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RERC ON COMMUNICATION ENHANCEMENT

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The Pittsburgh Employment Conference (PEC) 2005

by Diane Nelson Bryen, Ph.D., Temple University

I would like to share some highlights of the PEC conference from the perspective of one RERC partner.

The biennial Pittsburgh Employment Conference for Augmented Communicators – fondly known as PEC -- was held August 5 – 7, 2005 in Pittsburgh, PA with the theme being "Employment and Community Integration."   More than 250 people attended PEC including more than 50 people who rely on AAC. Together, practitioners, parents, state vocational rehabilitation professionals, students, and researchers joined folks who use AAC to hear more than 28 platform presentations. Topics included: what VR counselors should know and how to interact effectively with them; strategies for becoming employed; effective community interaction; community interaction at the university, on the job, in public places, and in the hospital. More than half of the presentations were provided by individuals who use AAC.

The RERC was quite active at PEC 2005! Partners, consultants, staff and advisory board members presented on a variety of topics, including:

- Bob Williams on "Digital Independence in Students who rely on AAC"
- Diane Nelson Bryen on "So you want to work? Some lessons learned from 5 years of work with the RERC"
- David Chapple on the "RERC partners and the Writer's Brigade"
- David McNaughton on "Work is at Home and Home is at Work"
- Richard Ellenson on "The Presentation of Self"

The social networking was wonderful, including reunions among ACES graduates, ACOLUG subscribers, and colleagues from Germany, Canada, Australia and from across the United States. Participants danced, ate and drank together, and most importantly they communicated about just everything. PEC 2005 was great fun! For more information about the Pittsburgh Employment Conference in 2007, contact Bruce Baker, Bob Conti, or Jennifer Lowe at minspeak@minspeak.com.

RERC staff member, Robert Williams, discusses the need for Digital Independence.

LETTERS

There are no letters for this article. To post your own letter, click Post Letter.

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Here's a couple more photos from PEC...

RERC consultant, David Chapple, introduces the RERC and the Writers' Brigade.

RERC Advisory Board member, Richard Ellenson, chats with RERC-ACOLUG Liaison intern, Ami Profeta

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