

SPRING 2017

2017



QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance

Guest Speaker Laurie Weston

We welcomed **Laurie Weston**, Director of Transition Studies at Pitt Community College, as our guest speaker for the spring meeting. Four years ago, Laurie Weston began to phase out the Compensatory Education program at Pitt CC so that a new program could be put in place. Lots of collaboration made it possible to create the four modules, which are based on interests of students.

This has been a time of growth, as teachers who taught Comp Ed must transition to a new outlook. The approach demonstrates that career exploration, career development, and training lead to a job.

As part of Academic Affairs, Transition Studies can be involved with all parts of the campus. Career Academy uses MECA, an online approach to career discovery used with individuals and small groups. Career Academy serves about 25-30 students each year. Volunteering can open the door to learning about different careers. The next phase includes credentialing classes for students who need more accommodations to be successful in their jobs and classes.

Job shadowing is available too. Vocational Rehab counsels families so they are aware of how employment may affect SSI and other benefits. “We are not a high school GED program, we are a job development program” says Laurie. Career Academy fosters entrepreneurship. Sometimes families need to understand that their students can succeed so they can provide support and encouragement. Retail, food service, landscaping, and housekeeping are all inclusive and not restricted to students with ID, as no diagnosis is required to participate. All students receive School IDs and college access.

lweston@pitt.email.edu



Laurie Weston
Pitt CC Career Academy



Pitt CC Career Academy Information

PSEA—NEW! Summer Conference Calls

Our first topic-focused conference call on **Outcome Data** resulted in an expanded collaboration that will document the success of PSEs across NC!

Instead of a summer meeting we have planned conference calls to address specific topics suggested by PSE Alliance members.

JOIN US! :: 2nd Wednesdays: 1 pm

June 14 - Recommendations to expand IPSE. Consider ideas and needs that can form recommendations to expand options. What's working? What's not? What can we do?



July 12 - Family Friendly PSE Information

We are ready to update website and brochure. Where should we put efforts to engage and inform families? What do they need? What's needed in your community?

PSEA Supports Recommendations to Legislature

The advisory committee for the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services is supported by **Holly Riddle**, Policy Analyst for NC DHHS. The PSEA is represented and provided recommendations for the upcoming report to the NC Legislature. Holly will send a list of bulleted recom-

mendations from previous advisory committee meetings so that PSEA can expand upon them.



HEELS UP at UNCCH

Planning is underway for HEELS UP (Higher Education, Employment, Living Success—University Participant) on UNC's Chapel Hill campus.

This two-year opportunity for college-aged individuals with ID will have a soft launch Fall 2018 with two students. HEELS UP is an inclusive opportunity offering participants a career focus

and work experience. Participants will have supports they need to be successful in their coursework, dorm living, and work settings.

A steering team comprising representatives from the CIDD, the School of Education, Allied Health Sciences, and community advocates will hold meetings across campus



this summer to lay the groundwork.

www.heelsup.cidd.unc.edu

Member Updates

UNCG and Beyond Academics marked the tenth anniversary with *Beyond Limits*, a gala celebration held April 26 that launched a scholarship campaign. Contributions to this fund can be made at <http://beyondacademics.uncg.edu> CONGRATULATIONS!

Trudie Hughes, DD learning consultant with NC Community College System (NCCCS) shared that Mayland CC, Caldwell CC and Blue Ridge CC are creating programs with a work-based focus. NCCCS is currently aligning Basic Skills curriculum with Project SEARCH, a transition Trudie is very happy to see. For the future NCCCS is collaborating to extend access to funding. They are also involved with T-STEP at Wake Tech and Pitt CC.
See below

Monica Isbell, coordinator of Disability and Counseling Services at Alamance Community College, shared that Vance Granville CC and Gaston CC visited ACC's Career College as they plan to add this model to their own programs in the coming year.



As chair of the Educational Opportunities for Students with Disabilities Advisory Committee to the NC Legislature, DMH/DD/SAS policy advisor **Holly Riddle** updated the Alliance. She shared her vision of the role of the PSEA as part of the advisory committee to support advancing new opportunities. **David Ingram**, DMH/DD/SAS Employment Specialist for individuals with I/DD, affirmed the connection between PSE and employment.

Jennifer Mock with the ABLÉ Program and Career College at Alamance Community College cited the importance of working with high schools in advocating for advocacy and transition to PSEs. The ABLÉ Program is adding a fourth career pathway; the option of Animal Care is now offered.

Glenna Osborne is Director of Special Projects for Employment and Adult Transition with UNC TEACCH. She reports that the T-STEP Program is designed for students with ASD who are transitioning to independence. Project SEARCH is internship opportunities for participants with ID/ASD. Those involved will also have T-STEP to be rolled out in Wake County Schools and possibly partner with other schools systems too. T-STEP is offered for Pitt CC and Wake Tech students with ASD after piloting high school programs.

Azelle Reeves, NC Council on Developmental Disabilities member, has long supported PSE and transition efforts. She spoke of the importance of family involvement and advocacy in PSE and employment initiatives.



3rd Annual Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance Capacity Building Institute

Learn, plan, and share thoughts and strategies about inclusive
postsecondary education opportunities.

June 26 & 27, 2017 in Nashville, TN

**Join us! This affordable conference
offers a wealth of information from PSEs all across the southeast.**

REGISTER NOW!

<https://vanderbilt.irisregistration.com/Home/Site?code=SIHE2017>



AND—New this year:

2017 SEPSEA Vocational Rehabilitation *Post* Conference

June 27, 2017 :: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

The Southeast is leading the way when it comes to partnerships between vocational rehabilitation (VR) and inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE). With great examples of collaborations, we want to work together and learn from each other. This post-conference event will be a time for representatives from VR agencies across the Southeast to come together about partnerships between VR and IPSE programs. Presentations about existing partnerships and time to brainstorm new ideas between VR & IPSE. Experts from VR and IPSE will field questions and provide guidance.

REGISTER for the conference NOW! Learn more about 2017 SEPSEA

<https://vanderbilt.irisregistration.com/Home/Site?code=SIHE2017>

Questions or comments?

Contact Deb Zuver

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