

# SAVE THE DATE!



**nrcp** 2011 Paraprofessional Conference  
Paraprofessionals Connecting With  
21st Century Learners

## 29th National Conference on the Training & Employment of Paraprofessionals

### “Keyed In, Logged On, Charged Up!” *Paraprofessionals Connecting with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners*

**May 12 - 14, 2011**  
**Sheraton Harrisburg**  
**Hershey Hotel**  
**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for the 29th National Conference for Paraprofessionals & Related Service Providers sponsored by the National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals (NRCP). The theme for the 2011 conference is “**Keyed In, Logged On, Charged Up!**” *Paraprofessionals Connecting with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners*.

Join us in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania from **May 12 to May 14, 2011** at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel with hundreds of other paraprofessionals, parents, policymakers, and administrators in state and local education, personnel developers in 2- and 4-year colleges, as well as many other stakeholders and service providers.

Over the past 20 years, the number of paraeducators has risen from approximately 80,000 to a minimum of 900,000 nationwide. More significantly, their roles and responsibilities have become increasingly complex. In today's schools and other education provider agencies, paraeducators are used to provide instructional and related services for learners who benefit from individualized programs and personalized services. Despite our increased reliance on paraeducators and the advent of federal guidelines (IDEA '04, NCLB), opportunities for professional development and career advancement for paraeducators have been lagging. Additionally, there are few venues for policy makers, representatives of Institutions of Higher Education and others to plan and develop the infrastructures necessary to support paraeducators and their supervisors.

Go to [www.nrcpara.org](http://www.nrcpara.org) for:

- ◆ The online **Call for Papers** (deadline is **August 27, 2010**)
- ◆ Online Conference Registration. Register today for special early bird pricing!
- ◆ Hotel and Travel Information
- ◆ Exhibitor Application

For over two decades, this conference has responded to the professional development needs of these varied individuals and provided the opportunity to bring together a broad range of audiences. The first conference held in Texas boasted 88 participants. It is anticipated that over 1,000 will attend this year's conference including paraeducators, policy makers and administrators, personnel developers from 2-and 4-year colleges and universities, parents, representatives of unions and professional organizations. Participants will gain knowledge of new dimensions in the roles, preparation, supervision, and career mobility for the paraprofessional workforce. Session topics will address:

- **Research Initiatives** focusing on paraeducator effectiveness, training and supervision, one-on-one use of paraeducators, or other pertinent topics.
- **Hands-on training** designed to strengthen on-the-job performance of paraprofessionals
- **State & local initiatives** to set standards for:
  - paraprofessional roles in various staffing arrangements and programs, skills and knowledge required by paraprofessionals working in different levels of paraprofessional positions, and 3) training and professional development opportunities for paraprofessionals.
- **Incentives** for retaining a skilled paraprofessional workforce
- **Standards** & professional development models for preparing supervisors to work effectively with paraprofessionals and direct service providers.

In addition to these sessions, the 4th annual "State Leadership" session will be held on Wednesday, on April 29, from 4:30-7:30 – open to people engaged in activities to promote paraprofessional leadership at a variety of levels in states, e.g., state staff; state or regional training and TA staff; higher education personnel; persons promoting leadership through involvement in various state activities, labor organizations, committees, advisory groups; etc. All interested parties may attend. During the session, representatives from each state highlight one major state level accomplishment. This session provides a chance to meet others in similar roles at the beginning of the conference to facilitate networking.

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