



MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



Missouri Department of Natural Resources'
Multicultural Affairs Committee presents the
18th Annual Diversity Conference

iversity Revealed

Biographies



Sara Parker Pauley
Director, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Sara Parker Pauley leads the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' efforts to protect our air, land and water; preserve our unique natural and historic places; and provide recreational and learning opportunities for everyone. Pauley began as director in December 2010 and is the second female to lead the agency. She received both her law degree and her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri – Columbia, completed post-graduate studies in Australia as a Rotary Fellow and was an instructor for MU's School of Natural Resources.

During her career, Pauley has worked in the executive and legislative branches of state government, both fish and wildlife environmental agencies in state government, profit and nonprofit sectors and with federal, state and local governments. Under her leadership, Pauley has worked on policy development, marketing, environmental compliance, and built and improved relationships with Missouri's communities, business and industry, the environmental community, legislators, and the public to make Missouri a leader in innovative resource conservation, while protecting our outdoor heritage for generations to come.



Dr. Kevin Rome, Lincoln University President
Diversity is a Natural Resource

Dr. Kevin D. Rome, Sr. earned the Bachelor of Art degree in English from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia in 1989. He received the Master of Education in College Student Personnel with an emphasis in counseling from the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, in 1991, and the Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Texas at Austin in Austin, Texas in 2001. (continue reading)



Mike Berkson and Tim Wambach

Handicap This!

In 2001, Mike Berkson met Tim Wambach. Mike has cerebral palsy and virtually no movement of his arms and legs, thus limiting his control and independence. Tim was a motivated young adult looking to find his way. It is said that everybody is looking for somebody and these two individuals were indirectly looking for each other. Tim was hired to be Mike's one on one aide when Mike was 12. (Tim was 27) Tim would help Mike do the things he was not able to do for himself, like taking notes, feeding, and going to the bathroom, to name a few. (continue reading)

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfVCgRVMBRc>



Aaron Likens - Easter Seals Midwest and Author

Finding Kansas: Living and Decoding Asperger's Syndrome

Aaron Likens is the Autism Ambassador for Easter Seals Midwest and also the author of Finding Kansas: Living and Decoding Asperger's Syndrome. His passion in life is raising awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorders and to help the world understand how the mind of a person on the spectrum works. Likens says he is able to do this because he is on the spectrum (Asperger's). He was diagnosed at the age of 20 and after the diagnosis he says a lot of his quirks made sense. He didn't understand who he was though and went into a deep depression. Through this depression, he became very keen on his inner self and started to write. Likens wrote and wrote and before he knew it he had written a book. Five years later, he is, among other things, giving presentations to police, teachers, and parents and starting his quest on making the best blog possible! The views on this blog are his and may not be reflective of Touch Point Autism Services. If you have any questions, or comments, or have an article idea please email Likens at aaron.likens@yahoo.com.

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxCamS21Nas>



Missouri State University Theatre Group

Giving Voice

The MSU Giving Voice Project was created to meet the vital needs of a continuing and growing presence of oppressed, marginalized persons. This is done through scenarios that shed light on discrimination. Giving Voice programs address issues, which are often unknown or ignored, resulting in an oppressive and discriminatory environment. The Giving Voice experience provides an awakening and a safe environment to not only have the needed difficult dialogues, but to actually try various ideas to improve a situation. Under the Direction of Dr. Carol Maples.



Dr. Alisa Warren – Missouri Commission on Human Rights

Understanding Diversity with the MO Commission on Human Rights

The Missouri Commission on Human Rights appointed Dr. Alisa Warren Executive Director in 2008. Prior to joining the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, Warren worked for the University of Missouri as Director of Diversity Initiatives. Her previous Missouri state service included employment with the Office of Administration as Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity. She also was employed by the Department of Economic Development as Interim Executive Director of the Missouri Community Service Commission. Warren holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Design, a master's in Public Administration, and a doctorate in Community Development with an emphasis in Social Disparity, all from the University of Missouri.



Troy Balthazor, Great Plains ADA Center/University of Missouri Columbia

Understanding ADA: Revealing its Benefits to our Diverse Public

Troy Balthazor, M.Ed., serves as an Americans with Disabilities Act Specialist for the Great Plains ADA Center. The ADA Center is part of the University of Missouri's College of Human Environmental Sciences. Balthazor and others at the ADA Center provide training, education and technical assistance on the ADA and related civil rights legislation. The ADA Center hosts the National ADA Symposium annually, providing the most comprehensive training available in the United States on the rights and responsibilities set forth under landmark civil rights laws aimed at providing equal opportunity to all citizens, regardless of ability level. Balthazor also teaches at the University of Missouri in the Parks and Recreation Department. Balthazor lives in Columbia, Missouri and enjoys fishing, hiking, and spending time with his wife and two wonderful children. He is active in many local and regional boards and organizations; he currently heads the PedNet Coalition Board of Directors, supporting transportation mode shift through accessible and universal design of trail systems that improve safety and usability for those that choose to bike, walk and wheel throughout Columbia.



Linda Baker - Governor's Council on Disabilities

Developing a Workforce that Includes Workers with Disabilities

Linda Baker obtained her MSW degree from St. Louis University and has been an accredited Social Worker since 1980. Her professional social work experiences have been in the area of mental health, home health and the disability/ independent living movement. (continue reading)