

## APSE Notes

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# APSE: The Network on Employment

Since 2002, APSE has held true to its mission of supporting integrated employment and other services for people with disabilities while working to redesign and reposition itself to harness the collective skills of members, maximize the organization's impact, and realize the shared mission of supported employment. APSE is growing as an organization, building on its strengths and expanding in areas that allow it to maximize its impact by reaching out further for new members, influencing best practice, and expanding community employment.

APSE's action plan for 2004 is to expand membership and provide more services to its members. To do this it has added new member benefits such as a free electronic subscription to the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation* and a greatly reduced rate for print subscription, discounts on InfoLines and TRN publications, discounts on Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) webcourses and training events, training sessions on supported employment topics which will be presented in areas throughout the country, and new electronic newsletters such as E-News and an E-Public Policy Update. In addition, APSE: The Network on Employment will be offering more training to individuals and organizations and will be forming several network initiatives to further its mission and promote supported employment. Examples of Network Initiatives include: an Organizational Effectiveness Network to help member organizations with basic operational is-

ssues; an Advocacy Network to focus on increasing confidence and developing capacity skills necessary when addressing state and federal issues; a Business Network to provide information to businesses and increase business participation in APSE; and a Family Network which will provide information and resources to connect family members and thus increase participation and strengthen APSE's voice.

Many of the improvements have already occurred. APSE has revamped its website to allow new or renewing members to join on line, and it has added links to put browsers in contact with its many functions. Training has been scheduled for many states, and additional training will be added. APSE has already begun to work on its national training and conference for next year, to be held in Indianapolis in July. In addition, APSE: The Network on Employment continues to promote legislation favorable to supported employment on both the national level with a dedicated lobbyist, and on the state level through its chapters. Through all the new changes, APSE has reconfirmed its original mission of promoting supported employment, a mission it has never strayed from.

If you haven't been a member or haven't looked at APSE lately, take a closer look by visiting the website at [www.apse.org](http://www.apse.org). The new online membership registration feature is easy to use, and there are many new benefits for members. Join APSE: The Network on Employment. Help move the frontier forward!