

# NC PSE Alliance

## North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance

### NC PSE Alliance has a PATH!

#### GOALS IN ONE YEAR!

- ◆ CFNC website links to NC programs
- ◆ Success stories and public awareness campaign state-wide
- ◆ NC policy document articulates issues, vision, barriers, next steps –as in IOM recommendations – funded by NCCDD?
- ◆ Training consortium in development to build capacity programs & share best practices
- ◆ Teacher education addresses PSE
- ◆ UNC-CH LEND leadership training completes pilot with first participant (*Kira Fisher*)
- ◆ First annual update provided to schools
- ◆ Presentations at conferences to reach parents, youth, self-

- advocates, legislators, EC Conf, AHEAD
- ◆ Two new pilots at university or CC campuses proposed
- ◆ Data/research is published by UNCG
- ◆ Have better understanding of barriers keeping individuals from attending college in NC
- ◆ Trained support people are available
- ◆ Expectations for dual enrollment are stated

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#### IMMEDIATE STEPS:

- ◆ **Present Alliance** to NC planning team at NSTTAC 5/18-5/22 (*Freda/Deb*)
- ◆ **Redesign Alliance workgroups**– review structure; identify champions

- ◆ **Discuss need for research** data with PI at UNCG (*Joan*)
- ◆ **Provide post school outcomes** to Alliance (*Freda*)
- ◆ **Start Alliance newsletter**; include NC success stories.

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#### IN 3 – 6 MONTHS:

- ◆ **Approach NCCDD** for funds—August (*Donna/Deb*)
- ◆ **Create/distribute survey**: PSE programs in NC (*Matty/Deb*)
- ◆ **LEND pilot begins**- UNC-CH
- ◆ **Share data methodology** among PSE programs in NC

Summer 2010

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**Cate Weir**, Guest facilitator for NC PSEA strategic planning meeting

### The PATH Sets Our Alliance Course

Alliance members bring a wealth of information, interest and expertise to the table. Innovative post-secondary education options in NC are bound to grow.

In April, the Alliance took a big step toward

shaping common goals.

A strategic planning session was facilitated by Cate Weir, Coordinator of ThinkCollege at Institute of Community Inclusion, UMass.

Cate led the Alliance in a PATH process. After first envisioning the ideal, the

Alliance set several realistic goals for one year from now (see bullet lists above).

Finally, the group laid out practical next steps.

This newsletter will be issued periodically to report on progress and celebrate changes as the NC PSE Alliance moves forward.

## PSE Alliance News – NC Models

**Joan Johnson** – Beyond Academics is moving into a fourth year of this hybrid model. BA is involved with five departments at UNCG and working to increase inclusive opportunities. Moving forward with Higher Education Opportunity Act--BA has a certificate program and expects it to move under Department of Undergraduate Studies. BA has 26 students and plans to enroll 8 for coming semester; a new summer freshman 6-week seminar will help students get oriented to an independent experience. BA just

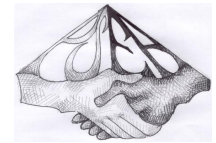
launched a separate, private non-profit. (Cate suggested looking at Edgewood College program).

**Holly Riddle** – Executive director of NC Council on Developmental Disabilities, which funds innovation –a proud funder of BA!

**David Westling** – Professor of Special Education at Western Carolina; University Participant (UP) Program is a small, full inclusion pilot. Participants audit classes, use a person-centered planning process, look for courses of interest. UP is a residential

program that uses natural supports provided by students. Concerns include funding and admissions – who should be admitted? A new grant will fund half-time coordinator and offset expenses of three new participants Director of Housing is on board.

**Holly Lemieux** – Director, the ARC of Haywood Co.; received grant for a transition project. The Arc received the \$100,000 grant in collaboration with David Westling, for WCU's UP program support services.



### More PSE Alliance Member News

**Sally Sloop** – Retired from Family Support Network and she now mentors Head Start teachers. Sally is a parent of an adult son who attended Threshold program at Lesley College. He still lives in Boston and now attends Bunker Hill Community College. “He went to Massachusetts because there wasn’t anything in NC.” Lesley pioneered a postsecondary education option that has served

many students over the years.

**Alma Taylor** - is program specialist in transition services at VR, Alma’s interest is to be a

“He went to Massachusetts because there wasn’t anything in North Carolina”

partner on anything related to training. She gets lots of requests from community colleges about program development and wants to support those. VR agencies are meeting on this topic too; the focus is employment.

*The National Down Syndrome Society has a grant available for post-secondary education; applications are available online.*

## New Model: UNC-Chapel Hill

**Kira Fisher** – As coordinator for Youths 4 Advocacy (Y4A), Kira has supported self-advocacy and leadership at the CDL for the past four years. Kira has been selected to join the cohort of LEND trainees in the upcoming academic year. This Maternal and Child Health program at UNC provides *Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities*

The cohort comprises masters and

doctoral students in an interdisciplinary training experience. This new post-secondary education option expands the diversity of the group which currently includes a parent trainee. Kira can gain leadership

“This new post-secondary education option expands the diversity of the group.”

tools as she enriches the program with her own personal experience as a self-advocate.

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**Mary Todd Allen** – As transition coordinator for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, Mary and **Beth Day-Hairston**, coordinator of Undergraduate Special Education, are having discussions about starting a post-secondary program at Winston Salem State.

## Highlights from PSE Alliance Members

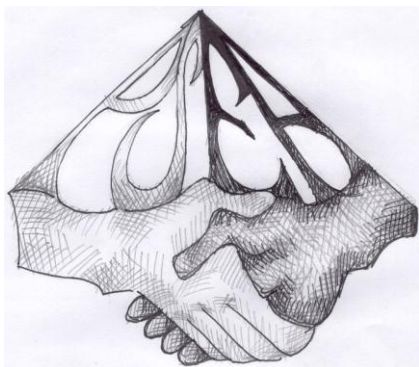
**Nance Longworth** – disability services provider at Davidson College; past president of NC AHEAD. Will be liaison and bring in new AHEAD president.

**Ryan Pinion** – National Youth Leadership Conference will host calendar of upcoming events youth from across the country for federally-funded curriculum for transition-age youth with disabilities and families in youth-directed, interactive way. Focus is self-determination and support systems to determine what happens after high school. “Reap What You Sow” July 29 30

**Nicolette Campos** – affiliated with Gear Up, a national initiative. Students with I/DD don’t typically participate, but could if they are in a Gear Up school.

**Matty Lazo-Chadderton** – is director of Hispanic/Latino Affairs, Office of the President Pro Tempore for the NC Senate. She is a parent of **David Chadderton** and has “the same goal for both her children – education is very important.”

## Career College in Cleveland County



**Sharon Jackson** – works with students around transition in Cleveland County schools. The district is starting a career college

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

with Cleveland Community College. “After spending two years planning, it will begin September 13.” The biggest hurdle has been transportation. Students didn’t want to attend at night, so the program will run 8:30-11:30 MWF. The program will begin with 8-12 students.

## Alliance Member Updates – Community College Reps

**Monica Isbell** – Monica directs Career College at Alamance CC for individuals who graduate from OCS course of study. The 16-week, semester-long career program covers job-seeking and employability skills and serves 12 students. Two tracks are automotive assistant and health/public services assistant. Monica has developed a Website.

**Pat Keul** – Pat is state coordinator of *Project Search*, providing one-year internships for students with an employer. Three programs will

start-in Durham, Piedmont, and Charlotte. Kick-off is June 2 in Durham. Pat has a public ed/social work background and wants to fill the gap in services.

**April Root** – As program coordinator for community development at Central Piedmont CC, April oversees compensatory education with a transition focus. The two-year program has its first graduates in May. Goals focus on employment, independent living, and/or community involvement.

**Karen Yerby** – As Associate Director of Student Development Services, Karen works with disability services providers on all 58 community college campuses, serving close to 900,000 students. Funding is needed for new programs; a model program will start at Wake Tech by Janet Killin, director of disability services through Higher Ed Opportunity Act. “We don’t want to jump in with a program before the regulations are clear! It will take a few years to see how the pilot goes.”

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Education Alliance**

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**Announcements:**

**Thank you** to CDL trainees Sara  
Brandspigel, Barbara-Lowe Greenlee, and Rachel  
Kitson

**Thank you** to Cate Weir for your support,  
insight, and assistance!

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***Watch for information about next meeting dates***

- ◆ Send us your update information and we will share with the Alliance
- ◆ Send us your questions, observations, and agenda items for our next meeting.

