



EXCITING NEWS FROM PRIDE INDUSTRIES' TRANSITION SERVICES DIVISION!

In support of our mission to create jobs for people with disabilities, PRIDE Industries was awarded a grant to support students with developmental disabilities as they transition from school to work. The grant, **Beyond Project TEAMS**, is a continuation of the work of Project TEAMS (**T**ransition, **E**mployment, **A**dvocacy, **M**entoring, **S**elf-Determination) and was developed by Rosemary Elston, Sally Bain and Joan Coker. The State Council on Developmental Disabilities will fund **Beyond Project TEAMS** for two years, beginning October 1, 2004.

Beyond Project TEAMS brings the "TAKE CHARGE for the Future" training into more classrooms of youth with developmental disabilities. **Beyond Project TEAMS** provides classroom trainings in self-determination, self-advocacy and career/life planning for students in middle and high schools in fourteen counties encompassing the Alta California, North Bay and Valley Mountain Regional Centers. **Beyond Project TEAMS** also works collaboratively with local universities to provide job shadowing and mentoring opportunities for Special Education Student Teachers preparing for the unique needs of youth with disabilities in the community.

The **Beyond Project TEAMS** grant will serve students with developmental disabilities, parents, Special Education Teachers, WorkAbility and school staff, Special Education Instructors/Professors, Special Education Student Teachers, Regional Center Service Coordinators and Service Providers. In addition, two statewide conferences and four teleconferences will be hosted in an effort to promote systemic change.

A user-friendly website is also available offering transition resources for parents, students and professionals. Check it out at www.projectteams.org.

Rosemary Elston, Cheryl Kitowski, Elisha Rurka and Tori Jo Bates are excited to plan and collaborate on this new venture. Please feel free to e-mail us at TEAMS@prideindustries.com.

Projected Outcomes:

- **400** students with developmental disabilities in fourteen counties (Sacramento, Placer, Yuba, Sutter, Nevada, Yolo, Colusa, El Dorado, Alpine, Sierra, Solano, Napa, San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties) will participate in **classroom trainings**.
- **200** students with developmental disabilities, **100** Special Education Teachers and WorkAbility Staff, **25** Special Education Student Teachers, **150** parents and/or family members and **30** service providers will attend **two statewide conferences**.
- **200** Special Education Teachers, Student Teachers, WorkAbility Staff and parents will participate in **four statewide teleconferences**.
- **25** Special Education Student Teachers will **job shadow** Beyond Project TEAMS Trainers in the classroom, or as they coach students to prepare for the IEP process.
- **75** students with developmental disabilities will **obtain employment**.

For more information on PRIDE Industries' Transition Services or Beyond Project TEAMS, please contact:

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