

NVSU Services:

Comprehensive Vocational Evaluation

Community Based Assessment

Job Placement Services

Job Retention/ Job Coaching Services

Accommodation Consultations

Transition Services

Join us for a Night of Celebration and Connection:

Cheers for Careers is FREE and open to the public! Live Music, Great Food and Wine, Community

Event Details: Cheers for Careers is NVS' annual award ceremony. Every year we celebrate our employer of the year, community service organization of the year and DVR counselor of the year for their dedication to helping people with disabilities in their journey to secure meaningful employment!



Date: Thursday, October 26th from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Sleight of Hand Winery 3861 1st Ave S G, Seattle, WA 98134

Neurology Vocational Services Unit
Harborview Medical Center
325 9th Avenue Box 359744
Seattle WA 98104



NVS & NVSU

HELPING TO BRIDGE THE EMPLOYMENT GAP FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Employment Bridge Newsletter

Fall 2023

OUR MISSION:

HELPING PEOPLE WITH NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS GAIN INDEPENDENCE, ONE PERSON, ONE JOB, AT A TIME.

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Harborview Medical Center
325 9th Avenue
Box 359744
Seattle WA, 98104

Neurological Vocational Services Presents

CHEERS FOR CAREERS

Celebrating our Community Partners and Employer of the Year!

Thursday, October 26th 5 to 7PM

Local music by Sidecar and appetizers by Chef April will be served.

Sleight of Hand Winery

3861 1st Ave S G, Seattle, WA 98134



SCAN ME

Ways to Support!

- ▲ Attend Cheers for Careers 10/26!
- ▲ Volunteer to Speak at Job Club
- ▲ Gifts of Stock and Bonds
- ▲ Annual Donations
- ▲ Employer Matching Gifts
- ▲ Planned Legacy Gifts

Donate Directly At



PayPal Giving Fund
QR Code

"One significant observation from her extensive career is the rarity of rehabilitation counselors working in hospitals. Budget constraints often discount their roles and over time, few hospitals employ rehabilitation counselors, UW and HMC being the exception." - Barbara Beach



Barbara Beach, Rehabilitation Counselor and NVSU Program Manager, is Retiring!

The journey into rehabilitation counseling and vocational services for individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI), chronic pain, spinal cord injury, and physical disabilities often begins with a deep-rooted passion for helping others. In Barbara's case, this journey traces back to her academic pursuits and a profound desire to make a difference.

Her path began in sunny California, where she pursued a BA in Sociology at the University of California, Riverside. During these formative years, the spark of interest in psychology and social work prompted her to further her education, earning her M.Ed. in the Educational Psychology Dept. at UW with a major in Rehabilitation Counseling.

Her graduate major was a choice driven by a genuine interest in people with disabilities and a belief that she could make a difference. Upon graduating, she found very few openings for rehabilitation counseling and took a job in a sheltered workshop where she was tasked with seeking accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). This was her first introduction to accreditation. Within a year, a former classmate contacted her about a Rehab Counseling position within the UW Department of Rehabilitation Medicine.

In retrospect, this is where her education really began. She had the opportunity that few counselors have- to work with world renowned Physicians, Psychologists and highly trained, knowledgeable Occupational and Physical Therapists, Speech Pathologists, Nurses, Social Workers, and Therapeutic Recreation Specialists. It was at this point that she began to understand the benefit of the team approach to patient care. During her tenure, she became acquainted with chronic pain treatment, spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke and the broad range of patients treated in the Department.

Barbara transitioned to an out-patient Pain and Brain Injury Clinic in Portland following a 9-year tenure at UW that provided work hardening services. This led to serving on a CARF National Advisory Committee and ultimately being invited to become a CARF surveyor. Barbara has been a CARF surveyor,

surveying numerous hospitals and outpatient programs in the United States, Europe, China and Japan. This work has been especially rewarding and enhanced her knowledge of rehabilitation. She later worked for CARF in Tucson and became a lifelong proponent of accreditation. As a result, she was also asked by programs seeking accreditation to provide consulting services in the US and Canada.

To her, the crux of her work has always been providing individuals with some form of productive activity. It need not always be conventional employment; the goal is to instill a sense of productivity and purpose. This philosophy finds a unique expression in her work at NVSU.

Barbara has worked for NVSU for over a decade, alongside Dr. Bob Fraser. Their partnership included a mutual deep respect, collaboration, belief in the NVSU mission and mentorship of rehabilitation counselors and employment specialists entering the field, creating the "NVSU family." For the past several years, she has concurrently worked in the Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Program (CORP) at Harborview.

Barbara's unwavering dedication and commitment continue to drive her forward, ensuring that she makes a meaningful impact in the field of rehabilitation counseling and vocational services.

Although retiring is bittersweet, Barbara feels that she is leaving the program in good hands with Aliza Hauser and Eleanor Pawley's leadership. Barbara will remain involved and will always be part of the NVSU/ NVS family.

"It has been my great honor and privilege to work at UW and HMC. I have found my work to be very rewarding and have had the opportunity to work with some great colleagues. My time in the UW system has allowed me to use my education and devote myself to rehabilitation medicine and a service that changes people's lives"

Welcome New Staff

We're thrilled to introduce our talented staff who are joining our team, each bringing a unique set of skills and aspirations.



Torfeh Jahan, MA joined the NVSU staff in May 2023. She brings over 7 years of experience working with children and adults with disabilities and assisting them with job search and placement. She will be working half time in the Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Program at Harborview and half time at NVSU. She brings a positive and respectful approach and much enthusiasm to working with clients and patients.



Aliza Hauser, MA, CRC, PHR will be returning to NVSU on October 1. Aliza previously worked at NVSU from 2006 to 2013, starting as a Program Coordinator and moving to a position as a Rehabilitation Counselor. She attended Western Washington University while at NVSU and received her MA in Rehabilitation Counselor. She has gone on to work as a Disability Specialist at King County and as the Return to Work Manager at Puget Sound Educational Service District. She brings a wealth of rehabilitation experience at the County and State level and will return as the Director of NVSU.



Honoring Dr. Robert Fraser

Dr. Bob Fraser served as the Clinical Director of NVSU since its inception for over 40+ years. While we mourn his recent untimely death, we want to honor his memory by acknowledging some of his accomplishments and the role he played in the success of NVSU. He held the following appointments as a professor in the University of Washington's Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, joint with the Departments of Neurological Surgery and Neurology and consultant with Associates in Rehabilitation and Neuropsychology. He was an active counseling and rehabilitation psychologist, a certified rehabilitation counselor and a certified life care planner. He was involved in numerous grants over his career and served as a PI or Co-Investigator, most recently he was the PI for the PACES program, a grant related to Epilepsy Self-Management. He was the author of numerous books and publications over his career. Within neurological rehabilitation, he has specialized in epilepsy, brain injury, and multiple sclerosis. For the past 2 years, he has been a Professor Emeritus, but that never stopped him from supporting NVSU through clinical work, managing the NVS Board of Directors, acting as a resource to the community and actively participating in the Emerald City Rotary. His legacy will live on through the work of NVSU.