

What's Right with the Region? **WE ARE!**

The Starkloff Disability Institute was honored with a "What's Right with the Region!" award from FOCUS St. Louis, the region's premier leadership organization. We were cited for making a positive impact in the category of Social Justice and Racial Equality and for showing "a commitment to promoting diversity, access and opportunity for all." While SDI Co-Directors, Colleen Starkloff and David Newburger, collected our plaque at the award ceremony on May 7, the honor belongs to you as well.



SDI staff accepting the *What's Right With the Region* award.

Because of your generosity, we are off to a great start in 2015, as the nation celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.



Graduates of the *Next Big Step* Spring 2015 Class with SDI board

ACCOMPLISHING OUR GOALS

The Next Big Step

- Since the program's inception, 61 jobseekers with disabilities have found competitive employment and 51 (83 percent) remain employed. The employment figure shows a 60 percent increase over this time last year.
- Our classes for job seekers have never been more powerful as Wells Fargo Advisors, Express Scripts, Worldwide Technologies, and Saint Louis University join with long-standing partners, Centene Corporation, Nestlé Purina, Enterprise Bank & Trust and Enterprise Holdings, to provide instruction and to network.
- In 2014, for the first time, we offered **two classes for job seekers** in an effort to serve larger numbers of people with disabilities. We are on track for the same level of service in 2015.

- We reached our goal in 2014 for educating **300 professionals in the world of work** about including people with disabilities in the workforce. Already in 2015, corporate and HR professionals attended training offered in cooperation with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf Center on Employment. A two-day program, called "Working Together: Deaf and Hearing People - A Workshop for Employers," held at Centene Corporation in Clayton, attracted representatives from over 20 companies and organizations.
- Over 100 architects, planners, and builders were also exposed to information on Universal Design.



Workshop conducted by National Technical Institute for the Deaf

SHARING OUR MESSAGE

We are also proud to report that it has been a banner year when it comes to getting our message out to the public:

- *Max Starkloff and the Fight for Disability Rights*, the book authored by Charles E. Claggett, Jr. and Richard Weiss, has garnered two awards. First is the national Bronze IPPY Award in the biography category. The IPPY Awards honor the year's best independently published titles from around the world. The book also received the 2014 Award of Merit in Publications from the American Association for State and Local History. During the early months of 2015, 111 local residents heard the authors read from this important book.
- Colleen Starkloff and her daughter, Meaghan Breitenstein, were featured on National Public Radio's StoryCorps on January 16, 2015. The 3 minute segment on the Starkloff family played twice on *Morning Edition*, the most-listened-to news radio program in the country.
- On March 27, an exhibition, *Max Starkloff: A Retrospective*, opened at the Bruno David Gallery in Grand Center. Nearly 1,500 visitors to the gallery, in a 3 month period, viewed a collection of paintings by the late Max Starkloff. The exhibition reminded the public in a powerful way that no person with a disability should ever be reduced to just a disability.
- SDI Co-Director David Newburger offered an insightful presentation about the role of ADA Coordinators at the National ADA Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia. The audience of over 120 public and private ADA Coordinators from across the country benefited from his expertise.
- KSDK news anchor Mike Bush told the compelling story of SDI's *Next Big Step* program on his "Making a Difference" segment. The 4-minute piece aired during the 10 p.m. newscast on Sunday, June 7, to an audience of 80,000 viewers.



Max Starkloff: A Retrospective at the Bruno David Gallery

As more people hear about us, we hope they will see what you see and support our work.

LOOKING AHEAD

We celebrate past achievements on the 25th anniversary of the ADA and anticipate forward progress in bringing down barriers to employment for people with disabilities.

- We are building an **Alumni Association** to maintain the camaraderie that develops in our classes, to build a network for the young professionals entering the job market, and to cultivate an important group of volunteers for SDI.



- We are implementing a new business model for our services to corporations, as distinct from our training for job seekers, using recent recommendations from the Taylor Community Consulting Program at Washington University's Olin School of Business.
- Last, but certainly not least, SDI will serve as co-host of an event on October 3, called **ADA 25 STL: A 25th Anniversary Celebration**, commemorating the signing of the American with Disabilities Act by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990. The outdoor festival will take place on the grounds of the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park.

Of course, you are invited! We celebrate you and your support as we look forward to the next 25 years in the long march toward the goal of full participation of people with disabilities in the world we share.