Accessibility for All
by the Disability and Health Program

Deaf-blind Harvard Graduate
Haben Girma is the first deaf-blind student to graduate from Harvard Law School. She works as a lawyer trying to improve access to technology and challenge expectations of individuals with disabilities. To learn more about Haben, watch this video here.

IRS: Save Money, Without Jeopardizing Benefits
The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is relaxing rules on new Achieving Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts for individuals with disabilities. In doing so, individuals can open new savings accounts, accrue up to $100,000, and not jeopardize their Social Security or other government benefits. Learn more, here.

Riding Horses as a Form of Therapy
Riding horses has been found to be therapeutic for people with special needs ranging from those with epilepsy to those with autism. For individuals who use wheelchairs, this can be a way to build self-confidence and core strength. To learn more, click here.

Dad Chronicles Daughter's Life Using

Upcoming Events
Escambia: Meet Your Athletes 2015
December 18, 2015, 5:30pm-8:30pm, Pensacola, FL
What: Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties are hosting the 2015 Special Olympics Meet Your Athletes event.

Autism Speaker Series: John Elder Robison
January 13, 2016, 6:00pm-8:00pm, Boca
In a comic strip series titled Just Jessica, a creative father is offering a glimpse into the life of his teenage daughter with Down Syndrome. He posts these comics on Facebook almost daily, which chronicle the issues that nearly every teenager faces while transitioning into adulthood. To learn more, click here.

Google to Donate Millions to Special Education

Google is planning on donating millions of dollars to benefit special education programs across the country. These efforts are a part of the Google Impact Challenge: Disabilities, which offers millions in funding to programs using technology to increase independence for individuals with disabilities. To learn more, click here.

Doctors Urged to Advocate for Kids with Disabilities

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) published a report indicating that doctors play a significant role in ensuring children with disabilities get the appropriate services they need from schools. The AAP urges doctors to learn more about special education programs and advocate for kids with disabilities. To learn more, click here.

New TV Series: Young Adults with Down Syndrome

There is a six-episode series that follows seven California adults and their families on their journey to gain greater independence. The A&E network: "this series is about honesty, humor, and heart that celebrates and embraces diversity." This series first
aired on December 8th at 10pm. To learn more, click here.

Briefs, Guides, and Tip Sheets

Assistive Technology Guide

Did you know assistive technology (AT) can be as low-tech as a magnifying glass and as high-tech as a computerized communication system? The Family Center on Technology and Disability provides some examples of AT and the methods for choosing the right AT devices for a child. To learn more, click here.

Understanding Health Insurance

The Kaiser Family Foundation has produced a video titled Health Insurance Explained - The YouToons Have It Covered. This video breaks down insurance concepts, explains how to pay for coverage, and how to obtain medical care and prescription drugs. To learn more, click here. It is also available in Spanish, here.

Tips for Caregivers of People with Disabilities

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers tips for caregivers of individuals with disabilities on how to combine caregiving and personal needs. It offers insight on how to stay healthy, how to find a support system, and how to be an advocate. To learn more, click here.

TSA: Ensuring Security

Thursday, January 14, 2016, 2:30-4:00pm
This webinar will host two presentations. The first focuses on how the Texas Disability Task Force ensures works to ensure access through outreach in the community. The second focuses on the Public Safety Committee of the Seattle Commission for people with disabilities and their Emergency Shelter Communications Toolkit. To learn more, click here.

Awards, Scholarships, and Applications

The AAPD Paul G. Hearne Leadership Awards
Deadline: Friday, December 18, 2015 at 5:00pm
The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) recognizing emerging leaders with disabilities that demonstrate advocacy, dedication, and leadership in the broad cross-disability community. Two individuals will receive $2,500 for their contributions and $7,500 for a new or existing initiative. To learn
To make flying as smooth of a process as possible, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) provides insight on the screening process for people with disabilities. This includes disabilities such as people that require respiratory equipment, service dogs, and people that are deaf or hard of hearing. To learn more, click here.

Best,
Florida Disability and Health Program

Disclaimer: These links are provided for informational purposes, not to solicit donations to an organization nor to promote one organization or resource over another.


http://fodh.phhp.ufl.edu

AAPD Paid Summer Internship Program
The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is accepting applications from college students and recent graduates with all types of disabilities for a 10-week paid summer internship. The internship sites include federal agencies, non-profit, and for-profit organizations in the Washington DC area. To learn more, click here.

About the DHP
The Disability and Health Program (DHP) is funded through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Formerly, the Florida Office on Disability and Health, the DHP is housed under the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention in Tallahassee, FL with partnership from the University of Florida.