

# The Ability Advisor

"Focusing on Student Abilities"

careertech

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October's Ability Advisor will emphasize some under-utilized resources. What leadership opportunities are available for students with disabilities or special needs? Where can we go to find educational strategies to better prepare students for academic success? When we prepare ourselves for success, we also equip our students for success. Baseball great Roger Maris puts it this way, "You hit home runs not by chance but by preparation."



This month's video comes courtesy of Oklahoma's Developmental Disabilities Council. The annual Youth Leadership Forum provides an amazing opportunity for students with disabilities to gain valuable leadership skills and have a great time! Click on the link to learn more.

### Youth Leadership Forum:



[http://www.okddc.ok.gov/youth\\_leadership\\_forum.html](http://www.okddc.ok.gov/youth_leadership_forum.html)

### Article of the Month:

#### Teaching Students with Chronic Illness or Pain

Some students have medical conditions that are "non-apparent" (not easy to see), but cause serious problems in an educational setting. Students can be disabled by chronic illnesses such as asthma, arthritis, diabetes, cardiopulmonary disease, cancer, chronic fatigue immune deficiency syndrome, and seizure disorders. They can also be disabled by medical conditions that cause intense and continual pain: for example, repetitive stress injury, post-surgery, and back problems.

Symptoms of all these conditions can be unpredictable and fluctuating. Students with chronic illness or pain may have limited energy and difficulty walking, standing, or sitting for a long time. Their pain, or the side-effects of medications, may cause them to become dizzy or confused, making it hard for them to pay attention in classes, complete out-of-class assignments, do library research, and stay focused during exams.

To read about specific strategies for teaching students with chronic illness or pain, click on this link: <http://dsp.berkeley.edu/teachstudentswithdisab.html#6>



**Project Lead the Way Counselor's Conference ...Tues, Oct 26, 2010**  
**Tulsa Southern Hills Marriott**  
**Register here by Oct 15** <http://www.okcareertech.org/stem/events.htm>

### **Guidancefest Tour:**

Break out the tie-dye, because the Guidancefest tour dates have been set.

October 27 - Tulsa Technology Center, Lemley Campus

November 3 - Western Technology Center, Burns Flat

November 9 - Northwest Technology Center, Fairview

November 10 - Moore Norman, S. Penn Campus

November 18 - Pontotoc Technology Center, Ada

December 14 - Kiamichi Technology Center, Talihina

If you would like to attend a **Guidancefest** near you,  
go to: <http://www.okcareertech.org/techprep/guidancefest.htm> for more  
information and to register.



**Please contact me with questions, comments, or concerns. I'll look forward to your emails and phone calls.**

*Kim*

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