

# Access

## Disability Services

Sinclair Community College

Spring 2008

### BVR/BSVI Awards Scholarships

Students who currently have an open case with BVR or BSVI, and have a minimum of 2.8 overall grade point average, are eligible for consideration for a scholarship of up to \$2000 per academic year. Please speak with your counselor in Disability Services this week if this interests you, since the application must be postmarked by May 1.

### Technically/Legally Speaking

You have rights as a college student, but what are they? Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, states that any qualified individual with a disability

“...shall, solely by reason of her/his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity...”  
in post secondary education.

For more information see

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/auxaids.html>

What does this mean? Basically, any person who provides documentation to the Department of Disability Services regarding a disability (including physical, emotional, and psychological) is eligible for “reasonable accommodations.” Accommodations may include such things as training on the software **TextAloud**, **WYNN**, or **Open Book** for a student having difficulty with reading comprehension, dyslexia, or written expression. This software allows students to take a handout, textbook, or even a hard copy of this newsletter to the ADA station in the Library or other labs on campus. In the ADA station the computer is set up with a scanner. The student can scan the book, handout, or this newsletter, and the computer (using one of these software programs) will “read” the document to the student. More and more students are realizing the benefits of this software. Are you (going to be) one of them? If you would like to know more about this software, speak with your counselor about whether getting **free training** is an appropriate adaptation for you.

**Access** is a quarterly newsletter meant to be a source of information for students regarding current issues related to aspects of disabilities. In each issue you may find information related to a specific disability or possible “reasonable accommodations” according to federal mandates. You will also be informed of upcoming events. We encourage you, as a Sinclair student, to take part in this newsletter. If you have questions, concerns, or information you want to share with your peers, please submit the information for publication consideration. See page 3 for information.

### Friendly reminder

Requesting Self-Identification (Accommodation) letters and submitting them to your faculty for the quarter is your responsibility. We have had several Self-Identification letters requested that were never picked up from the department office in Bldg 10-421. Remember, we are happy to assist students; all you have to do is contact us.

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### Student Contribution

Unfortunately, we were not able to provide the entire article that one of your fellow students wrote about her experiences transitioning from high school to college, but here is a summary. For the full story, [click here](#).

“I started attending Sinclair right out of high school in the fall of 2004. During high school, I was on an IEP (Individualized Education Plan). They always just told me I was “LD”. Okay, so I learn differently, that isn’t so bad, just cumbersome. I always hated the awkwardness of the IEP conference in high school; how everybody sits around a big table and talks to each other about you as though you weren’t really sitting there and couldn’t understand what they were saying.

[At Sinclair], I went until winter 2006 not registered because I thought it would be like high school where they have the meetings and send things home to your parents, and I wanted to see if I could do it on my own. I went at it for at least one year and was failing my classes with F’s and D’s, partly because I didn’t have time to finish my exams, even though I knew the material. I always try to just ignore those people that tell me that maybe going to college wasn’t the best option for me. I always knew I wanted to go to college even though I wasn’t really interested in anything. There’s a reason why I struggle so much. And whether that’s so that I can help people later on in life that struggle as I do or so that I realize that I will always need others, I don’t know. And even though it stressed me out, I don’t think I would take it back for anything. And when you do struggle, I think you learn a whole lot more out of the situation than when you can just fly right through it with ease. It’s not easy to keep a good attitude all the time when you feel like all you do is fail and you don’t really know why, when you are putting all you have into your academics.

It’s so great to have a place to go to when you feel like nobody around you understands what you are going through or that nobody feels the same way. You can go to the Department of Disability Services and have somebody there that gives you a smile, or the counselor who tells you to keep going because it will all be worth it in the end. It was so great when I went from failing my classes because I couldn’t finish exams in time even though I knew the material, to passing with the accommodations. And, as people helped me along the way, and I learned more about myself, I found that using color overlays helps me read. The counselors take the initiative to find out what you need. And I just really think that’s great, because I don’t always know what questions to ask, and they really seem to tailor their conversations to me specifically, and my personal needs as an individual, and that’s just really nice. Whatever the need is, they are there to help you”.

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## Would you like to submit something for the next edition of the ACCESS Disability Services Newsletter?

Please submit information by June 1, 2008 in one of two ways:

1. [james.shuler@sinclair.edu](mailto:james.shuler@sinclair.edu) (subject "ACCESS")
2. in person at 10421 (DDS office), please include your name with the material so we can return it to you

Next quarter we will be sending ACCESS to your e-mail as well as making it available to you on the Department of Disability Services (DDS) home page at:

<http://www.sinclair.edu/stservices/edu/DisabilityServices/>

All submissions will be considered. It is up to the discretion of DDS staff whether to publish.

### Important Dates to Remember

Deadline for financial aid guarantee (for summer)

Registration for summer quarter begins

Last date to drop a class with a "W"

Spring quarter ends

May 1

May 5

May 23 (for C Term)

June 15

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### Community Information

CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder) is an international non-profit organization. According to their mission statement:

“CHADD improves the lives of people affected by AD/HD”.

“In working toward our mission, the behavior of the CHADD staff and volunteer leadership is determined by the following core values:

- Integrity
- Respectful, open communication
- Quality of our work product and productivity in our work effort, to assure sustained customer satisfaction
- Flexibility and teamwork
- A demonstrated commitment to diversity in all its forms
- Dedicated to fulfilling CHADD’s mission with passion and enthusiasm.”

Adopted by the CHADD board of directors October 28, 2003 and reaffirmed December 2006.

Our office has heard an increasing level of interest in having a local chapter or at least a support group for students AD/HD or learning disorders. If you are interested, please send an e-mail to [james.shuler@sinclair.edu](mailto:james.shuler@sinclair.edu) and put in the subject bar “interest in CHADD/support group”.

CHADD has annual conferences and meetings in Mason, Ohio and Columbus, Ohio on a monthly basis. Please access the [Suburban Cincinnati Homepage](#) or the [Columbus Chapter Homepage](#) for meeting times, conference dates, research, and other important information.

This is just one community agency that may be of interest to some of our students. If you would like more information or like to help possibly establish a local chapter, contact James Shuler at your convenience.

For further information (937) 512-5113

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