



**ANNOUNCEMENT:
2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19**

Dear AL-APSE Friends:

With great disappointment, we're writing to let you know that the 2020 Alabama APSE Conference, "Employment 2020 - The Vision is Clear" has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board is very disappointed by this turn of events. While we held off on cancelling as long as we could, we just weren't convinced that you'd be safe in a conference setting in July. Further, we didn't feel that we could safely host the social events that we typically include due to the need for social distancing and the need to utilize personal protective equipment. Our organization has held an annual conference since 1998. This is the first time in our history that we won't be holding the event, other than 2005 when we hosted the National APSE Conference.

Now for the good news:

The event has been rescheduled for July 7 – 9, 2021 in Montgomery at the Renaissance Hotel and Spa. Any hotel rooms that had been reserved under the block have automatically been cancelled. You will be able to reserve your 2021 room again beginning in August. The original link to reserve your room for the new date should be active. However, this link will be included in the new registration information that will be released in the fall.

For those that have already **registered and paid** the registration fee, you don't have to do anything. Your registration will be transferred over to the new date. This will ensure that you won't have to pay a higher registration fee next year should the fee increases as it usually does due to increased hotel and other conference related costs. Look for a new confirmation email when your registration is transferred to the new July date. If you need to substitute someone next year utilizing your current registration, that won't be a problem.

For those that submitted a **registration but not paid** the fee, you will need to reregister once the 2021 registration is available in the fall. For those individuals that had requested conference sponsorship utilizing “**Consumer Involvement Funding**” through the Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities, you will need to request this sponsorship again either by writing Alabama APSE at PO Box 240691, Montgomery, AL 36124 or by email at alabamaapse@aol.com. Your written communication should confirm that you submitted paperwork to attend in 2020 and want that request considered for 2021. These requests will be accepted beginning in the fall.

If you submitted a registration to **exhibit or sponsor** and have already paid, you don't have to do anything as your registration will be transferred over to the new date. Again, this will ensure that you won't pay a higher registration fee if the fee increases. We appreciate your support of our conference and hope that you will agree to exhibit/sponsor in 2021 with your current registration.

We're all having to adjust to a lot of changes in the way we live our daily lives. Our board is committed to sponsoring a conference in 2021 that will be one of our best. We had already secured some dynamic speakers for this year and had excellent networking events planned. Your attendance and continued support next year will make for another successful AL-APSE conference.

Let's continue to encourage each other and keep our fingers crossed that in the very near future, scientists and medical professionals will discover a vaccine and treatment for this Covid-19 pandemic, while learning how we can avoid this ever happening again in our lifetime. Continued good luck during this trying time and best wishes as you begin to resume somewhat of a normal or new normal. AL-APSE misses the old normal! If you have any questions or need further clarification or information, please email alabamaapse@aol.com or contact 334-353-7713.

With sincere thanks and some disappointment,

The Alabama APSE Board