State Government Well Represented Among Conference Speakers

With Governor Kay Ivey leading off our opening session, the conference drew significant participation from our government officials. Department of Mental Health Commissioner Lynn Beshear and Department of Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Jane Burdeshaw followed the Governor’s remarks with from-the-heart comments about their own commitments to the objectives of their respective departments. At our Tuesday Awards Luncheon, Alabama Secretary of Labor Fitzgerald Washington discussed his department’s role in creating more job opportunities for individuals with disabilities, citing the first-ever job fair for individuals with disabilities, held in Birmingham last October, as an example of the actions they’re taking.

Other government employees who spoke at breakout sessions were Mary Jane Dasher, ADRS; Reese Grantham, ADRS; Lakeisha Hardy, ADRS; Anna McDonnell, ADMH; Betsy Prince, ADRS; Jeffery E. Williams, ADMH; and Courtney Tarver, ADMH. We were also blessed to have Jonathan Lucas from The Arc of US do double duty for us, giving a general session talk Tuesday morning and speaking at a breakout session afterwards.

The conference was well attended and by all preliminary indications a success. You may read a review of the conference at our blog site. You can
also see our award winners for 2018 (http://www.thearcофal.org/so/cM9bLhQX/click?w=LS0tDQpjNGY3YTUyNi0yMzhmLTQwMjAtMDc0Yi1jOTlhZTFhZGI1OWMNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmFsZGlzYWJpbGl0eWNvbmZlc3RuY2Uub3JnL2F3YXJkew0KLS0t) at the conference site.

This annual event is the most comprehensive conference in the State for the disability community, and it is able to exist only because of The Arc Chapters across the State who provide time and resources, funneled through The Arc of Alabama. We hope you appreciate the amount of effort required to put on such a conference, and we hope you derived value from it. We welcome your feedback (http://www.thearcофal.org/so/cM9bLhQX/click?w=LS0tDQpjNGY3YTUyNi0yMzhmLTQwMjAtMDc0Yi1jOTlhZTFhZGI1OWMNCm1haWx0bzpVZmZpY2VAdGhlYXJhZhbC5vcmc_c3ViamVjdD1Db25mZXJlbmNiJTIwRmViZGJhY2sNCi0tLQ) on the conference to help us make next year’s even better.
2018 Disability Policy Seminar One Month Away

Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, Supplemental Security Income, and Social Security are under threat. These federal programs provide the key to community living and inclusion for people with I/DD across the nation. Any cuts to these programs would be devastating. The challenges and realities facing the disability community demand our continued focus and diligent advocacy. You mobilized like never before last year. To keep up the momentum and continue to make a difference, we must join together as a collective movement to ensure that our programs and civil rights are protected. Join us in the nation’s capital and register today! (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/cM9bLhQX/click?w=LS0tDQoxZDM0YWJiY1s1jZTg4LTQzMmQtZTU4ZS1kNW1zZmlzZjk3NzcNCmh0dHA6Ly9yMjAucnM2Lm5ldC90bi5qc3A_Zj0wMDE4OTlUS2pkN2RaOEZtYW5BWEUwZU80c0gtQnZFOHi3b2JQN1FPQVlQkdqNDZpWV92OGxhUm91N3pwREJBTGNGUUXVQ2tFd05FQ1k0MlFKblRkQzNiYWVRaXFyc2RDcDIMZno1Q1ZlR3dKM3ZhbkhTJhuNEIjdFFQUk5uSEwzdFBjSm1oeDlfBEJHdEZVLZXZHeDg5dy04WlYwcEFhOHZfJmM9eWF2NVRYQTRCYkpyQ3NoaXEzSFR2VmFuN0tGQkxzZzhTIVVdZvTU11cnBreHRlcFjQkx3PT0mY2g9TIBja3INUmxHNmZXRGJlXzdfTG5VTmxqS3JPRVdEUlFXbIZan1GOTMzamdVdWd0N2RtVUxRPT0NCi0tLQ)

Partial reimbursement of registration, travel, and hotel expenses for self-advocates and caregivers to attend the DSP is available from the Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities. Learn more (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/cM9bLhQX/click?w=LS0tDQoxZDM0YWJiY1s1jZTg4LTQzMmQtZTU4ZS1kNW1zZmlzZjk3NzcNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmFjZGQub3JnL2Z1bmRpbmcVY29uc3VtZXItaW52b2x2ZW1ibnQtZnVuZAZ0KLSoNt)

New Brand Guidelines

National has announced modifications to the brand guidelines, what they’re calling a refresh. The basic logo with the “catalyst” icon remains the same, so your business cards and letterhead material should not change. Their March 19 blog post (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/cM9bLhQX/click?w=LS0tDQoxZDM0YWJiY1s1jZTg4LTQzMmQtZTU4ZS1kNW1zZmlzZjk3NzcNCmh0dHBzOi8vOi8vYmxvZy50aGVhcmhub3JnLzIwMTgvMDMyM0tKvmbvM3LWhJYW5kLWdlWlBiRGluZXMtYXJyaXZlZC8NCi0tLQ) describes what’s taking place. You may also download the
Feds Name New National Autism Coordinator

The federal government has a new point person for autism-related research, services, and support. Read More

Intern Update--Meet Tinita

Tinita Coleman is a graduating senior at Alabama State University with a 3.3 GPA, this spring she will earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Rehabilitation Services. Tinita is an Honor student at Alabama State, and has been on the Dean’s list for the past 3 years. She is also a member of the Rehabilitation Service Club, and the creator of Blossoming into Me, a women’s support group. She volunteers at Park Place Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Selma, Alabama over the summer, and she also mentors’ teens in the Dallas County School System. Tinita will further her education by attending graduate school where she will major in Mental Health Counseling and Minor in Human Resource Management. Tinita future goal is to become a Mental Health Counselor where she can provide a full range of services to individuals, couples, families, adolescents, and children. Tinita believes that The Arc of Alabama was an exceptional choice for her internship as she is passionate about advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Alabama Autism ID Card
This card is the 1st in the US for those with ASD and can be used by anyone with ASD. It was created to aid in independence for teens and adults who may be in contact with 1st Responders.

More Details (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/cM9bLhQX/click?w=LS0tDQoxZjk0NTNmNi0xZDVmLTQ5MDYtNjI0OC1lYmNhZTI3YzMjUNCmh0dHBzOi8vYXV0aWNsZXM1LWNvbnRlbnQuY29tLmJ1c3F1ZXN0b21lLmNvbS90cmFjay9jbGljaz91PTc3NjA5OWZIzMzNiYzY3ZmUwM2Y4YWNlOWEmaWQ9N2U5NDcyOGY3ZCZlPTkzMjI3Mjg2N2QNCi0tLQ)

Achieve with us.

U (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/cM9bLhQX/click?w=LS0tDQozODdmM2YwMi1hZjQ3LTQ0M2QtY2NmYi1iNDNjZmJjZjc2NTkNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlzYWJpc2Vyd2F0aW9uJmVsb3ciLmpwZw%3D%3D)nited Airlines to Train Employees on Intellectual Disabilities
A major U.S. airline is taking steps to improve travel for people with intellectual disabilities while also eyeing other ways to beef up inclusion. Read More >
Medical Schools Adding Focus on Developmental Disabilities

An innovative new program is aiming to ensure that the next generation of doctors is far more prepared to treat the needs of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Read More >

Businesses Tailoring Employment to Adults With ASD

As parents search for employment opportunities for their adult children with autism, some are creating businesses built to accommodate their kids' special needs and maximize their talents.

Read More >

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 bkoppy490531@gmail.com. Images and video welcome.

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**Helpful Resources**

**Tech Tools for Education**

Tech tools are available for assisting with various education activities. [Get details](http://www.thearcofal.org/so/cM9bLhQX/click?w=LS0tDQowZmYwMzkwMC03YTt1LTRkM2ItMTg0Ny04Zjg0Y2U0MjAwODcNCm1haWx0bzipa29wcHk0OTA1MzFAZ21haWwuY29tDQotS0).

**Statewide Community Grants**

Autism Society of Alabama is offering community grants to programs (501c3) which provide enrichment activities to those on the spectrum. Complete the application and mail to ASA, 4260 Cahaba Heights Ct. #188, Birmingham, AL 35243. For questions, please email info@autism-alabama.org. Grant selections are made in January and July.

[More Details](http://www.thearcofal.org/so/cM9bLhQX/click?w=LS0tDQowZmYwMzkwMC03YTt1LTRkM2ItMTg0Ny04Zjg0Y2U0MjAwODcNCm1haWx0bzipa29wcHk0OTA1MzFAZ21haWwuY29tDQotS0).

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**Articles of Interest**

**Self-Advocate Joe Damiano Provides Tips for Effective Advocacy**
Joe is 23 years old and an active advocate in his home state of New York. He is the outreach director for The Arc’s National Council of Self-Advocates, a board member for a local non-profit, and the former chair of a self-advocacy group called the Collaborative of New York. He is also a promoter of the movement telling Congress to #Hands Off important programs that support the disability community. In this post, Joe answers questions about being effective in advocacy.

E (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/cM9bLhQX/click?
w=LS0tDQowODZiY2l3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjIhMC0xMDJiZjc3N2RlMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlzYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNrL2NsaWNrP3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD01NGU1ZDY3YTA2JmU9ZjIhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

A year after taking heat when a key special education website went down, the U.S. Department of Education is preparing to deprecate the site in favor of an updated approach. Read More > (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/cM9bLhQX/click?
w=LS0tDQowODZiY2l3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjIhMC0xMDJiZjc3N2RlMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlzYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNrL2NsaWNrP3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD0zY2EzMzZiODc5JmU9ZjIhZGllyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

T (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/cM9bLhQX/click?
w=LS0tDQowODZiY2l3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjIhMC0xMDJiZjc3N2RlMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlzYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UuY29tL3RyYWNrL2NsaWNrP3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD1jZDhiYmYwMTVmJmU9ZjIhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)
The Trump administration is officially proceeding with plans to delay an Obama-era rule that aimed to ensure students from certain backgrounds aren't wrongly placed in special education. Read More >