

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

J. Michael Barcus has been working in the field of education and employment of persons with disabilities for over twenty-five years. Mike earned his masters degree in education from Johns Hopkins University with an emphasis in the education of persons with severe disabilities. Mike has been with Virginia Commonwealth University's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center since 1983. He has served as a training specialist focused on improving competitive employment opportunities for persons with severe disabilities.

John Barrett is a person with a significant disability who has many years of experience in the field of disability rights and advocacy. He has provided workplace PAS for twelve years in four different environments. These include supporting an individual at a center for independent living, a state agency, a residential camp for people with mental retardation, and in a very competitive academic environment here at RRTC-VCU. John is nationally known and respected for providing these service in a exemplary manner and is unique in that he provides this support to another person who also has a significant disability.

Valerie Brooke has been with Virginia Commonwealth University working in the field of employment for people with disabilities since 1979. She earned her M.Ed. from VCU in Special Education with an emphasis on employment. Valerie Brooke had served as principal investigator for many personnel training and technical assistance grants using innovative formats, to include distance education, in the delivery of these activities. Currently, Ms. Brooke is the Associate Director of Training for the RRTC on Workplace Supports, Project Director for the Work Incentives Transition Network (WITN), and Project Director for the Benefits Planning Assistance & Outreach Program for Training and Technical Assistance. Ms. Brooke has authored numerous book chapters, journal articles, newsletters, and fact sheets in the area of transition and employment.

Jennifer Todd McDonough is employed by Virginia Commonwealth University's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Workplace Supports. She received her Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University and her Bachelor of Arts from East Carolina University. Jennifer is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. For the past two years, she has worked for the center as an employment specialist focusing on individuals with severe physical disabilities. Her current position, as a training associate, requires her to travel to

conferences and speak on disability issues, as well as write newsletters, fact sheets and articles for the center's web portal.

Wendy Strobel is employed as a Training Associate at Virginia Commonwealth University's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Workplace Supports. She has a masters degree in rehabilitation counseling from Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University, and is certified by RESNA as an Assistive Technology Practitioner. Wendy has worked with people with significant disabilities since 1992. Her areas of expertise include assistive technology, employment, and person centered planning.

Jeanette Strong has been working with persons with disabilities for the past 20 years. As a training consultant, she developed training manuals on Personal Assistive Services, Caregiver Training, and Disability Awareness. She does PAS training for consumers, their family members and providers as well as disability awareness training for providers such as home health agencies and transit authorities. She has a background in education and has worked as a job coach, reader, driver and guide. She serves on the board of the Iowa Disabilities Network, a grassroots disability advocacy organization. Jeanette has presented on mental health consumers use of PAS for the Iowa Protection and Advocacy Program

Pam Targett is the Director of the Employment Services Division located at the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Workplace Supports at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her direct service experiences have also included projects in special education, vocational services, and general community functioning. She has authored or co-authored journal articles and book chapters on Supported Employment, special education, and other disability related issues.

Ed Turner has thirty-two years experience providing a variety of services to students and adults with different types of disabilities. He has been a Special Education teacher, independent living service provider, an assistant administrator for a gubernatorial board, and a camp director serving children and adults with mental retardation. He currently works as a Training Associate for RRTC-VCU. Ed has utilized PAS as a workplace support in his last three professional position spanning twenty-two years. Here at RRTC, he has provided leadership in research projects on PAS and has written numerous articles related to the findings.

Susan Webb has had a disability for 26 years. She is a Certified Professional in Human Resources (PHR) and was appointed to U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board in 1988 by President Reagan. She chaired the Board's task force in development of the ADA Accessibility Guidelines. She served as Executive Director of Arizona Bridge to Independent Living for 8 1/2 years and as a NCIL Board Member from 1966-1999. Twelve years with AT&T, 10 years of that as

a Senior Account Executive. She currently serves as a member of the Arizona Legislative Task Force on Welfare Reform, is President of the Arizona Association of Temporary & Staffing Services, and is an appointee to the Work Incentives Advisory Panel mandated by the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act. Susan started her own company in March, 2000 to provide return-to-work services using IL philosophy and peer mentoring methodology for mothers with disabilities or who have children with disabilities .

Paul Wehman is Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, with a secondary appointment in Special Education. He pioneered the development of supported employment at VCU in the early 1980s and has been heavily involved in the use of supported employment with people who have severe disabilities. Dr. Wehman is also Director of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Workplace Supports and Chairman of the Division of Rehabilitation Research. Dr. Wehman has written extensively on issues related to transition from school to adulthood and special education as it relates for young adulthood. He is a recipient of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation International Awards in Mental Retardation, was a Mary Switzer Fellow for the National Rehabilitation Association in 1985, and has received the Distinguished Service Award from the President's Committee on Employment for Persons with Disabilities in October, 1992. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation. He has been the Principal Investigator of over 20 million dollars worth of federal grants since being at VCU.

