

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

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM  
RSA-IM-00-23  
DATE: March 22, 2000

ADDRESSEES: STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (GENERAL)  
STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (BLIND)  
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCILS  
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
PROTECTION & ADVOCACY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS  
PROGRAMS  
REGIONAL REHABILITATION CONTINUING EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS  
AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICE  
PROGRAMS  
NATIONAL FACILITIES COALITION  
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: Dissemination of the publication entitled: "Meeting Future Workforce Needs," developed by the Twenty-Fifth Institute on Rehabilitation Issues (IRI).

CONTENT: The purpose of this Information Memorandum (IM) is to transmit the enclosed publication to vocational rehabilitation (VR) professionals, advocates and other interested persons. The publication was developed in partnership with individuals representing various State VR programs, the Regional Rehabilitation Continuing Education Programs (RRCEP), the U.S. Small Business Administration, various private sector businesses and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Dr. Daniel McAlees, Co-Director of the Continuing Education Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, served as the university coordinator for the study group. Mr. Thomas Jennings and Mr. Steven Fusco served as Co-Chairpersons.

We recommend that the IRI publication be brought to the attention of personnel responsible for, or interested in, human resource development and continuing education for use in planning and implementing training on this topic. It is particularly important that rehabilitation professionals be encouraged to use the document to identify and understand current and future labor market trends and their implications for persons with disabilities.

The *IRI* publications are widely used by VR counselors and supervisors, human resource development specialists, community-based rehabilitation service providers, administrators, researchers, educators and policy analysts in fulfilling the purposes of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, particularly, "... to empower individuals with disabilities to maximize employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence, and inclusion and integration into society...".

An important part of RSA's mission is to provide training and technical assistance to State VR agencies on the problems facing rehabilitation service providers, and to disseminate and promote the utilization of knowledge resulting from current research. Through the *IRI*, high priority training needs are responded to expeditiously, and the study findings on a specific topic are quickly transposed into useful and usable training materials and publications.

Improving the skills of personnel in the Public VR program through effective training is a basic function of RSA's RRCEPs. RSA funds the following three RSA RRCEPs to serve as prime study group coordinators for developing the three publications: the University of Arkansas; George Washington University; and, the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

Additional copies of this publication may be obtained by contacting Dr. Daniel McAlees:

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If you have any questions or comments regarding the *IRI*, or would like to recommend a topic for a future *IRI* publication, please contact Mr. Charles Sadler, RSA *IRI* Coordinator at (202) 205-9286 [voice], (202) 205-9295 [TTY], (202) 205-9340 [FAX], or via E-mail at [Charles\\_Sadler@ed.gov](mailto:Charles_Sadler@ed.gov).

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Fredric K. Schroeder, Ph.D.  
Commissioner