

Technology to assist disabled featured at Resource Expo

Technologies that have been developed to assist individuals with challenged abilities will be displayed and described at the third annual Disability Resource Expo (formerly the Assistive Technology Fair). The expo will be held between 2 and 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25, in the Consolidated Information Center at Washington State University Tri-Cities.

The expo will feature vendors and organizations demonstrating technologies and services to assist people with mobility, hearing, vision and other disabilities as well as types of neurological disorders. The expo also may benefit people dealing with family members or friends with disabilities.

Fluor Hanford, CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Bechtel National and Bechtel Hanford are co-sponsoring the expo in cooperation with the Hanford Community Diversity Council, as part of Disability Awareness Month.



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Sidney Bevens, left, of CH2M Hill Hanford Group learns about Columbia Industries at a previous Assistive Technology Fair. This year the event is called the Disability Resource Expo.

“There is no admissions charge to the expo, which is open to everyone — not just individuals with disabilities,” said Kathy Norris of Fluor Hanford. “Remember that disability is the one diversity characteristic that any one of us could experience at any time.”

Refreshments will be served.

Employees of Fluor Hanford and CHG may charge their time at the expo to the volunteerism code, CRW, AD20 code of accounts. Employees should have supervisory permission to attend the expo.

“Local vendors will offer sign language and Braille classes to the Hanford workforce and the community during the expo,” said Andi Bischoff of CHG. Classes will be in the Consolidated Information Center. Schedules will be posted at the expo.

The following companies are among those that have been invited to share information and demonstrate their technologies: Columbia Industries, Sousley Sounds & Communications, Hearing Healthcare Associates, Verizon, Edith Bishel Center for the Blind, Sunderland Family Treatment Services, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Columbia Basin Hearing Centers, Columbia Basin College, SHAM, etc. (horses for the disabled), Society of Human Resource Management, Yakima Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the South Eastern Washington Service Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

For additional information on the Disability Resource Expo, contact either Norris at 372-2488 or Bischoff at 373-4805. ♦