

## **ACCESS for ALL**

A project of the Institute for Disability Studies at the University of Southern Mississippi  
presents

# **DSS Issues: The Use and Abuse of Documentation in Higher Education**

## AUDIO CONFERENCE

Speakers: Dr. Jane Jarrow and Dr. Lydia Block

- Wednesday, November 8, 2006\*\*\*
- 12 – 1:30 p.m.
- University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg Campus,  
Institute for Disability Studies Library, Bond Hall, Fourth Floor

### **Who should attend?**

- **Postsecondary Disability Service Providers**
- **College and University Administrators**
- **ADA Coordinators/ Compliance Officers**

### **About the audio conference**

The purpose of requesting documentation of disability is two-fold: (1) to establish eligibility for protection as a person with a disability, and (2) to determine what, if any, accommodations may be necessary to assure equal access. While much has been said about what information to collect -- i.e., what constitutes adequate documentation -- the field has been much less introspective on the topic of how the information collected can/should be used.

Learn what you need to know about this issue from our two highly knowledgeable speakers: Dr. Jane Jarrow, President of Disability Access Information and Support (DAIS) and skilled presenter who speaks about the legal and educational mandates surrounding the participation of persons with disabilities in postsecondary settings; and Dr. Lydia Block, a Learning Specialist at Ohio Wesleyan University, who brings to this discussion her experience as a postsecondary disability service provider for more than 25 years, as well as her extensive experience with diagnostic testing, interpreting test results and using documentation to provide accommodation and academic access.

## Program Highlights

Dr. Jarrow and Dr. Block will cover the following topics and more in detail in their presentation:

1. How vague references to documentation within the statutes/regulations translate to good practice when it comes to determining the level of documentation required by the institution
2. Uses and misuses of documentation:
  - to establish eligibility
  - to determine appropriate accommodations
  - as a "qualification"
  - to exclude participation
3. Don't ask for what you don't need/don't understand
4. Using documentation prescriptively in assigning accommodations
5. Case law regarding documentation of disability in postsecondary institutions
6. Generic v. specific disability documentation requirements -- pros and cons
7. Questions to ask yourself when deciding what you need and why you need it

Plus -- you'll get the chance to ask these two experts your own questions prior to the audio conference as well as during the live Q&A session following the presentation!

## Registration

Send an e-mail to [Charles.hughes@usm.edu](mailto:Charles.hughes@usm.edu) or call Charles Hughes at 1.888.671.0051 or 601.266.6037.

**There is no charge to attend this audio conference. Space is limited.**

If you need special accommodations, please specify when you register.

The meeting is during the typical lunch hour, so eat early or feel free to bring a bag lunch or snack. More information and materials will be sent to you prior to the audio conference.

\*\*\* If you are unable to attend the audio conference on November 8, copies of the audio conference should be available on CD for short-term check-out from the ACCESS for ALL library approximately two weeks after the presentation. E-mail a request to [charles.hughes@usm.edu](mailto:charles.hughes@usm.edu) or call 1.888.671.0051.

ACCESS for ALL is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education (GR# P333A050072). Visit our Web site at [www.usm.edu/ids/accessforall](http://www.usm.edu/ids/accessforall) for resources and Web-based training programs.  
AA/EOE/ADA

## More about the Speakers



Jane E. Jarrow, Ph.D., is the President of Disability Access Information and Support (DAIS). Dr. Jarrow was a full-time faculty member at The Ohio State University in Speech/Language Pathology for seven years before assuming a position as the Executive Director of the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD). (AHEAD is an international professional membership organization providing technical assistance, information, and support to individuals involved in issues of disability access in higher education.) Dr. Jarrow is a skilled presenter and speaks knowledgeably about the legal and educational mandates surrounding the participation of persons with disabilities in postsecondary settings. Throughout her 14-year tenure with AHEAD, and in her current position with DAIS, Dr. Jarrow has traveled extensively presenting workshops and training sessions focused on these issues. Through DAIS, Dr. Jarrow also provides technical assistance, online professional development courses, participates in grant writing and editing, and is the author/publisher of a number of significant resource materials.



Dr. Lydia Block has worked with students with disabilities in college settings for more than 25 years. She is currently a Learning Specialist in the Sagan Academic Resources Center at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware Ohio. From 1981-1995, she directed services for students with cognitive disabilities at The Ohio State University. As the President of Block Educational Consulting, she provides consultation to colleges and universities concerning academic access for students with disabilities. Dr. Block has lectured for organizations and colleges across the country. She earned an M.S. from The Johns Hopkins University in Communicative Disorders and a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development.