

# NC PSE Alliance

**North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance:**  
**QUARTERLY MEETING SUMMARY** *[Member names italicized]*

## Moving Forward on the PSEA PATH

**Fall 2010**

With six months to go to reach Alliance goals for this coming April, small groups met to identify next steps. Remaining goals target aspects of **Increasing Public Awareness:**

- ◆ Develop website to include resources, manuals, templates, success stories.
- ◆ Involve PSE students and emerging youth leaders in PSE Alliance

- ◆ Reach out to teachers/transition coordinators through summit, conferences.
- ◆ Articulate barriers/requirements for families through funding models and a glossary.

**See Page Two for goal list and completed steps.**

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## NC Postsecondary Options Expand

PSE Alliance members reported on key NC opportunities:

**Western Carolina University (WCU)** was awarded five-year federal funding as a model comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID). WCU's University Participant (UP) program, directed by *David Westling* "creates opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to attend and be successful in higher education." *Kelly R. Kelley*, program coordinator, said they are "recruiting for five-year positions for a person to oversee faculty training in universal design, a job coach, and an outreach coordinator to provide assistance to community college partners and four-year college partners."

The Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities at UNC-Chapel Hill will complete an evaluation.

UP serves four students currently, expanding to eight in the fall and expects to serve 32 students by the end of the grant period. UP students live in on-campus dormitories. "Their on-campus life is fully integrated and inclusive; there are not separate facilities, settings, or classes for UP participants." WCU students

provide paid and unpaid natural supports. UP collaborates closely with many community and state agencies.

**Cleveland Community College** has implemented ConneXtions in collaboration with Cleveland Co. Schools. The program recruits students who exited high school without a diploma. "This model is totally community-built to meet needs. We surveyed businesses to find out important skills they would like to see in applicants," reported *Sharon Jackson* with Cleveland Co. Schools.

**Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities, UNC-Chapel Hill** is piloting a trainee in its multidisciplinary leadership program. *Kira Fisher*, the first trainee, participates in Developmental Disabilities Across the Lifespan, a problem-based interdisciplinary course, which is a hybrid of online and classroom-based learning. *Emily Furgang*, instructor and coach, is a doctoral student.

**BELOW: UP director David Westling meets with Donna and Deb; UP students share WCU experiences**



## PSE Alliance Moves Forward with Goals

In April 2010, the NC PSEA created goals to be reached by April 2011.

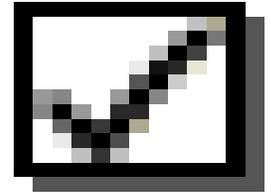
Cate Weir, coordinator of ThinkCollege, Institute of Community Inclusion, UMass facilitated the strategic PATH planning process.

At the recent Fall meeting, Alliance members reviewed progress for the steps they had laid out toward the goals.

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### Alliance GOALS - April 2011

- ◆ CFNC website links to NC PSE programs
- ◆ Public awareness campaign includes NC success stories
- ◆ Policy document names issues, vision, barriers, next steps
- ◆ Recommendations funded by NCCDD
- ◆ Training consortium set to build capacity; share best practices
- ◆ Teacher education addresses PSE
- ◆ UNC-CH LEND leadership training completes pilot
- ◆ First annual PSE in NC update provided to schools
- ◆ PSE presentations reach parents, youth, self-advocates, legislators at conferences such as EC, AHEAD, etc.
- ◆ Two new pilots at university or CC campuses are proposed
- ◆ UNCG publishes data/research.
- ◆ Have better understanding of barriers in NC
- ◆ Trained support staff available



### **PSE Alliance: Taking Steps to Reach Goals**

#### Immediate Steps (4/10)

##### **COMPLETED:**

- Review Alliance workgroups
- UNC-G working on research data.
- Post-school outcomes available
- Alliance newsletter started.

#### Steps in 3-6 Months

##### (7/10-10/10)

##### **COMPLETED:**

- Discussion with NCCDD about funding

- Completed survey: PSE options in NC community college programs.
- LEND pilot began: UNC-CH leadership training includes first participant

**Great meeting--good progress. Exciting that options are expanding!**

~ Comment from 10/26 meeting evaluation

## Beyond Academics: Program Evaluation

BA is a four-year postsecondary education program for adults with intellectual disabilities in Greensboro; 30 students are enrolled in 2010-2011.

Terri Shelton, vice-chancellor of Research and Economic Development at UNC-Greensboro presented outcome study results.

Identifying common measures for indicators of success offers the potential of crafting a state-wide system. Indicators will review student life skills, social connections/ friendships, emotional well-being, parenting stress, attitudes toward individuals with disabilities, and program satisfaction.

#### **Demographics:**

- ◆ Average age: 24 years
- ◆ 30% female; 70% male
- ◆ 52% White; 45% African-American; 3.5% Latino
- ◆ 50% Own guardian; 50% family guardianship
- ◆ From 11 NC Counties; 1 out of state

#### **Senior outcomes indicate:**

- 1) Average Medicaid utilization: \$15,202; incoming freshmen: \$53,000.
- 2) One student accepted for Associate Degree program; two have internships; one employed.
- 3) All live in apartments, shared home, or student housing
- 4) All students volunteer
- 5) All students manage financial affairs with minimal support.

**“The certificate-based course of study, *Integrative Community Studies* is...preparing students for a self-determined lifestyle after college...”**

## Community College Survey: Serving Students with an Intellectual Disability

The NC Community College System offers: 1) curriculum, 2) continuing education, and 3) basic skills courses, including Compensatory Education. Colleges serve over one million North Carolinians. Resources are limited: for every dollar of state education funding, community colleges get one dime!

*Karen Yerby*, Associate Director, Student Development Services for NC Community College System and Robin Coates, State Director for Human Resource Development developed a survey and received a response from 50 of all 58 colleges surveyed.

They learned that many campuses are interested in PSE options. All programs have basic skills and are job specific. All have hands-on and lecture. All have 1-1 tutoring and involve collaboration with local agencies and organizations. A common “positive” is watching students enjoy typical college experiences.

One promising model is the Career College developed by *Monica Isbell* at Alamance Community College. The Automotive Assistant and Health

and Public Services Assistant programs have 28 graduates with the next graduation set for December 16.

*Karen Yerby* and her team at the Community College System will meet regularly to “begin an awareness campaign” in response to the interest level. She will draw on diverse models for involving students with an intellectual disability in a successful college learning experience and work toward expanding options.

## Alliance Member Updates



**Donna Yerby/Ashley Durkee** – A new Postsecondary Transition Clinic is available at CIDD. Young adults with a developmental disability will be seen to identify a positive personal profile and create a transition plan. Contact Donna Yerby for info at 919-966-5171.

**Alma Taylor** – Vocational Rehabilitation needs new parameters to partner with PSE to include study as well as employment outcomes. New Economic Recovery grants total 32 to increase VR services in NC.

**The PSE Alliance has set  
several realistic goals  
for one year from now**

**Holly Riddle** – The NC Council on Developmental Disabilities funds the College of Direct Support for front-line work force and the Alliance for Full Participation, a national effort to double the employment of people with disabilities by 2015.

**Yasmine White** – Voices Together offers an arts-related opportunity to increase skills and involve youths with ASD in reaching goals becoming independent.

## Postsecondary Postings: Announcements

**Ryan Pinion** – The National Youth Leadership is finalizing Reap What You Sow: Harvesting Support Systems. This interactive training curriculum involves youths with disabilities, family members, and allies to achieve goals. Organizations can schedule training free of charge beginning January 2011. [www.nyln.org](http://www.nyln.org)

NYLN is taking a strong stance against bullying for all youths. Look for more opportunities to offer support and increase awareness.

**Mary Helen Walker** and **Nicolette Campos** - UNC-Pembroke is designated as a GEAR-UP campus

with resources for students with disabilities. “Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs” seems a good fit for Alliance efforts and we hope to recruit a representative from College Fund of North Carolina (CFNC). UNC-P Disability Support Services offers the GEAR-UP summer program, but slots for students with disabilities often go unfilled. More awareness across the state is needed to recruit for this opportunity....A student with I/DD will begin UNC-P in January!

**April Root** – Central Piedmont CC Compensatory Education Program partners with Project Search to

offer internships as job training. Students interview with a panel made up of the host employer and a representative from CPCC, Project Search, VR, and RSS. Each internship site will accept up to 12 participants. The host employer for the upcoming semester is Mecklenburg HR.

**Ellen Russell** – The National Academy of Social Insurance awarded a grant to the Arc of NC for individuals and their families to learn how to have a voice in the national debate on Social Security. This is critical information for potential students.



## **NC Postsecondary Education Alliance**

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### ***We noted lingering questions for further discussion:***

- ◇ How are we training the next generation to connect with individuals with developmental disabilities?
- ◇ How does Beyond Academics support graduates to maintain the independence they achieved?
- ◇ How do we capture outcomes from PSE programs? This is important to advocate for funding.

### **Your TO-DO LIST:**

- Email** your update information you'd like to share with the Alliance—include questions and agenda items.
- Forward** this PSE Alliance newsletter to all interested in expanding PSE options.
- RSVP** to Deb by 1/15/11: Can you attend 2/23/11 meeting?  
–If not, ask someone to attend in your place.



### ***Next PSE Alliance Meeting:***

**Wednesday, February 23, 2011 (Time TBA) at the  
Best Western-High Point** (formerly the Radisson); state-rate available  
in downtown **High Point**.



*The PSE Alliance meeting will be held in conjunction with the  
**NC DPI Transition Summit** on Thursday 2/24 and Friday 2/25.*

*You are invited to attend workshops free of charge. Watch for more info!*

### **PSE Alliance Meeting Agenda to Include:**

- ◇ **Your update** – Members want to learn about your group/program and its successes and challenges. Let us know your need for resources and public awareness, too.
- ◇ **PSE Alliance Update** – Progress report on steps proposed at the Fall quarterly meeting toward reaching remaining goals by April.
- ◇ **Evaluate the PSE Alliance** – What's next? How best to work together to expand NC postsecondary options for students with developmental disabilities.

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### **MEET CIDD TRAINEES**

**Ashley Durkee** is a postdoctoral fellow in Clinical Psychology at the CIDD with experience providing behavioral support and psychological assessment to individuals with developmental disabilities across the lifespan. Ashley is particularly interested in transition from high school to adulthood and shaping support services and postsecondary educational opportunities.

**Megan Kovac** is a second-year doctoral student in the School Psychology program and the Special Education Trainee at the CIDD, through the LEND program. Prior to enrolling in graduate school Megan worked as a classroom teacher and as an educational consultant. Her background has shaped her interest in developing programs that support all students.