

Disabled Student Council
Newsletter
“A Voice for the Disabled”
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The Disability Support Services department welcomes **194** students for this semester. These students represent part of the 7,955 students enrolled this semester. This department assists students with disabilities to fully participate in all programs offered by the College. The department is staffed with a coordinator, special population coordinators on each campus, secretary, and five interpreters. The department welcomes **Amy Massey**, the secretary to the family. Students with disabilities, who need testing accommodations, please contact Mrs. Massey at ext. 3320.

Correspondence letters have been send to the faculty members of the students with a disability requesting accommodations/services in her/her classes. Please address these requests with the students and submit a report to the respective coordinator. This report becomes part of the student’s file.

●**Shanickey Kirkwood** is project coordinator for the statewide self advocacy organization, **My Voice My Choice of Mississippi**. The mission of the organization is to empower individuals with disabilities to believe in themselves, gain life skills needed to be productive citizens in their communities, and to overcome everyday challenges. Shanickey is a former student of Northwest. She will be speaking on campus **March 10, 2010 at 1:30pm in the Lectorium of the PSA building**.

Bill Would Remove Term ‘Mental Retardation’ From Laws

A bill introduced in the U.S. senate would remove the terms “mental retardation” and “mentally retarded” from federal statutes. “Rosa’s Law was introduced and would require all instances of the terms be replaced with “intellectual disability” or “individual with an intellectual disability.”

Among other, the law will amend the Individual With Disabilities Education Act, the Higher Education Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act. The bill received its nickname from a Maryland student, Rosa, whose Individualized Education Plan designated her as a student with “mental retardation” causing school official to call her retarded.

Source: Section 504 Compliance Handbook, January 2010, No. 374

“Develop an attitude of gratitude, and give thanks for everything that happens to you, knowing that every step forward is a step toward achieving something bigger than your current situation.”

Brian Tracy