



announces

***The Fourteenth National Forum  
on Issues in Vocational Assessment***

## **Finding Your Career Path Through The Lifecycle**



April 8, 2010 (Pre-conference)  
April 9 - 11, 2010 (Conference)

**OKLAHOMA CITY**

**[Click here for the online forum registration](#)**

### ***Conference Highlights:***

**Keynote Speaker Brian Kurth: Career Mentorship, Transition and Reinvention (MTR) Guru | [VocationVacations®](#)**

#### **Four Dynamic Preconference Sessions:**

- *Fundamentals of Vocational Evaluation*
- *The Right Question + The Right Instrument = The Right Information*
- *The Evaluator – Expert: Assessing Employability in the Forensic Setting*
- *What Vocational Evaluators Need to Know to Collaborate with Special Educators to Improve Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities*

**Over Twenty-five General, Feature and Paper Sessions**

**Visit our Exhibitors which will include a hands on Work Sample area!**

***Student Literacy Contest—Apply Today!  
Apply to become an Exhibitor,  
Sponsor or Advertiser!***

**For additional information please  
visit [www.vecap.org](http://www.vecap.org)**

***Join VECAP in welcoming our KEYNOTE PRESENTER  
on Friday, April 9, 2010***

**Brian Kurth: Career Mentorship, Transition and Reinvention (MTR) Guru | [VocationVacations®](#)**



As the author of the how-to book, [\*Test-Drive Your Dream Job – A Step-By-Step Guide To Finding and Creating The Work You Love\*](#) (Hachette, 2008), Brian is a recognized expert in the field of MTR and has made guest appearances on CNBC, CNN, FOX News, MSNBC, NBC’s TODAY Show and National Public Radio (NPR), and his career advice has been featured in articles in Black Enterprise Magazine; Fast Company; Fortune Magazine; Men’s Journal; The New York Times; O, The Oprah Magazine and The Wall Street Journal, just to name a few. In 2006, he co-executive produced *This Job’s A Trip* for the Travel Channel. Brian holds degrees in political science, history and international relations from the University of Wisconsin and a masters degree in political science from Loyola University.

A man with a boyish grin, contagious enthusiasm and a quirky sense of humor, Brian Kurth is the founder of Brian Kurth + Company and VocationVacations, the leaders in career mentorship, transition and reinvention (MTR).

As a sought-after speaker, Brian is known for his wit, wisdom and common sense. He can open minds to new career and lifestyle possibilities and how to turn those possibilities into realities. He has spoken to a diverse range of companies and groups including AARP, Ameriprise, Disney, Intel, Microsoft, and colleges, universities and alumni associations.

Get Brian talking (no problem there!), and he will explain how to explore and discover a new career by working through a proven eight-step process centered on mentorship and the importance of hands-on experience in one’s personal and professional transition and reinvention. Bringing the lessons and experience learned from a decade-long successful career in the corporate world, his entrepreneurial endeavors since 2004 and his own self reinvention, it’s no wonder Brian is considered the guru of career mentorship, transition and reinvention and is the media’s “go-to” guy for guidance and advice on how to find and work with a mentor and use the lessons learned to make informed career and lifestyle decisions.

Get to know Brian via his [website](#), [blog](#) and on [Twitter](#).

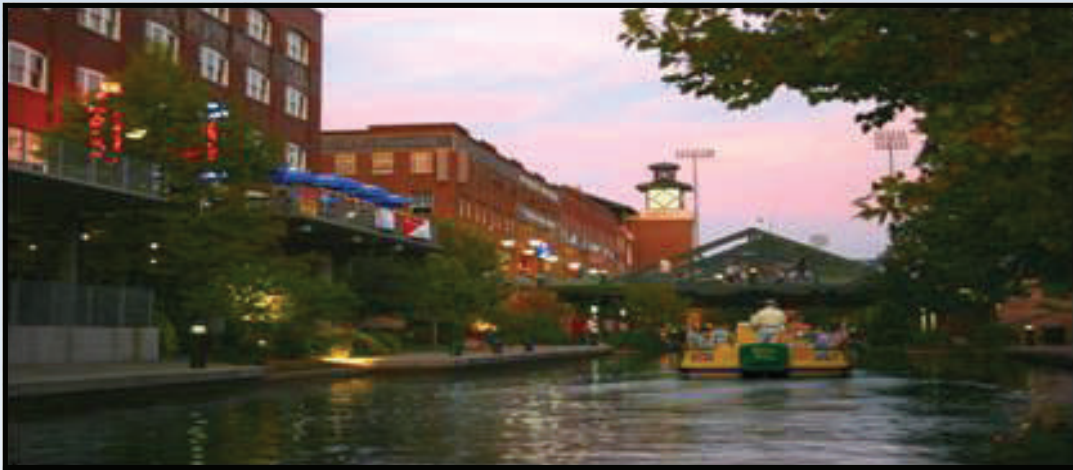
**Register by February 26th to take advantage of the early bird registration fee!**  
[Click here for the online forum registration](#)



## **2010 VECAP National Issues Forum**

### **“Finding Your Career Path Through the Lifecycle”**

April 8, 2010 (Pre-conference)  
April 9 - 11, 2010 (Conference)  
Oklahoma City, OK



*Oklahoma City has it all—from the historic Old West in Stockyards City to the vibrant energy of Bricktown, the city’s lively entertainment district. The museums hold artistic treasures, and the sports venues have something for everyone. Choices abound for an experience you’ll cherish! For additional information, including videos, please visit <http://www.okccvb.org/>.*

[Click here for the online forum registration](#)

**Register by February 26th to take advantage of the early bird registration fee!**

Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Conference Center  
5750 Will Rogers Road  
Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110  
405-455-1805

[Click here to make your hotel reservations today](#)

**(A block of rooms are being held through March 7, 2010 at a rate of \$84 plus tax per night)**

# ***VECAP Encourages you to Benefit from Participating in Several Ways with this Exemplary Conference!***

## **Forum Exhibitors, Advertisers and Sponsors:**

VECAP is currently accepting submissions for Forum Exhibitors, Advertisers and Sponsors. The deadline for submission is March 1, 2010. If you'd like to find out additional information about these opportunities, please download this file:

[2010\\_VECAP\\_Forum\\_Invitation\\_Exhibitors\\_Advertisers\\_and\\_Sponsors.pdf](#)

If you'd like to register as an exhibitor, advertiser, and/or sponsor for the Forum, please click here <https://gwcrcre.wufoo.com/forms/2010-vecap-national-issues-forum-exhibitor/>

## **Student Literacy Contest:**

VECAP invites students to submit papers to compete in the Student Literacy Contest. The deadline for submission is March 1, 2010. All winners receive free registration to the Forum and recognition at the conference award banquet along with publication in the VECAP Journal! Winners will be notified by March 5, 2010. For additional information, please download the flyer describing the contest:

[2010\\_VECAP\\_Forum\\_Student\\_Literacy\\_Contest\\_Invitation.doc](#) . All winners receive free registration to the Forum and recognition at the conference award banquet along with publication in the VECAP Journal



### *Benefits of Competition:*

- First Place: \$150 and certificate of appreciation
- Second Place: \$125 and certificate of appreciation
- Third Place: \$100 and a certificate of appreciation

### *Who is eligible?*

- All students in Vocational Evaluation or Rehabilitation Undergraduate or Graduate Programs

*Appropriate contest manuscripts include: Topics related to Career Assessment, Vocational Assessment, Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment including:*

- Research
- Literature review
- Theoretical positions
- Comparison/evaluation of work adjustment approaches
- Similar topic of your choosing

*Submit manuscripts, following APA guidelines for preparation, to the following address:*

VECAP Literary Contest

Ronald J. Spitznagel, Ed.D, CVE, CRC, Associate Professor Emeritus

3521 NW 35th Place, Gainesville, FL 32605

352-338-0764, [rspitzna@phhp.ufl.edu](mailto:rspitzna@phhp.ufl.edu)

for additional information, please visit <http://www.vecap.org>



***Four Dynamic Pre-Conference Sessions are being Offered at the VECAP National Issues Forum on Thursday, April 8, 2010 from 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.***

**Preconference I**

***Fundamentals of Vocational Evaluation***

**Presenter: Mike Ahlers, MMDS, CVE, Public Service Executive II, State of Kansas**

This preconference session will provide an introduction to the fundamental concepts, values and definitions of the field. This is a great workshop for the person just entering the field or for the more seasoned professional looking to brush up on essential skills.

*About the Presenter: Mike Ahlers, MMDS has experience in vocational assessment in private non-profit, private for-profit and public rehabilitation programs. He has been a certified vocational evaluator since 1983. He has been Administrator of two state operated vocational evaluation facilities and currently coordinates all vocational assessment services across the state of Kansas. He provides consultation, oversight, training and technical expertise to state-run career development centers as well as private contractors. He served on the 30th Institute on Rehabilitation Issues, "A New Paradigm for Vocational Evaluation: Empowering the VR Consumer through Vocational Information" and has taught classes in vocational evaluation, leadership, psychological tests & measurements, and provides fundamentals of vocational assessment training to all new rehabilitation counselors in Kansas.*

**Preconference II**

***The Right Question + The Right Instrument = The Right Information***

**Presenter: Steve Sligar, Ed.D, CVE, Assistant Professor, Director Graduate Program in Vocational Evaluation  
East Carolina University**

If you ask an evaluator—what bugs you? Two answers may be: ambiguous referral questions and how do I select an instrument to answer those questions? Along the same lines, if you ask a rehabilitation counselor—what bugs you? The answers may be: how to ask questions to get the information I need and just what was the reason this test was selected? This interactive workshop addresses these topics. You will learn how to develop and examine referral questions and interview consumers and colleagues to determine what they want: their underlying issues. You will learn how to conduct a construct/content analysis of tests to determine what the tests report they measure and what they really measure. You will learn to select a tool that measures the characteristic that matches the intent of the referral question and how to report the results. Finally, you will develop and practice using a plan to learn how to formulate better questions and teach consumers how to ask empowering questions of the evaluator.

*About the Presenter: Steven R. Sligar, Ed.D, CVE, serves as an assistant professor and director of the Graduate Program in Vocational Evaluation at East Carolina University. He has over 35 years experience in vocational rehabilitation and this includes work with special populations of persons who were deaf and/or blind. He has a Masters in Rehabilitation and Special Education with a specialization in vocational evaluation from Auburn University and Doctorate in Adult Education and Human Resource Development from Northern Illinois University. He has 48 publications and conducted over 200 national presentations in the areas of vocational evaluation, deafness, and administration.*



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**Preconference III**

***The Evaluator – Expert: Assessing Employability in the Forensic Setting***

**Presenter: Craig S. Johnston, Ph.D., Johnston Vocational Consulting**

Vocational experts are called upon by the courts to render an ultimate opinion of employability and to identify future earnings potential. For the experienced vocational evaluator, forensic work may be a desirable career path. Before an individual can testify in a legal setting however, they must understand the qualifications needed to be admitted as an expert, the methodology required under the law, and the change in roles from one of assisting an individual with finding work to one of assessing loss of earnings capacity. This presentation will provide a broad overview of the functions of the vocational expert, providing the attendee with a foundation for future work in this challenging and highly specialized practice area.

*About the Presenter: Craig Johnston is a practicing Vocational Expert with Johnston Vocational Consulting and a Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling at Northeastern Illinois University. He has served as a Vocational Expert in Personal Injury, Workers Compensation, Social Security, and Employment Law cases, and provides consulting services throughout the Great Lakes region. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University, where he received his doctorate in rehabilitation services. Dr. Johnston is an editorial board member of The RehabPro and a board member of the Illinois Chapter of IARP. He holds additional memberships in the National Council of Rehabilitation Educators and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. Over 100 practicing rehabilitation counselors in the United States have been students of Dr. Johnston. Dr. Johnston can be reached at: Johnston Vocational Consulting, 7510 Kildare Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076, 847-436-3413, [johnstonvoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnstonvoc@sbcglobal.net).*

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**Preconference IV**

***What Vocational Evaluators Need to Know to Collaborate with Special Educators to Improve Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities***

This session, sponsored by the [Division on Career Development and Transition](#), will focus on information and strategies for collaboration between vocational evaluators and school transition services. The major elements of this session will include:

- What the laws say about transition and assessment focusing on IDEA 2004, the Rehabilitation Act and the Workforce Investment Act.
- Defining functional vocational evaluation methods by creating a shared language among schools and adult agencies.
- How to translate vocational evaluation data into individualized plans (IEPs, SOPs, and IPEs) as well as how to use data from individualized plans for vocational evaluations.
- How youth are different from adults when it comes to transition assessment
- Overview of school-sponsored vocational and career development programs including a model framework for school-based and community-based programs as well as an overview of model programs.

*About the Presenters: Dr. Pamela Leconte, Assistant Research Professor of Special Education, Principal Investigator and Project Director, The Collaborative Vocational Evaluation Training Program, Department of Teacher Preparation and Special Education, The George Washington University. She partners with community-based organizations in the Washington D.C. metro area and is an assistant research professor in Transition Special Education. Her professional experiences include work as a vocational evaluator for school and rehabilitation settings, national and international consultant, trainer, grant reviewer, adjunct instructor, and university professor. She is known for her visionary leadership, tireless mentorship to students and colleagues, and constant support to others.*

*Dr. Mary E. Morningstar is an associate professor in the Department of Special Education at the University of Kansas and Director of the Transition Coalition, a research and training center for the transition to adulthood and secondary special education for youth with disabilities. The Transition Coalition is designed to maximize transition professional development at national, state and local levels through online training and technical assistance. For the past several years, Dr. Morningstar has co-directed the KU Secondary/Transition Masters Program, the KU TranCert, (an online graduate certificate program in transition), and the KU Secondary Education and Transition Program, a 4-year doctoral training program designed to promote leadership in secondary school reform and transition policy development.*

*Stacie Dojonovic is a Transition Coordinator for students at Fox Chapel Area High School residing in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. She has fourteen years of experience helping school age youth with disabilities transition to adult life, coordinating community and school partnerships, developing jobs, providing job support and placement, conducting vocational evaluations, and developing both secondary and post-secondary curriculum. She has extensive experience in developing transition programs and assessment tools and protocols.*



***Over Twenty-five General, Feature and Paper Sessions are being Offered at the VECAP National Issues Forum***

**Friday, April 9, 2010 AGENDA**

**8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

8:30—9:00 a.m.	Opening Plenary Session
9:00 –10:30 a.m.	Keynote Session: Brian Kurth, Vocation Vacations
10:30 –11:00 a.m.	Break & Exhibitor Hall
11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.	General Session: Poly Trauma and the Returning Solider, Implications for Career Assessment and Vocational Evaluators

***Exhibitor Hall, including an Exhibitor Showcase during Lunch, Concurrent Paper Sessions and President's Reception***

12:30—2:00 p.m.	Lunch on your Own or Sign Up for Exhibitor Showcase Boxed Lunch
2:00—3:00 p.m.	Paper Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are Vocational Evaluators Ready To Change? Do We Need To?</li><li>• Cultural Considerations in Vocational Evaluation</li><li>• Are We All on the Same Page? - Clarifying Levels of Vocational Assessment</li><li>• Transition Assessment: Best Practices and Strategies for Practitioners</li></ul>
3:00—3:30 p.m.	Break & Exhibit Hall



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**Friday, April 9, 2010 AGENDA (Continued)**

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Paper Sessions:

- Web-based Assessment Tools to Aid in the Assessment of Vocational Interests, Learning Style, Aptitude, and Multiple Intelligences
- Racial and Ethnic Minorities and Vocational Assessment and Career Placement
- Expert Witness Testimony: A Secure Place
- Foundations of Practice: Why We Do What We Do
- Writing for Professional Publication 101

5:00-6:30 p.m.

President's Reception

**Saturday, April 10, 2010 AGENDA**

**8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

8:30-10:00 a.m.

General Session: Social Computing Tools and Techniques: New Opportunities for the Professionals

10:00-10:30 a.m.

Break and Exhibitors

10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Feature Presentations:

- Forensic Practices
- Integrating Assistive Technology and Vocational Evaluation

12:00—2:00 p.m.

Awards Luncheon



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**Saturday, April 10, 2010 AGENDA (Continued)**

2:00—3:00 p.m.

Paper Sessions:

- Independent Living and Evaluation
- VEWAA, VECAP and CVE: Our Past, Present, and Future
- The Single Tool Needed for a Transition Assessment is...A Trained Evaluator
- The Use of Social Media Tools in Vocational Evaluation and Assessment: Sharing Expertise and Resources
- The Case for Using Two Interest Surveys: Research and Reasoning

3:00—3:30 p.m.

Break and Exhibitors

3:30—5:00 p.m.

Feature Presentations:

- Creating Transition Assessments that Work: National Community of Practice on Transition
- Shared Work Sample/Tool Share

5:15—6:30 p.m.

VECAP Business Meeting

6:45 p.m.

Special Event: Opportunities to Enjoy Oklahoma City with a Group of Friends and Colleagues—  
Sign-up Sheets will be available at the event!

**Sunday, April 11, 2010 AGENDA**

**7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

7:30—8:30 a.m.

VECAP Student Breakfast

8:30—10:30 a.m.

General Session: The Way Forward: Certification and Credentialing