

North Ridgeville Hero, Sgt. Dana Bowman returns to Ohio

Tricia Bowersox, Center for Leadership in Education

He is a skydiver, a double amputee, and a motivational speaker! And, he is coming to Northeast Ohio April 12-14, 2005 for the Overcoming Barriers conference. Dana Bowman, an alumnus of North Ridgeville High School, is a retired First Class Sergeant with the U.S. Army where he was a Special Forces Soldier and a member of the U.S. Army elite parachute team, the Golden Knights. He lost his legs in an accident during the annual Golden Knight training in 1994.

The Center for Leadership in Education (Elyria, Ohio) and New Avenues to Independence (Cleveland, Ohio) have partnered to bring Mr. Bowman to Northeast Ohio for his first speaking engagement in his hometown. "I am so excited to be invited back to my old stomping ground," said Dana Bowman. Mr. Bowman will be performing two exciting sky dives on April 14, 2005. These "jumps" are guaranteed to be the highlights of the conference.

"This is an incredible opportunity for our community to convene around two critical issues: education and disability awareness," said Richard J. Scaldini, President & CEO of the Center for Leadership in Education. "We are pleased to be partnering with The Center to bring an outstanding role model to Northeast Ohio," said Tom Lewins, Executive Director of New Avenues to Independence.

Support is needed to offer this wonderful, and very important, event for our community. Individuals interested in supporting or attending the conference can contact Becky Seel at (216) 481-1909 ext.294 or bseel@newavenues.net.

Center for Leadership in Education, located on the campus of Lorain County Community College, is an independent community supported resource that promotes and evaluates successful approaches to educating children and equips educators with effective tools to help increase student achievement. The Center is utilized by educators, parents, students, businesses, community-based organizations and government.

New Avenues to Independence, headquartered in Cleveland, provides opportunities for people with disabilities to become more independent and productive members of society by offering the highest quality support services and developing innovative and inclusive programs.

