

# Community

Together it's better

Together Everyone Achieves More



2008 Annual DD Conference - October 16-17

# 2008 DD Conference Takes Shape

## Keynoters to Dwell on the Value of 'Community'

"Community – Together It's Better." That's a hard sentiment to argue with. It's also a difficult concept to bring about, especially if you happen to be a person with a developmental disability.

But it can and it should be done. How? Well, that's something attendees will find out when they attend this year's DD Conference. Scheduled for October 16-17 at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs, the 2008 conference will delve into the value of community, both in its physical and psychological sense.

"Building and inclusion are central to what community means to people with disabilities," DD Council Coordinator Mary Edwards comments. "For them, together is, in fact, better' in every possible sense," she adds.

Selected to lead the conference conversation about community are Al Swain and Al Condeluci. Diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at a young age, Swain lost both his mobility and eyesight. For many, that would have been enough to give up. Not for Swain. For him, it became an incentive to create and build upon what was given to him.

Swain brings his background of professional excellence to his programs. He defines his programs on disabilities, diversity, and multi-cultural concerns as having "irreverence, a dash of realism, and a liberal sprinkling of humor." Among his key sessions have been programs for the National Center for Inde-

pendent Living (NCIL) and a national workshop for the Administration for Developmental Disabilities. He has been a featured presenter for the Bermuda ACCESS Week for two consecutive years, as well as the keynote presenter for the Dayle McIntosh ILC Apple event in Garden Grove, Calif.,

Al Condeluci is no stranger to Arkansas. He has been both a DDC Family Leadership Project session leader and a DD Conference presenter.

An advocate and frequent catalyst for building community capacities and understanding culture since 1970, Condeluci received a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from Youngstown State University, and a Masters in Social Work and Ph.D. in Education from the University of



**Keynoter Al Swain**

Pittsburgh.

A Pittsburgh native, he has worked as an attendant, caseworker, advocate, planner and program director. Now, he is CEO UCP/CLASS of Pittsburgh, a family of corporations dedicated to working towards a community where everyone belongs.

**(Editor's Note –** Information on the DD Conference schedule, workshop content and leaders, registration materials and exhibitor forms will be available by the middle of June. Anyone who wishes to register should look for the conference brochure in the mail, or go to the Council website – ([www.ddcouncil.org](http://www.ddcouncil.org))