



LEADERS EMERGE !

Virginia Association for Rehabilitation Leadership

"The VARL MISSION is to develop, improve and strengthen leadership skills and practices in both public and private rehabilitation organizations."

The board members of VARL are involved in another exciting and fruitful year. We function to serve the leaders of vocational rehabilitation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. You are missing out by not attending our meetings.

Since Terrie Glass has always received positive evaluations, VARL once again hosted Terri on June 8, 2009 to speak about "How to Increase Optimism and Increase Success". Those in attendance once again indicated that the subject and Ms. Glass were very well received. This is a very timely subject considering the conditions of the day.

We are now looking forward to the next training on July 21st. Amy Armstrong is another speaker who has always been well received. Amy will be presenting a training sponsored by VARL in Prince William County (is there a venue?) when she will speak about developing and continuing your personal journey. The training is titled "All Aboard". You will learn about the potential that each of us has to make life a fun and satisfying ride.

There will be an exciting announcement coming out soon regarding our October training. Watch for more information.

In an effort to make it convenient for you to attend our meetings we will continue to make it a point to have our meetings available on a VTC facility near you. We have recently hosted meetings in Charlottesville and Manassas. Our next meeting will be in Portsmouth on August 13, 2009. At each meeting we have a short planned presentation covering an aspect of leadership. We always have fun while planning meaningful training opportunities for the development of leadership for vocational rehabilitation professionals.

It is time to be nominating those developing special professionals in the vocational rehabilitation field who deserve special recognition as an Emerging Leader. We would like to know who you think should be nominated to receive the 2nd Annual Emerging Leader Award. The person who is nominated does not need to be a VARL member. However he/she should be engaged in noteworthy activities that demonstrate he/she deserves this award. The award will be presented at Collaborations and will entitle the award winner to a VARL membership for a year.

The Virginia Association for Rehabilitation Leadership promotes the development of emerging leaders within all individuals working to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. VARL strives to develop, improve, and strengthen leadership skills and practices in both public and private rehabilitation organizations.

Would you like to host a leadership Lunchtime Chat in your area? This is an easy and convenient way to communicate with other leaders in your area. It is motivating to have the opportunity discuss leadership ideas in such an accessible venue. Someone from VARL will come to your location, provide the materials and facilitate the discussion. We just ask you to schedule the office and help us publicize the lunchtime chat.

We all have a responsibility to provide a positive leadership example. It is incumbent upon us all to be the positive example in the office. Our smile and attitude are catchy. So let's all spread the optimism around and share it with our colleagues. We can and should be positive role models. Our customers will also catch our smile and the excitement in our voices. And who knows? It could make the world a better place. Encouraging others is one way to help us all EMERGE!!!!

Look for more information on the web site and via email. We hope many of you will join us to see what is happening in the world of Leadership development.

Yours in leadership,

Jack Smith, VARL President, Jack.Smith@DRS.Virginia.Gov

*VARL 2009: President Elect – Naomi Aitken, Past-President – Shirley Lyons,
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