

Winter 2017



QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

## North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance

# Focus on Employment!

Three speakers provided information about current opportunities

**Stephanie Hanes** is Program Specialist for Transition and Employment Services through NCDVR. She presented on VR support of PSE for individuals with I/DD. Current VR counseling considerations include admission requirements, length of program, location, cost, support services available and anticipated place of residence upon completion of the program. Support from NCDVR for PSE participation is in conjunction with supported employment. Currently six NC colleges with transition programs have VR involvement. Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) is a new program rolled out through Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) to include work-based experience, job exploration counseling, and training in workplace readiness, self-advocacy, and counseling on postsecondary. Organizations can submit an application to provide PETS; 22 programs submitted to date; deadline is Sept 30.

**David Ingram**, I/DD Employment Specialist with NC DMH/DD/SAS, presented information on the I/DD Team's work. He announced that Lisa Mills, Ph.D., will work with NC DMH/DD/SAS, DMA, and DVR to explore options regarding employment and related services, including those in the Innovations Waiver renewal, expected August 2018. Mr. Ingram noted important changes that went into effect November 1, 2016 as it concerns the Innovations Waiver including the elimination of the Supported Employment service definition's '3 years of FTE' DSP staffing requirement. He mentioned that in early 2017, NC submitted an updated Statewide Transition Plan as required through Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) 'Final Rule' along with a reminder that the HCBS 'Final Rule' intends "to ensure that individuals receiving long-term services and supports through home- and community-based service programs under...Medicaid authorities have full access to benefits of community living and the opportunity to receive services in the most integrated settings appropriate." Finally, Mr. Ingram mentioned that individuals might explore and consider additional services and supports— noting DVR, DPI-IDEA, the Department of Commerce - NC Works, grants, and other community resources.

**Beth Butler** has spent over 20 years as a corporate attorney and worked with the US Businesses Leadership Network as inclusion consultant. Last year, she became executive director of the NC Business Leadership Network (NCBLN). The Going for Gold (GFG) project works to achieve the gold standard in including individuals with disabilities in the workforce. The GFG team assists companies in establishing sourcing relationships with national, state and local organizations serving job seekers with disabilities. The team works to establish relationships on college campuses with Disability and Career Services' representatives, making it easier for GFG companies to recruit and hire college graduates with disabilities. There are now 50 GFG affiliates at the state and local level. Upcoming NCBLN conferences are planned for Raleigh and Charlotte. The Disability Equality Index (DEI) is a free benchmarking tool for NCBLN partners that provides a confidential opportunity to receive an objective score on disability inclusion policies and practices. It's an aspirational, educational, recognition tool that helps identify opportunities for continued improvement and establishes a reputation as an employer of choice. As the NCBLN grows, Beth will promote a stronger connection between campus disability support services and campus career services. More information can be found at [www.NCBLN.org](http://www.NCBLN.org)

# Member Updates

**McCafferty**, LEND Advocacy faculty, announced that the CIDD is accepting applications for a trainee in self-advocacy. For more information, email [Donna.Yerby@cidd.unc.edu](mailto:Donna.Yerby@cidd.unc.edu) McCafferty developed the Coach Approach with self-advocate trainees to improve and support academic success.

Consultant for NCDPI **Freda Lee** reminded the group to be vigilant about what is happening at the federal and local levels regarding the IDEA. The Department of Education hosted legislators February 1st to discuss the new emphasis of equity in regards to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

**Sarah Teel** with Appalachian State University's Scholars with Diverse Abilities (SDAP) program shared that they have double the amount of applicants of previous years and are seeing more applicants from North Carolina.

**Duncan Munn**, Chair of the Beyond Academics Board at UNC Greensboro, announced that a gala will be held April 26, 2017 to celebrate the launch of a scholarship campaign and to mark the 10 year anniversary of the program. This event begins a campaign to raise \$1.5 M towards scholarships. Key-note speakers include Rud and Ann Turnbull. Info: [marshdunc@aol.com](mailto:marshdunc@aol.com)

**Jennifer Mock**, with Alamance Community College, (ACC) shared that the ABE program will transition to Career College. This program is a unique opportunity for students to become certified as Health & Public Services Assistants, Greenhouse Assistants or Automotive Assistants. In August they will add an Animal Husbandry program, with limited enrollment. ACC is looking to expand the program to two years. Career College currently has more than 30 students.

The CIDD LEND Self-Advocate Trainee **Remington Brown** identifies as a disability rights activist.

**Susan Lombardo**, East Chapel Hill High School's transition facilitator, announced that this year's transition fair will be March 21, 2017. The fair features presentations as well as break-out sessions highlighting vocational rehabilitation services, housing options, and guardianship issues.



DMH/DD/SAS policy advisor **Holly Riddle** provided an updated on the (Achieving a Better Life Experience) ABE Act, which went into effect January 26. The ABE Act allows people with disabilities and their families to set up a special savings account for "qualified disability expenses." Earnings on an ABE account are not taxed, and account funds are generally not be considered SSI, Medicaid, and other federal means-tested benefits. <http://savewithable.com/nc/home>

As chair of the Educational Opportunities for Students with Disabilities Advisory Committee, Holly shared news of the report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Health and Human Services and the Education Oversight Committee on education opportunities for students with disabilities. The committee meets quarterly to look at strengths, challenges, and data collection. The intention from the legislature is to implement PSE and employment opportunities. The report recommends that the broad disability focus include ID-specific information and connects to WIOA. She is open to PSEA members making recommendations.

# Member Updates Continued

**Deb Zuver, Donna Yerby, and Betsy Crais** announced that they are moving forward to develop a PSE at the UNC Chapel Hill campus. A steering committee team (Deb, Betsy, and **Tamira White**) visited the University Participant (UP) program at WCU in February.

**Julia Tennant** with Wake Technical Community College shared that the ABE Tops (Transitional Opportunities for Postsecondary Success) is ideal for students who want to achieve a higher level of independence by focusing on academic, vocational, and life skills to fulfill their goals. The program offers basic academics and career-focused classes. Wake will add new vocational pathways including retail, hospitality and landscaping.

Self-advocate **Bryan Dooley** shared that although a bill was passed to teach disability history each October in public schools, it is not enforced. Wake County Public School is currently the only district that complies. Bryan is part of a DD partner committee to create a state-wide self-advocacy group—NC Empowerment Network.

**Sharon Jackson**, transition coordinator for Cleveland County Schools, shared that Cleveland Community College has instructors in three different levels of support. The ConneXions program focuses on developing entry level work skills through different courses offered each semester, including childcare, nutrition and retail. The ACHIEVE Learning Center Day Program teaches skills needed for independence, from making beds to cooking and budgeting. Finally, the LIFE program offers a separate and unique high school experience.



**The Arc of High Point** is pleased to announce registration is open for the fifth Annual North Carolina Self-Advocates Conference, entitled 'Making My Dreams Come True.' On March 25, self-advocates from around the state will join together to learn, share, laugh and have fun. Planned by self-advocates and staff from four chapters of The Arc, this year's conference will include sessions on postsecondary education opportunities, employment, guardianship and internet safety. The evening ends with a dance.

[www.northcarolinaselvadvocateconference.com](http://www.northcarolinaselvadvocateconference.com)

**Deb Childress** is a Senior Research Associate at the 3C Institute. The Institute has created an online program for high school students to develop job skills. The goal of WORK (Web-based Occupational Resource Kit) is to provide instruction, support, and interactive exercises based on individual needs to promote the development of critical employment, self-determination and advocacy skills of students. They are interested in working with PSE programs to find a permanent home for WORK.

**Eric Marshburn** is director of admissions for Beyond Academics at UNC Greensboro. He announced they received 100+ applications this year for 25 slots.

Self-advocate **Robyn Dorton** announced that Walmart is currently hiring. Walmart supports and recruits workers with disabilities.

**Michele Okoh** of Okoh Law Firm, PLLC announced that her new law firm focuses on people with disabilities and veterans.

Save the Date

# JOIN US IN GREENSBORO!

## PSEA Spring Quarterly Meeting

**Wednesday, April 5, 2017 :: 10 – Noon**

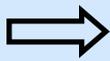
Presented in Conjunction With  
NC Division on Career Development and Transition's  
**Spring Transition Conference**

**Wednesday - Friday, April 5-7, 2017**

Join us for the PSEA meeting —then stay for the  
NCDCDT Transition Conference at Embassy Suites

[ncdcdt.org/ncdcdt-conference](http://ncdcdt.org/ncdcdt-conference)

**Registration now open :: learn more!**



### PSEA meeting features:

**LAURIE WESTON**

Director, Pitt Community College  
Helping Hand: Transitional Studies

**NEW!**



PSEA Monthly Topic  
Conference Call

*Join us!!*

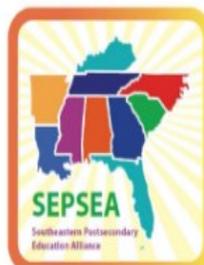
**Wednesday, March 8**

**1pm—2pm**

**919.962.2720**

**TOPIC:**

**Collecting NC Data  
to Demonstrate  
Good PSE Outcomes**



## 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**

Hosted by Next Steps at Vanderbilt and the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center  
For more information email: [felicia.p.johnson@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:felicia.p.johnson@vanderbilt.edu)

Registration website: <https://vanderbilt.irisregistration.com/Site/SIHE2017>



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