UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, DC 20202

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM RSA-IM-99-18 DATE: March 24, 1999

ADDRESSEES: STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (GENERAL) STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (BLIND) STATE REHABILITATION COUNCILS CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS PROGRAMS **REGIONAL REHABILITATION CONTINUING EDUCATION** PROGRAMS AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING **RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM** SUBJECT: Forums Regarding Employment of Women with **Disabilities** CONTENT: This Information Memorandum is to inform you of several exciting opportunities to assist women with disabilities to connect with employment specialists and mentors who have experience in the labor market. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services is participating in a two year project (1999-2000) which will provide regional forums for disabled women who are not yet employed to network with education, training, and employment specialists as well as women entrepreneurs and representatives of women's organizations. The two forums in 1999 are: Oakland, California, May 2-5 ?

? San Antonio, Texas, August 5-8

The registration fee for the three and a half day events will be \$250.00, including a training manual, resource kit, a reception and a few meals.

We encourage you to contribute to this project in three ways:

- 1. Provide scholarships to disabled women who could benefit from participating in this event. We are especially trying to reach representatives of minority groups and representatives of organizations such as centers for independent living who can share the information with others.
- 2. Send counselors and other staff who should learn about new resources and opportunities featured at these conferences.
- 3. Suggest disabled women who could speak about their entrepreneurial or labor market successes and participate in mentoring other women with disabilities in their efforts to become self-sufficient.

For more information on these forums, please contact:

Ms. Kathy Martinez World Institute on Disability 510 16th Street Oakland, California 94612 Telephone: 510-251-4326 Fax: 510-763-4109 E-mail: kathy@wid.org

Thank you in advance for disseminating information on these two forums and for advancing the employment of women with disabilities.

Fredric K. Schroeder, Ph.D. Commissioner

cc: CSAVR NAPAS NCIL NRFC