

October 17, 2013

## **Cabarrus College Faculty Member, Amber Ward, Earns Prestigious Certification**



Congratulations are in order for Amber Ward, an adjunct faculty member in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Cabarrus College of Health Sciences. Amber recently passed the Seating and Mobility Specialist Test (SMS), offered by the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA). RESNA is the premier professional organization dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of people with disabilities through increasing access to technology solutions.

The SMS certification recognizes demonstrated competence in seating and mobility assessment, funding resources, implementation of intervention, and outcome assessment and follow-up. By passing the SMS test Amber becomes only the sixth person in our state with this designation, and the only person within Carolinas Health Care system.

Not only has Amber received a prestigious certification, she has also been invited to speak at several highly regarded symposiums. In November, Amber is speaking twice; at the National Nursing and Allied Health Symposium for ALS for *Best Practices in Occupational Therapy for ALS*, and at the North Carolina ALS Conference, *Occupational Therapy for Persons with ALS*.

In December, Amber will be speaking at the International ALS Motor Neuron Disease, (MND) Symposium in Milan, Italy. This will be her third time speaking at this Symposium. She will be speaking on *Gadgets and Gizmos for the ALS Client*.

Also, Amber has authored an abstract that has been accepted for the International Seating Symposium in Vancouver, British Columbia in 2014. The abstract is about *Power Wheelchair Use for Patients with ALS; Changes Over Time*.

Amber has been a part-time adjunct faculty member at Cabarrus College for the last four years. She has been a practicing Occupational Therapist in Charlotte for the past 18 years. She is also a wheelchair evaluator.

Submitted by Melanie Gass