



THE ADVOCATE

An Update for I/DD Advocates

News and Events

Governor Ivey to Speak at the Conference

We have received word from Governor Kay Ivey's office that the Governor plans to attend and speak at the kickoff keynote session Monday, March 5, 1 pm. This will be in addition to the already confirmed Commissioners Lynn Beshear and Jane Burdeshaw.

Only One Week to Register

If you haven't already registered for the largest conference in the state focused on disability rights and issues, you have just over a week. We still have room for you, though only a few spots are left for the QDDP training session on Tuesday, March 6. See the [Registration page](#)

(<http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?>

[w=LS0tDQpjNGY3YTUyNi0yMzhmLTQwMjAtMDc0Yi1jOTlhZTFhZGI1OWMNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmFsZGlyYWJpbGl0eWNvbmZlcmVuY2Uub3JnL3JIZ2lzdGVyDQotLS0](http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?w=LS0tDQpjNGY3YTUyNi0yMzhmLTQwMjAtMDc0Yi1jOTlhZTFhZGI1OWMNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmFsZGlyYWJpbGl0eWNvbmZlcmVuY2Uub3JnL3JIZ2lzdGVyDQotLS0)) for details. We have an exciting conference planned. Don't forget to use the social media hashtag #ADC2018 when you post pictures of the event on your social media pages. Jonathan Lucas from Arc@Work will be presenting at the conference.



National Conference of Executives of The Arc

NCE has two great opportunities for chapter leaders and staff to attend a The Arc's premier professional development events: 2018 Summer Leadership Institute in Philadelphia and the 2018 Professional Seminar in Nashville. Apply today! The deadline is March 2nd.

Get Ready for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is March! The goal for this month is to create awareness about developmental disabilities, teach the importance of inclusion within every aspect of life, and to share the stories of individuals with a disability to show that a successful life is possible!

To bring awareness to this month, The Arc of Alabama will be participating in at least two events, the 2018 Alabama disABILITY Conference and a special fundraiser called Developmental Disabilities Night at Texas Roadhouse (7525 Eastchase Parkway). The Arc of Alabama will receive 10% of all food purchases when a special card is presented on March 27 from 5-9pm. Our representatives will be onsite to work our information table. Be checking our social media pages, newsletters, and blog for more information.

Your Arc at Work

Intern Update

The response to our recruitment efforts and call for interns was astounding! Five new rehabilitation counseling students have joined us for the spring 2018 semester. Our first is Darian Bester.

Meet Darian

Darian Bester is a junior Rehabilitation Services major at Alabama State University with a 4.0 GPA. She serves as a Resident Assistant, Associate-Justice of the Student Government Association, member of Epsilon Tau Sigma Honor Society, and member of W.E.B Du Bois Honor Society. Her academic achievements spread farther than Alabama State University. Darian has always possessed a strong passion for serving people with disabilities. It has propelled her to advocate for autism awareness. Darian would like to continue her education by attending graduate school. Her long-term career goal is to become an occupational therapist. Darian believes serving as an advocate is an essential role for occupational therapists. For this reason, The Arc of Alabama was her number one choice for an internship in Alabama.



DSP Tool Kit

Though there are several well documented reasons why DSPs leave their jobs (56% leave within a year), providing prospective employees with an accurate picture of what being a DSP entails is always near the top. The Arc's New DSP Toolkit features a Realistic Job Preview that chapters can use to outline the responsibilities of a DSP and pre-screen during the interview process. Check out a sample of the Preview tool [here](http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?w=LS0tDQoxZjk0NTNmNi0xZDVmLTQ5MDYtNjI0OC1YmNhZTI3YzMzMjUNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRoZWYy5vcmcvZm9yLWNoYXB0ZXJzL2RzcC10b29sa2l0L3JIYWxpc3RpYy1qb2ltcHJldmldw0KLS0t) (<http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?w=LS0tDQoxZjk0NTNmNi0xZDVmLTQ5MDYtNjI0OC1YmNhZTI3YzMzMjUNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRoZWYy5vcmcvZm9yLWNoYXB0ZXJzL2RzcC10b29sa2l0L3JIYWxpc3RpYy1qb2ltcHJldmldw0KLS0t>). Let's take some proactive steps in 2018 to address our turnover challenges! Don't forget to check out the other great resources in the [DSP Toolkit](http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?w=LS0tDQoxZjk0NTNmNi0xZDVmLTQ5MDYtNjI0OC1YmNhZTI3YzMzMjUNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRoZWYy5vcmcvZm9yLWNoYXB0ZXJzL2RzcC10b29sa2l0DQotLS0) (<http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?w=LS0tDQoxZjk0NTNmNi0xZDVmLTQ5MDYtNjI0OC1YmNhZTI3YzMzMjUNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRoZWYy5vcmcvZm9yLWNoYXB0ZXJzL2RzcC10b29sa2l0DQotLS0>).

Comcast Cares Day

Comcast NBCUniversal invites chapters of The Arc to get involved and become local partners on their corporate day of giving. Comcast Cares Day brings their employees, friends, and families together with nonprofit partners to make change happen in local communities. This year's Comcast Cares Day will

take place on April 21. This is a great opportunity to foster a relationship with Comcast NBCUniversal at the local level! During Comcast Cares Day, volunteers from Comcast NBCUniversal work within your community to help make impactful improvements. This could be with schools, agencies, parks, or your chapter! If you are interested in collaborating with Comcast NBCUniversal on a project, contact [Stephane Leblouis](http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?w=LS0tDQoxZjk0NTNmNi0xZDVmLTQ5MDYtNjI0OC1lYmNhZTI3YzZmMjUNCm1haWx0bzpsZWJsb2lzQHRoZWZyYy5vcmcNCi0tLQ). (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?w=LS0tDQoxZjk0NTNmNi0xZDVmLTQ5MDYtNjI0OC1lYmNhZTI3YzZmMjUNCm1haWx0bzpsZWJsb2lzQHRoZWZyYy5vcmcNCi0tLQ)

Achieve with us.

FDA Grants 'Breakthrough Therapy' Status To Potential Autism Drug (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?

w=LS0tDQozODdmM2YwMi1hZjQ3LTQ0M2QtY2NmYi1iINDNjZmJjZjc2NTkNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlzYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNRl2NsaWNRp3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD00MTVIYjVkJmU9ZjIhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

A major pharmaceutical company says it has received a designation from the Food and Drug Administration to help expedite what could be the first drug to treat the core symptoms of autism. Read More > (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?

w=LS0tDQozODdmM2YwMi1hZjQ3LTQ0M2QtY2NmYi1iINDNjZmJjZjc2NTkNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlzYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNRl2NsaWNRp3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD1kMTVhYWNiYTQ5JmU9ZjIhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

How Inclusion Became One Of The Most Popular Classes At School (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?

w=LS0tDQozODdmM2YwMi1hZjQ3LTQ0M2QtY2NmYi1iINDNjZmJjZjc2NTkNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlzYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNRl2NsaWNRp3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD1kNzkWNDJIMTU1JmU9ZjIhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

A unified PE class where students with and without disabilities learn together is so popular it's spawned a wait list and an after-school club. Now, dozens of schools are adopting the concept. Read More > (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?

w=LS0tDQozODdmM2YwMi1hZjQ3LTQ0M2QtY2NmYi1iNDNjZmJjZjc2NTkNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlzYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNrL2NsaWNrP3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD04NTk0MGMMyYTQzJmU9ZjlhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

Insurance Update

State employees are now covered by health insurance for autism therapies which began January 2018. Please let ASA know if your Self Funded Insurance Employer/your company chooses to cover autism therapy for employees. We would like to announce their addition to companies who cover autism in employee health plans in AL. [Get Details](http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?w=LS0tDQowZmZkNjMxZi1hYTQ0LTQ5YmUtMDI0Yi02NDFkNGU2MDEyNDMNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmF1dGlzbS1hbGFiYW1hLm9yZy9pbN1cmFuY2UtmVmb3JtLw0KLS0t) (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?w=LS0tDQowZmZkNjMxZi1hYTQ0LTQ5YmUtMDI0Yi02NDFkNGU2MDEyNDMNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmF1dGlzbS1hbGFiYW1hLm9yZy9pbN1cmFuY2UtmVmb3JtLw0KLS0t)

Sensory Friendly Movies

AMC is proud to partner with the Autism Society AL to offer unique movie showings; we turn the lights up and the sound down, so you can get up, dance, walk, shout or sing! Please check your local theater listings for specific showtimes, and don't forget to share your family fun with #AMCSensoryFriendly.

We want to share your activities and achievements with our readers. Please submit material to bkopy490531@gmail.com (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?w=LS0tDQowZmYwMzkwMC03YTI1LTRkM2ItMTg0Ny04Zjg0Y2U0MjAwODcNCm1haWx0bzpia29wcHk0OTA1MzFAZ21haWwuY29tDQotLS0). Images and video welcome.

Helpful Resources

Tech Tools for Education

Tech tools are available for assisting with various education activities. [Get details](http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?w=LS0tDQpmMTY5YW10Zi1mYzgzLTRlNDgtNzQxMy01MWJmODA1YzQ2YzgNCmh0dHA6Ly90ZWN0LnRoZWZyYy5vcmcvY2F0ZWdvcnkvZWV1Y2F0aW9uLw0KLS0t) (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?w=LS0tDQpmMTY5YW10Zi1mYzgzLTRlNDgtNzQxMy01MWJmODA1YzQ2YzgNCmh0dHA6Ly90ZWN0LnRoZWZyYy5vcmcvY2F0ZWdvcnkvZWV1Y2F0aW9uLw0KLS0t).

Wings for Autism

Students with disabilities represent just 13 percent of the nation's preschoolers, but a new report finds they account for three-quarters of all suspensions and expulsions.

Read More > (<http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?>

w=LS0tDQowODZiY2I3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjIhMC0xMDJiZjc3N2RIMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlyYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNrL2NsaWNrP3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD0yYTRmY2RmNTBkJmU9ZjlhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

Delta Cracking Down On Service, Support Animals

(<http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?>

w=LS0tDQowODZiY2I3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjIhMC0xMDJiZjc3N2RIMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlyYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNrL2NsaWNrP3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD01NGU1ZDY3YTA2JmU9ZjlhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

It may soon be a little harder to fly with a service or support animal as one of the nation's largest airlines looks to weed out biting, urination and other misbehavior on its

planes. Read More > (<http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?>

w=LS0tDQowODZiY2I3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjIhMC0xMDJiZjc3N2RIMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlyYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNrL2NsaWNrP3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD0zYWU5YzUyNTI2JmU9ZjlhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

Over 90,000 Expected At Proms For Those With Special Needs

(<http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?>

w=LS0tDQowODZiY2I3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjIhMC0xMDJiZjc3N2RIMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlyYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNrL2NsaWNrP3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD1jZDhiYmYwMTVmJmU9ZjlhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

Teens and adults with disabilities from around the globe are expected to attend hundreds of proms planned just for them on a single night ahead of Valentine's Day. Read More >

(<http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?>

w=LS0tDQowODZiY2I3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjIhMC0xMDJiZjc3N2RIMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlyYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNrL2NsaWNrP3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD1mYzUwMmZkM2MwJmU9ZjlhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

Congress Weighs Changes To ADA

(<http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?>

w=LS0tDQowODZiY2I3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjIhMC0xMDJiZjc3N2RIMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlzYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNRl2NsaWNrP3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD00OGNINThiMTBjJmU9ZjIhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

Disability advocacy groups are rallying to fight against legislation they say would undermine longstanding accessibility protections in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Read More > (<http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6xKMH-/click?>


w=LS0tDQowODZiY2I3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjIhMC0xMDJiZjc3N2RIMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlzYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNRl2NsaWNrP3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD05NmM1NDEyN2UxJmU9ZjIhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

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334-262-7688 (tel:334-262-7688)

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Check out our website! 

(<http://www.thearcofal.org/so/9M6x>