabilities, Assessments for individuals with Hearing Impairments, as well as Assessments and Assistive Technology.

4. Investigate pay-back options for those who receive funding through RSA training grants but are not able to secure employment at federal-state VR agency with 100% job tasks in vocational evaluation. This will deter students from avoiding training in vocational evaluation due to limited employment options. An alternative solution may also include working for a non-profit agency that contracts with a federal-state VR agency.

5. Work closely with federal-state VR agencies to provide internships and employment opportunities for those who receive training in vocational evaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and I welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Paige Tidwell, CRC, CVE, LPC, PVE

---

**CORE-CACREP Affiliation Agreement**

The Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) recently released the following announcement of an historic CORE-CACREP affiliation agreement:

**BACKGROUND**

The agreement includes a process whereby programs that wish to apply for accreditation under CACREP’s newly developed and adopted Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program standards (to be implemented by CORE) will undergo a review process conducted jointly by CACREP and CORE. As part of this agreement, CORE and CACREP will also continue to accredit other programs within their respective scopes of practice.

CORE and CACREP are committed to working closely together to establish a framework for ensuring a smooth transition for currently accredited programs that wish to be reviewed under these new standards. Both organizations have also agreed to work towards recognition of programs accredited under the Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling standards with regard to state licensure and federal hiring eligibility. Until recognition of the Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling standards is achieved, programs accredited under these new standards will be permitted to hold dual accreditation status with CACREP’s Clinical Mental Health Counseling program standards.

CORE and CACREP have begun working on the details of the framework and will be releasing additional information in early fall 2013. A process is being developed for rehabilitation
counseling programs that already train students for clinical counseling practice, as well as one for those programs that develop a more clinically-focused program. Please visit the CORE or CACREP websites periodically at www.core-rehab.org and www.cacrep.org to obtain the most updated information. Interested individuals are invited to attend sessions at the ACA, ACES, NCRE, AASCB, and other professional counseling conferences to learn more as the plan develops.

### 2013 VEWAA Award Recipients

Each year, VEWAA awards individuals who have made significant contributions to the fields of vocational evaluation or work adjustment. These awards were presented to two worthy individuals at the National Rehabilitation Association Annual Conference in Brooklyn, New York, in August. The two award winners are:

**John Lui, Ph.D., MBA, CRC, CVE, PVE - VEWAA Service Award**
John received this award in recognition of his many significant contributions to VEWAA, the field of rehabilitation, and the lives of persons with disabilities.

**Debra Homa, Ph.D., CRC, CVE, PVE – Paul R Hoffman Award**
Debra received this award in recognition of her innovation and creativity in service to persons with disabilities through her many professional achievements in vocational evaluation.

*Congratulations to Debra Homa and John Lui!*
The State of the State Chapters

Readers of this newsletter know that **VEWAA is committed to assisting those interested in starting or reviving state chapters of our Division.** The requirements of activating a state VEWAA chapter are basic. According to VEWAA Bylaws, establishment of a chapter requires two criteria:

- Submit a written Constitution and Bylaws not in conflict with the Association’s Constitution or the Division’s Bylaws to the Division Board for approval.
- Submit a letter requesting Chapter approval along with a slate of officers.

Subsequent to establishment of a new Chapter, that chapter shall then submit to the VEWAA Division an annual report covering the activities of the Chapter for the preceding year.

**Hats off to two active VEWAA Chapters – Minnesota and North Carolina!**

**Minnesota VEWAA**
We all know that actually accomplishing these two steps requires a good number of hours spent recruiting, collaborating, meeting, discussing, deciding, acting, etc! Founding members of the Minnesota VEWAA (MNVEWAA) Chapter know all too well how much work is involved. Our hats go off to them as their passion and commitment drove them to forge through the process independent of outside counsel. They found out about the $500 stipend offered by VEWAA to new chapters and, with just a little extra effort, met the simple eligibility criteria by submitting a list of the board members and an outline of how they anticipated using the money.

Jennifer Bey, past-president of MNVEWAA, and Cindy Larsen, current president, have added first-hand experience and perspective to the process of developing a user-friendly bylaws template and FAQs for others wanting to establish a local state chapter. The State Chapter Development committee hopes to have all of these resources available by the end of this year. The VEWAA website is presently being revamped and these will be posted for easy access when they are ready.

**North Carolina VEWAA**
Betty Beacham and Jimmie McIvers are officers of North Carolina VEWAA. They have many years of experience, not only keeping a VEWAA chapter active, but also in providing strong training and CEU eligible opportunities via two annual conferences. In fact, what is known as “The Beach Conference,” is set for October 31 – November 1, 2013 and is open to all. Betty and Jimmie are both willing to serve as consultants to new chapters. They both can be reached at (252) 830-8560 and their email addresses are: jimmie.mciver@dhhs.nc.gov and Betty.Beacham@dhhs.nc.gov.
Now It’s Your Turn!
North Carolina and Minnesota might be the only active chapters at the moment. Please let the VEWAA board know if this is not true! We want to acknowledge, support and celebrate other chapters that may be operational! The current trend is moving upward in that interest in starting state chapters has been communicated by professionals in Kentucky, Florida and most recently, New York City. We applaud you and will do everything we can to support your efforts.

Contact debbie.perry@goodwillky.org for more information.

Thank you from your NRA-VEWAA Board of Directors!

President: Jean E. Johnson, Ed.D., CRC
Past-President: Debbie Perry
President-Elect 2014: Shawn Zimmerman, MS, CVE, PVE, CRC
Secretary: Debra Homa, Ph.D., CRC, CVE, PVE
Treasurer: John Lui, Ph.D., MBA, CRC, PVE
Board of Directors: Juliet Fried, Ed.D., CRC, CVE; James Soldner, Ph.D., CRC, BCBA-D; Paige Tidwell, CRC, CVE, LPC; Priscilla Matthews, MS, CRC, PVE;

Committee Chairs:
Membership: Paige Tidwell, MRC, CRC, CVE
Student Representative: John Malloy
Representative to the NRA Board: Jean E. Johnson, Ed.D., CRC
Publications: Andrea Perkins Nerlich, Ph.D, CRC, CVE; Randall S. McDaniels, Ph.D., CRC; James Soldner, Ph.D., CRC, BCBA-D; Priscilla Matthews, MS, CRC, PVE
Website: Anthony J. Langton, MS, CVE