

PEPNet *Perspectives* Spring 2008

iTransition

Helping students learn more about themselves, their career goals and the skills they need to be successful in postsecondary settings or work.

By Amy M. Hebert

High school seniors scurry when the time comes to prepare for graduation. Students and their parents are deciding whether the next step is college, technical school or a job. Given how vital these future decisions are, ONLY 5% of seniors who are deaf or hard of hearing have taken a career education class (Schroedel & Watson, 1991). Even more perilous is the fact that of those who actually receive an academic diploma, only one in three deaf students enter a two or four-year college setting (Bowe, 2003). Research shows that of those entering college, the number of students who drop out and do not obtain a college degree is a staggering 70%. These realities seem overwhelming, but amidst these concerns, a priceless resource has been revealed.

During a grand opening ceremony at the PEPNet Biennial Conference, the Transition Workgroup, spearheaded by a small and fabulous national redesign team, unveiled the cutting edge redesign of the *Gates to Adventure* online training. *iTransition: It's All About Me!*, as it is now called, is a free online training series designed to help students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing transition successfully from high school to postsecondary education or work. This new technological approach to the transition process offers students a virtual vehicle to take control of

See "iTransition," page 4



In This Issue:

iTransition

TechSpectives

Deaf/HH College Guide

PEPNet 08 Highlights

PEPNet Pieces

New in the PDC

On the Listserv

Outreach Site Contact Info

www.pepnet.org

Your key to helpful resources!

The PEPNet website can help you in many ways.

See if you fit any of the following categories:

- A high school teacher looking for transition resources for students who are deaf or hard of hearing
- A university disability service provider with a legal question
- A parent searching for a list of postsecondary institutions that have a history of providing services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing
- A rehabilitation counselor interested in more information or training about hearing loss
- An interpreter or captionist searching for resources

We know most people do not have time to study the PEPNet website. There's more there than you might imagine. Here are just a few things you might have overlooked:

A Helpful Links page <http://pdc.pepnet.org/Links.asp> with resources ranging from American Sign Language and Audiology to Transition and Technology. This is continually updated.

PEPNet Dissemination Center <http://pdc.pepnet.org/index.asp> A collection of more than 100 products, most of which can be downloaded or printed directly from the site, or ordered online. Products range from Sign Language DVD's for specific topics and a series of career success stories for deaf students to a postsecondary ADA booklet. Most are free or of nominal cost.

PEPNet listserv Past Posts <http://www.pepnet.org/reslistpast.asp> The PEPNet listserv has more than 700 subscribers. The Past Posts are collections of hot topics, archived for your convenience. Current available topics include "Deaf Friendly Colleges" and "ESL Resources."

Archived Training Materials <http://www.pepnet.org/sermat.asp> PEPNet provides a variety of trainings and archives of the training materials online. You can access Power Points, audio files and transcripts from some trainings.

Online trainings or courses <http://www.pepnet.org/training.asp> PEPNet offers online training opportunities, including a course designed to enhance professionals' ability to understand and effectively provide services for individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing: "Working With Individuals Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing" and "Vocational Services for People Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing."

Just when you thought you knew about everything PEPNet offers, there are still more helpful surprises at www.pepnet.org

TechSpectives

The Lowly Telecoil

By Cheryl Davis

The telecoil isn't new technology—but this simple and dependable hearing aid option can make the difference between tuning in or tuning out.

Hearing aids and cochlear implants can be very effective in quieter settings, but noise can interfere with a hearing device's effectiveness. For people who have a hearing loss, the sound that they want to hear (signal) needs to be significantly louder than other ambient sounds (noise) to be intelligible. Although hearing aids may have technology that reduces background noise, it often compromises the speech signal. That's why an additional assistive listening device (ALD) is so important, and the telecoil is a simple option to connect ALDs to hearing aids.

Telecoils work by induction. A wire with a current running through it naturally gives off a magnetic field. If another wire is placed near it, the magnetic field in one induces a field in the other. Magnetic fields carry signals. Sometimes the information is disorganized (e.g., static), and sometimes it is organized (e.g., music or speech). Telephones and stereo speakers give off this magnetic field unless the equipment has been shielded to prevent it.

A telecoil is a small coil of wire wrapped around a metal rod. Telecoils were first put in hearing aids

to assist in hearing on telephones. The user simply flips a tiny switch on the hearing aid to turn it on. When the user placed the phone speaker near the telecoil, the signal would be picked up and the hearing aid would convert it to acoustic sound waves, amplify the signal according to the individual's hearing loss, and send the new amplified sound into the ear canal. The trick is to get the best signal reception from the speaker to the hearing aid. Early hearing aids were often body worn, not the compact components worn behind or in the ear. This means that the telephone speaker would be put over the aid (wherever it was worn), not over the ear for this signal reception.

The reason why telecoils are such an exciting option is that, if a room or area is looped with an induction system, the user does not need any additional equipment besides the hearing aid to enjoy improved listening. As long as someone is speaking into the microphone attached to the system, the signal will be sent out from the loop of wire through the magnetic field. Newer induction systems come in a variety of styles, such as free-standing small panels, chair pads, and floor mats. There is a movement in Holland/Zeeland, Michigan to loop it

and other cities in Michigan and across America. For more information on this initiative, go to www.hearingloop.org.

Even if an FM or infrared system is being used, a telecoil can be useful. For people who need more amplification, removing their hearing aids to use headphones is not a viable option. Covering the hearing aid ear molds with headphones can result in feedback. Coupling via a neckloop (a coated wire that is worn around the neck and plugged into the headphone jack on the FM or infrared receiver) prevents this. For people who don't want to be too obvious about using an assistive device (e.g., by wearing headphones in a classroom), the neckloop is a desirable alternative.

If you are working with someone who is preparing to purchase hearing aids, make sure he or she is aware of the inexpensive telecoil option. The consumer needs to advocate for this, as audiologists may not realize that the individual will be using ALDs. Especially in newer hearing aids and cochlear implants, the telecoil must be programmed. A great deal of confusion stems from consumers trying to use it without checking with the audiologist first to be sure that it has been activated and that it is adequately powered to provide a strong enough signal.

Elise Knopf (Left), Director of PEPNet-Midwest chats with Kathy Manlapas (Right), Deaf/HH Teacher for Intermediate District 287 in Minnesota and Kelsey Dahl (Center), student at VECTOR Transition program in Minnesota, who presented *iTransition* along with the PEPNet Transition Workgroup during the opening plenary session.



"iTransition" Continued from page 1
their career goals.

iTransition is designed for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, ages 14 through adult. This training can be used by students, teachers, college service providers, transition specialists, high school guidance counselors, parents and vocational rehabilitation counselors. The program includes four separate trainings with activities to help students learn more about themselves, their career goals, and the skills they need to be successful in the future. The newest training in *iTransition*, *Career Interests and Education Choices: It's My Plan!*, was first developed in 2002 as part of the original *Gates to Adventure*. Students and teachers who evaluated the redesign have remarked that they love its new look and added features. Additionally, students have commented that the training has a more mature look and feel. Educators have also expressed excitement over the redesign.

"As an educator, [I have] used the *Gates*, [but] most of my students were turned off by the design....With the new design, [students] will be more willing to do [transition planning]," one teacher commented. Another added, "I really liked the design and the ease of it as well. I am so excited to have the 'signing' video for most pages."

The PEPNet transition workgroup established to address the training, marketing and promotion of the redesign, co-facilitated by Greta Palmberg and Beth Keller, had the task of conceptualizing this process. The workgroup felt strongly that the new name

and tagline should reflect the goal of empowering students to take control of their own transition planning. The new tagline, "It's All about me!" was developed to send the message to students that when it comes to planning their future, it really is *ALL* about them.

iTransition has been redesigned to meet the growing needs of students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Its new trendy look and catchy tag line has captured the attention of deaf youth. "It made me see options for what I could do later in life.... It gave me a better way to explain me," exclaimed one student. Bravo! Finally a mechanism has been developed to empower students to "explain" themselves, thereby increasing their overall career self-efficacy. The *iTransition* program offers students an interactive approach to explore and plan their future career goals. Students will have fun while they are enhancing self-advocacy and college readiness skills. This comprehensive, innovative program is sure to impact the way students think about and plan for future success.

The launch of this program is barely off the ground and educators are lining up to receive the training. "This is a free all encompassing curriculum that teachers can pick up and useTeachers get it!" Palmberg said. Not only do teachers understand the usefulness and ease of the program, they are in dire need of career development and postsecondary planning materials that address the unique needs of students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

PIECES FROM PEPNET

PEPNet's biennial conference, "Putting the Pieces Together" was held April 15-18 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus, Ohio. If you were not able to attend, or if you did, but did not have the opportunity to take advantage of all that was offered – There is no need to worry! Throughout the week, PERSPECTIVES ace reporters (aka the Newsletter team) gathered notable resources to share with our readers!

information that can be given to students, teachers, principals, parents, social workers, audiologists and speech-pathologists and will include handouts, DVDs, links to materials and resources, websites, podcasts and other pertinent information. At this time materials are being collected and cataloged, and a website is being created. Your input is welcome. To offer suggestions for items include, contact Desiree Duda at desiree.duda@pepnet.org

Here are a few highlights:

Hard of Hearing Students in Postsecondary Settings: A Guide for Service Providers is NOW AVAILABLE and provides up-to-date information and resources about factors that affect students who are hard of hearing as they plan for or participate in postsecondary education and training. Free downloadable PDF files are available through our PEPNet Dissemination Center by selecting "downloads" at <http://pdc.pepnet.org/>. Hard copies may be purchased at www.lulu.com.

Conference participants were treated to a copy of the publication **Demystifying Hearing Assistance Technology: A Guide for Service Providers and Consumers** by Cheryl Davis, Samuel Atcherson and Marni Johnson. While versions of this text are included in the above mentioned Hard of Hearing Students in Postsecondary Settings Guide, this book is also available at www.wou.edu/~davis. Contents include Audiological Considerations in the Management of Hearing Loss, Communication Access Options: Hearing Assistance Technology, References and Resources.

PEPNet is developing a **Teacher "Tool Kit"** to assist itinerant teachers as they make their rounds to various schools. The "kit" will contain infor-



Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute: Online Vocational Rehabilitation Courses

PEPNet has collaborated with the University of Wisconsin – Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute to develop two online, continuing education courses to enhance professionals' abilities to understand

and effectively provide services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. The first course - Working with Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing includes units on Deaf Culture and Language, Working with Sign Language Interpreters and Assistive Listening Devices.

The second, more advanced course, covers Employment Services, Psychometric Testing and Vocational Evaluation. For more information on these online offerings, go to <http://rlr.uwstout.edu>, www.pepnet.org.

The Speech to Text Services Network (STSN)

helped to coordinate several presentations during the conference that were focused on speech to text services. Information from these presentations is available online through the STSN website. You can find these resources as well as comprehensive information about speech to text services online at www.stsn.org.



Van Nguyen (PEPNet-West) demonstrated technological resources during the Poster Session.



Missey Wright (PEPNet-South) captured a bit of the "action" during the proceedings. In this shot, Jerry Walters (Right) and Patrick Smith (PEPNet-Northeast) are caught in the act.



Bidding was competitive for the first ever PEPNet Silent Auction. The \$1,900 proceeds went to the Ohio School for the Deaf, Transition Services Department, to be used to help fund a transition camp for deaf and hard of hearing students throughout the state of Ohio this summer.



Pat Varner-Bland (PEPNet-South) and Anthony Ivankovic (PEPNet-West) collaborated to disseminate hot popcorn in the exhibit hall.



PHOTOS FROM PEPNET 2008, "PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER"



Louise Tripoli, PEPNet Project Officer, engaged in animated discussions with participants throughout the conference.



Greta Palmberg (Left) and Cassie Franklin (both from PEPNet-Midwest) take a break in the exhibit hall.



Conference participants enjoyed the opening reception wearing their school apparel.



Ginny Chiaverina (Left, PEPNet-Midwest) and Michelle Swaney (PEPNet-South) take a moment to reconnect.

Navigating the PEPNet listserv

- Are you overwhelmed with the number of topics discussed on the PEPNet listserv?
- Do you want to find past posts?
- Are you looking for discussions on interpreter pay, ESL resources or the impact of VRS on Institutions?
- Want a summary of some of our frequently posted topics?
- How about a way to find the information you need without having to go through ALL of your email?

Relax...

PEPNet has made it easy for you to find the information you need with the click of your mouse! If you are already a member of the PEPNet Listserv, you can immediately follow the directions below. If you are not a member, go to <http://listserv.uwm.edu/mailman/listinfo/pepnet> and sign up today!

Once you are a member, you can access the archives:

1. Go to www.pepnet.org
2. Click on "Resources" tab (located on the green bar below the pictures)
3. Next click on "PEPNet Listserv Past Posts" in the left menu box. This will take you to a page where you can review a listing of most frequently posted topics.

If the topic you are looking for isn't on this list:

4. In the left menu box, click "PEPNet Listserv".

5. Scroll down to "Reading the PEPNet Listserv Archives"
6. Click on "PEPNet listserv interface website"
7. Click on "PEPNet Archives"

Log in with your username and password for access to the archives. Search by thread, subject, author, and date.

If you still haven't found the topic you're looking for, start a new discussion on the Listserv!

We have more than 700 members from all over the United States, Canada and even Japan!

As long as you are a member of the list, all you need to do is send an email to pepnet@uwm.edu. For further assistance, email Cassie Franklin at cassie.franklin@pepnet.org.

"Pieces," from Page 5

The PEPNet Online Notetaker Training is alive and well. To date, more than 5,000 individuals across the country have accessed the training. Students learn effective notetaking strategies and can complete the training at their convenience. Service Coordinators can access a toolkit for implementing a notetaker program which suggests selection criteria, policies, and practices for using student notetakers effectively. The Online Notetaker Training is FREE and available at <http://www.pepnetnortheast.rit.edu/onlinenotetakertraining.html>

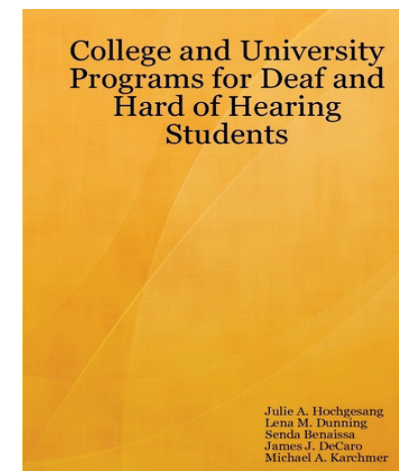
Transition: Constructing a Path to Success with Appropriate Tools - Presented by Theresa Johnson, Education Specialist from Houston, Texas and Jennie Bourgeois, PEPNet Outreach Specialist from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this workshop highlighted the importance of secondary and postsecondary professionals working together in the IEP process to create a smooth transition plan for students. Clear transition plans as part of the IEP process are not only good practice, but a required mandate by the U.S. Department of Education.

The U.S. Department of Education through the Office of Special Education Programs requires states to "coordinate measurable, annual IEP goals and transition services that will reasonably enable the student to meet their postsecondary goals". To help states collect this data, the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC) was established. NSTTAC developed the I-13 Checklist, as an OSEP-approved resource for states to use for data collection or to compare to their own state's current monitoring system.

Go to the NSTTAC.org website for more information and resource links related to transition issues. This website is extremely user friendly and chock full of information!

Guide to College & University Programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

PEPNet introduces the latest edition of the *College and University Programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students*.



The information within this guide is created for prospective college students, their parents, high school guidance counselors and others involved with assisting students in finding the right college. Within this guide you will find information based on a survey of postsecondary programs serving deaf and hard of hearing students in the United States, conducted in the winter of 2006 – 2007. There are many college options for deaf and hard of hearing students and this guide represents postsecondary institutions with known programs serving deaf and hard of hearing students who chose to participate in the survey. While some institutions do not necessarily have a program specifically for deaf and hard of hearing students, all of the schools included in this book have provided support/accessibility services for deaf and hard of hearing students.

In this guide you will find a letter to the student introducing the process of looking for the right college or university, a quick overview of facts on programs that serve deaf and hard of hearing students, a glossary and a frequently asked questions section to explain terms and concepts that may be unfamiliar to the reader, and finally, the heart of the book, descriptions of the support service programs that serve deaf and hard of hearing students in American colleges and universities.

For 30 years, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) and Gallaudet University have published this resource guide as a community service. This issue is the last that will be jointly published by NTID and Gallaudet. Future editions will be published by PEPNet.

The editors of the guide, Julie A. Hochgesang, Lena M. Dunning, Senda Benaissa, James J. DeCaro and Michael A. Karchmer are pleased to announce that Jerry Walter and Patrick Smith of PEPNet-Northeast, will lead this project.

The latest edition of *College and University Programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students* is available from Lulu at the following URL: www.lulu.com/content/1238777.

PEN-International's Denise Kavin offers a warm welcome as the conference cosponsor. For more information on this first-of-a-kind international partnership of college and universities go to www.pen.ntid.rit.edu



PEPNet-Northeast's Loriann Macko promotes the soon to be released "Achieving Goals DVD: Ambitious Achievers." Check the PEPNet Dissemination Center for the upcoming release date.



"Unrealized Dreams: Stories of Deaf Individuals with Unique Needs"

Available soon from the PEPNet Dissemination Center

During the 2008 PEPNet Conference held in Columbus, Ohio, professionals from across the country had their first glimpse of a new DVD that focuses attention on deaf individuals with distinct needs.

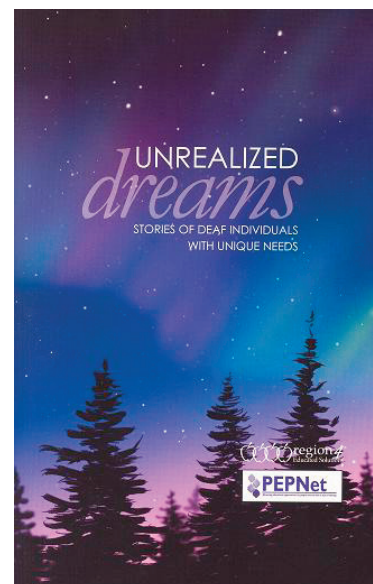
Unrealized Dreams: Stories of Deaf Individuals with Unique Needs is the result of two years of collaboration between Theresa Johnson, Education Specialist for the Texas Region 4 Education Service Center and the PEPNet-West team of Cathy McLeod, Director and Mary Morrison, Associate Director. The DVD and accompanying booklet were developed as a tool to create a greater awareness of people who are deaf or hard of hearing and who are also "underserved", "at risk" or "low functioning".

The DVD introduces several remarkable individuals who have experienced success in overcoming barriers to living, working and recreating in their communities. Each DVD, differing in length: 8 minutes, 18 minutes and 35 minutes, allows flexibility for facilitators incorporating this media into presentations.

A companion booklet, written by Marguerite (Peg) Harmon, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona and Theresa Johnson, provides supplemental informa-

tion and insight into this underserved and high risk group within the community of deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Systemic problems are discussed including late and/or incorrect diagnoses, as well the complication of co-occurring disabilities and/or social economic barriers. Also discussed are the programs and services necessary to achieve successful outcomes.

Unrealized Dreams: Stories of Deaf Individuals with Unique Needs will soon be available through the PEPNet Dissemination Center at: <http://pdc.pepnet.org/>. *Unrealized Dreams* is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Office of Special Education Program and the Region 4 Education Service Center.



Do you have an idea for a Perspectives article?

Are you aware of a "best practice" others would find useful?

Your articles, suggestions and feedback are welcome!

The newsletter work group will consider content that is related to our mission if it is reasonable in length, posted by a non-profit organization and if the suggested resources are offered for free (or nearly free) and are readily available in accessible

E-mail us at

newsletter@pepnet.org



Perspectives
Editorial Board:

Jennie Bourgeois
Desiree Duda
Beth Keller
Jane Nunes
Larry Rhodes
Kathleen Smith

Design, Layout, Copyediting
by FotoBlender Graphics
Published by PEPNet

This publication was developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and produced through a cooperative agreement between RIT and OSERS (H326D060004-02). The contents herein do not necessarily represent the Department of Education's policy nor endorsement by the Federal Government.

PEPNet's Regional Outreach Centers

PEPNet-Midwest

Saint Paul College

A Community & Technical College

235 Marshall, St. Paul, MN 55102

651-846-1337 (Voice) 651-846-1537 (TTY)

651-221-1339 (Fax)

pepnetmidwest@pepnet.org

PEPNet-Northeast

Rochester Institute of Technology

52 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623

585-475-6433 (Voice/TTY) 585-475-7660 (Fax)

pepnetnortheast@rit.edu

PEPNet-South

Center on Deafness, University of Tennessee

1126 Volunteer Blvd., Knoxville, TN 37996-3442

865-974-0607 (Voice/TTY) 865-974-3522 (Fax)

pepnetsouth@pepnet.org

PEPNet-West

California State University, Northridge

18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330-8267

818-677-2099 (Voice/TTY) 818-677-6270 (Fax)

pepnetwest@pepnet.org

Advancing educational opportunities for people who are deaf or hard of hearing

PEPNet, *a partner in building futures!*



National Scope • Regional Collaboration • Local Access



To find the outreach specialist in your region go to:

www.pepnet.org

PEPNet

PEPNet's national network of regional centers and outreach specialists offer educators, service providers, parents and related professionals information and resources to enhance services and programs.

PEPNet
is your link to:

- Professional development opportunities
- Best practices
- Emerging technologies
- Online training products
- Multimedia resource materials
- Professional networks