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National
 Collaborative on
 Workforce and
 Disability

NCWD

For Youth

Funding Sources and Tips Education

GE Fund

The GE Fund, "...Invests in improving educational quality and access and in strengthening community organizations in GE communities around the world." Source:

<http://www.ge.com/community/fund> November 2002.

In 2001, the GE Fund contributed \$52.7 million to not-for-profit organizations and schools. The directed grants programs (which do not include matching gifts, United Way or the GE STAR scholarships) comprised nearly \$28 million of the total in 2001. \$3,950,349 went to pre-college education in 2001.

One of the program areas of the GE Fund is called Learning Excellence. Supporting interdisciplinary links, team learning, curricular change, connecting education research with teaching practices, and supporting the use of technology, Learning Excellence is measured by the increase in student learning. Another program called GE Fund Scholars provides scholarships at certain universities for under-represented minority and women students. The program does target certain fields of study: management and business, finance, engineering, information technology, and the sciences.

Corning Foundation

The Corning Incorporated Foundation, established in 1952, supports educational, cultural, community and some national organizations. Since it began, the Foundation has contributed more than \$83,000,000 through its programs of giving. Foundation resources are directed primarily toward initiatives that improve the quality of life in and near locations where Corning Incorporated does business. Each year, the Foundation fulfills approximately 225 grants totaling some \$2,250,000. Source: http://www.corning.com/inside_corning/foundation.asp, October 2002. Some of Corning's areas of involvement have included community service programs for students, curriculum enrichment, student scholarships, facility improvement, and instructional technology projects for the classroom. Funds have been given to selected elementary and secondary schools, community colleges and four-year institutions of higher learning.



All requests to the Foundation for support must be made in writing. Grant seekers are advised to submit a two-to-three page letter of inquiry, signed by the senior administrative officer of the organization. No specific deadline is specified.

Boeing Education Relations

Education is a priority for the Boeing Company as the largest single block of company contributions goes to education. Their mission states, "We will provide a safe workplace and protect the environment. We will promote the health and well-being of Boeing people and their families. We will work with our community by volunteering and financially supporting educational and other worthy causes." Source: <http://www.boeing.com/community>, December 2002.

Boeing employees are encouraged to get involved in education through partnerships with schools in communities where Boeing operates. The Education Relations department concentrates on schools in districts near Boeing sites. School districts must have a strategic plan that focuses on high academic standards, a commitment to improving student achievement and future school-to-work strategies. High schools may apply for participation in Boeing's Tech Prep program. Applicants should be familiar with Boeing's business practices to keep the program focus consistent with the company's strategy and business plan.

First Union/Wachovia Foundation

As a result of a merger between First Union Corporation and the Wachovia Corporation in 4th quarter 2001, the foundations also have merged. The new foundation, called the Wachovia Foundation, still focuses on K-12 education as its main funding priority.

"Wachovia is committed to building strong and vibrant communities, improving the quality of life and making a positive difference where we work and live. We focus resources and employee talents on two key priorities: improving education and strengthening neighborhoods." Source: <http://www.wachovia.com/inside>, December 2002.

Mentoring, after-school enrichment, school-to-work programs, and technology training are all activities that help the foundation carry out its mission. Every year, First Union and Wachovia employees volunteer their time with kids. "In 2000, 60 percent of First Union employees, more than 42,000 individuals, volunteered for education. Employees fulfilled a variety of volunteer positions for local schools and organizations including tutors, mentors, readers, speakers, lunch buddies, e-mail mates and room parents. These employees logged more than 1.5 million volunteer hours for education. Nearly 700,000 of those hours were during work time, a payroll value of nearly \$14 million." Source: <http://www.wachovia.com/inside>, December 2002.

US Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

OSERS is one of eight program offices housed within the U.S. Department of Education. Its mission is, "To provide leadership to achieve full integration and participation in society of people with disabilities by ensuring equal opportunity and access to, and excellence in, education, employment and community living." Source: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/About/mission.html>, November 2002.



To carry out this mission, this office has established three sub-offices through which initiatives are funded: the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

The largest of the offices in the Department of Education, OSERS makes grants to hundreds of programs each year. The OSERS home page provides more detailed information on the office and its activities including the latest news, events, and updates as well as programs, projects, and funding. Visit the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/About/> to learn more.

Site Spotlight Citrus County, Florida

Evan, a Citrus County High School/High Tech student and wheel chair user, has a dream of becoming an attorney some day. He came a little closer to his dream through successful High School/High Tech activity on National Disability Mentoring Day.

Through the assistance of the Withlacoochee Area Legal Services (WALS), the local legal aid office in Citrus County, Evan was invited to attend a local Bar association luncheon. There he met and talked to the county's top law professionals informally at their monthly meeting. Later that afternoon he assisted some of the attorneys in an actual client situation at a public law clinic. By the end of the day, Evan had made future arrangements to meet with two separate mentors. He secured a six-week internship as well as a chance at a scholarship toward the pursuit of a law degree.

The Citrus County site is new as of late September, 2002, but the program coordinator, Kristy O'Neal, has several years of experience working in exceptional student education, with school boards and with community partners. She previously held a position with the Citrus County School System that has allowed her to get the site up and running quickly.

Although this day was made possible through a connection, there isn't always a connection available. To establish new ones, Kristy has found that calling on local businesses in person works a lot better than sending out a form letter or trying to get someone to return her phone calls. She targets area businesses by first doing a little research, then goes out to visit in person. After introducing herself, she leaves her business card and asks to schedule a planned meeting. She always follows up on the conversation and keeps in touch so that a relationship can develop.

Kristy stresses, "Everybody that you meet knows somebody who might be able to help you. Local clubs and business organizations can open up a lot of doors if you know how to utilize them...But don't wait six months to call."

This successful High School/High Tech experience happened through the combined efforts of Evan, Kristy O'Neal, and WALS. The interest, confidence, and ability of Evan to take advantage of an opportunity, the planning work of Kristy O'Neal, and WALS eagerness to help made for a mentoring experience that will most certainly benefit Evan.

The Citrus County High School/High Tech program is housed at Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida (CILNCF). The CILNCF has implemented three High School/High Tech programs, one in Alachua County, Marion County and the new Citrus County site.



Industry Connections National Business and Disability Council (NBDC)

Based in Albertson, New York, the NBDC is a national corporate resource for employers seeking to integrate people with disabilities into the workplace and companies seeking to reach them in the consumer marketplace. Established in 1977, NBDC has helped businesses create accessible work conditions for employees and accessible products and services for consumers.

The NBDC staff has 25 years of experience in assisting corporations with issues relating to the employment of people with disabilities. Some of their areas of expertise include ADA Compliance, building and product accessibility, reasonable accommodation, job analysis, recruitment, specialized equipment, and career development. NBDC also has information specialists that can assist companies with inquiries into any disability-related employment issue.

The NBDC has worked with a wide range of Fortune 1000 corporations to solve their disability-related employment issues and currently has over 100 members. NBDC is guided by an executive leadership team made up of senior executives from major corporations. These companies are promoting equal opportunities for people with disabilities in the business world.

Current members of this executive leadership team are from companies such as Booz-Allen Hamilton, Inc.; Caterpillar, Inc.; Microsoft Corporation, Sears, Roebuck and Co., and United Parcel Service.

In October 2002, the National Business & Disability Council began work with several colleges, universities, and major employers across the country to bring students and employers together in an effort to facilitate the exchange of information on career related issues. NBDC plans on rolling out the initiative in six additional states across the country during the rest of the 2002-2003 school year. The states are California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, New Jersey, Georgia and Ohio. Employers, universities and students should contact the NBDC at 516-465-1520 for information about upcoming Career Events and other opportunities.

For more information on the NBDC, visit <http://www.business-disability.com>.

High School/High Tech News and Announcements

Emerging Leaders Summer Internships
Booz-Allen Hamilton invites students with disabilities to apply for their Emerging Leaders Class of 2003 internships. This program combines paid summer internships with leadership development activities. Applications are due by February 1, 2003. Visit: <http://www.emerging-leaders.com> for more information.

The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth is working to ensure that youth with disabilities can access high quality services that will result in future employment and independent living. The Collaborative will help to build the capacity for the nation's workforce development system and its workers to assist youth with disabilities. The Collaborative is part of President Bush's New Freedom Initiative goal to integrate Americans with disabilities into the workforce. As part of the Collaborative, InfoUse will e-mail a funding bulletin to the High School/High Tech sites periodically. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide the latest information on funding opportunities, offer tips on grant or foundation proposal writing, profile successes and innovations in fundraising, and inform sites about significant program news and announcements.