

WINTER 2018

2018



QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

# North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance

## Think College: New Developments Supporting Best Practice

Guest Speaker Cate Weir, Think College Coordinator

**Cate Weir**, Think College Coordinator visited to share updates from Think College (TC). TC is the National Coordinating Center for 25 model demonstration PSE sites across the country called Transition Programs for Students with Disabilities (TPSIDs). TC provides technical assistance, resources, and support for TPSIDs—and for families, youths, and others with an interest in PSE.

Cate shared updates from TPSID evaluation and research using 2016-2017 data. More than 2,700 students on 88 campuses and in 31 states have been served. The second cohort of TPSIDs include 449 students, with a median age of 20.31%. Students served were involved in dual enrollment programs, completing high school coursework while attending the TPSID. However, findings indicate that students are still not participating in at least 50% inclusive courses, with most courses in TPSID programs being specialized courses. At the end of the first cohort, 40% of students who exited a TPSID had paid employment within 90 days, compared to 17% of adults with IDD served by state agencies.

The TC website has recently been re-

vamped with a new look, improved functionality, updated programs, and a family section. Available on the TC website are program reports, Snapshots, Fast Facts, and Student Stories. A search page for college programs is offered. The Innovation Exchange is a new feature on the website that includes resources on employment, paying for college, vocational rehabilitation, and family resources. Additional features include affinity groups and Think College Conversations that occur through an instant messaging platform.

TC is currently exploring developing accreditation. These accreditation standards are important for quality assurance and validation of programs. There is discussion of accreditation replacing the Comprehensive Transition Program Approval process, but this is still in discussion stages. The model accreditation standards address ten program areas: mission; student achievement; curriculum; faculty; facility, equipment and supplies; administrative and fiscal capacity; student services; length and structure of program of study; student complaints; and program development, planning, and review.

**Thinkcollege.net**



Cate Weir shares update — PSEA meeting



## Member Updates

**Holly Riddle**, Policy Advisor, NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, shared the final report to the NC General Assembly that was discussed at the fall NCPSEA meeting. The focus of the report is postsecondary education and employment for students with significant disabilities. PSEA has an important role in this effort. The report includes a set of recommendations for the legislative study group requested in State Law 2015-241.

Key points include 1) develop and promulgate a plan for strengthening the coordinative functions necessary to expanding inclusive PSE options for students with ID and/or autism, (2) examine the policy impact of postsecondary education for individuals with intellectual disabilities, (3) identify agreements from other states in which institutions of higher education and state and local agencies have subscribed to means of coordinating funds to support inclusive PSE, (4) promote the awarding of a recognized PSE credential, (5) work with Think College to support implementation in NC of the model National Criteria for Accreditation Standards, (6) participate in efforts to raise awareness and disseminate information about other programs to parents, students, teachers, administrators, transition coordinators, and others, and (7) strengthen linkages with the NC chapter of the Business Leadership Network to advance employment opportunities for graduates of inclusive PSE programs.

**Trudie Hughes**, NC Community College System, shared information on community colleges. Project SEARCH is working on getting employers to sign off on competencies and credentials. Project SEARCH may become affiliated with community colleges to be funded by Continuing Education. Furthermore, grants for Basic Skills at community colleges will become competitive for the upcoming year to receive federal funding for the next three years.

**Holly Riddle** brought a flier about a publication on the justice system and people with ID from the University of Minnesota. The publication provides resources for professionals in the criminal justice system and disability services. To see more about this publication, visit [ici.umn.edu/products/Impact301](http://ici.umn.edu/products/Impact301).

**Jennifer Mock** with Alamance Community College shared an update on ABL. There are currently 6 classes focused on career with multiple partnerships. Career College added an animal care track. Beginning in August, Career College will be a two-year program. Both programs are partnered with Vocational Rehabilitation.

**Dana Hanson-Baldauf**, a postdoc at UNC School of Information and Library Sciences, is putting together a research proposal to examine how academic libraries can support students with ID and inclusive postsecondary education.

**Kenneth Kelty** won the State of the Art in Postsecondary Education Self-Advocate Award. His speech is available on his YouTube page. This national award was presented at the annual conference in November. Kenneth attended Western Carolina U. and was a leadership trainee in self-advocacy at the CIDD, UNC-CH.

**McCafferty**, Advocacy Faculty at the CIDD, shared that the search will begin soon for the LEND trainee in self-advocacy for the 2018-2019 academic year. Trainees learn leadership along with graduate students and family advocates. Applicants must have attended high school in special education, attended education or training after high school, want to learn about the disability field and leadership, and live in the Chapel Hill area. [mccafferty@cidd.unc.edu](mailto:mccafferty@cidd.unc.edu)

The North Carolina PSE college information grid will be updated on the PSEA website soon to have current information on inclusive PSE programs in the state of NC and will be posted on the website once complete. <http://cidd.unc.edu/psea>

**Glenna Osbourne**, Director of Transition with TEACCH, shared a handout on the School Transition to Employment and Postsecondary Education (T-STEP). This program will offer summer programs at Pitt Community College and Wake Tech. This program is for individuals with ASD in the regular course of study in high school. Students will also have the opportunity to practice skills in an internship setting.

NC Division of Career Development & Transition  
Conference - April 18-20 - Greensboro  
<http://ncdcdt.org/ncdcdt-conference>  
*Registration is open!*

## Member Updates continued

HEELS UP [Higher Education, Employment, and Living Success-University Participant], modeled on the University Participant program at Western Carolina University is moving forward at UNC-Chapel Hill. This program will focus on serving students with ID, including those with ID and Autism. There are possibilities of adapting the T-STEP model. The steering team has held planning meetings with departments and offices on campus. They hope to launch HEELS UP next year. There has been positive feedback from the campus community and the steering committee has received letters of support.

**Bryan Dooley**, Chair of the NC Empowerment Network (NCEN) shared an update about the DD Council's initiative to start a state-wide self-advocacy organization in collaboration with the CIDD and Disability Rights NC. NCEN is getting off the ground and they have started having formal meetings. They will be looking for members in the near future.



**Julia Tennant** reported about Wake Tech's progress. Project SEARCH interns began the second round of internships at the NC Department of Health and Human Services working in various departments including Vocational Rehabilitation, the print shop, Child Development, and Child Support. They began the second half of the Hospitality and Tourism career pathway and students are set to begin their third internship in March and finish at the end of April. A graduation ceremony will be held. They will earn up to four nationally recognized credentials. The Landscaping pathway will begin in April. Monthly informational sessions are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 4:30.

<http://projectsearch.us/>

### **The Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance Conference** will be held in Memphis, Tennessee

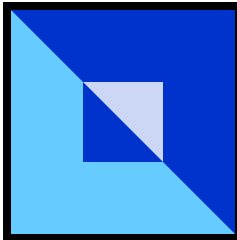
April 19-20. **Registration now open!** Strands include innovative ideas, program development, administration, and transition to college. <https://www.sepsea.org>

### **The Arc's Self-Advocacy Conference will be held March 23 and 24 in Winston-Salem, NC.**

This conference is for families and professionals on Friday March 23, and for self-advocates on Saturday March 24. Multiple sessions are presented by self-advocates at the Saturday conference, which is developed and designed by self-advocates and Arc staff.

**Registration now open!**

<https://arcnc.org/registration>



## NC PSEA Public Awareness Plan Discussion Results

**Small Groups**

*Winter Meeting*

Breakout sessions allowed small groups to share ideas for developing a public awareness plan for inclusive PSE opportunities within NC. The ideas from the four strands are shared below.

Deb Zuver will contact members in each strand who indicated an interest to take beginning steps ([blue](#))

### Resources and Data

1. [Review Think College survey](#)
2. [Create a toolkit with resources and data easily accessible, potentially housed on PSEA website, and with different strands for different stakeholders](#)
3. Have more information available for parents
4. Review potential to track NC data from current programs, including outcome data (potentially modeled from Think College survey)
5. Hotlinks from data to other organizations

### Capture Stories

1. [Create forms to fill in the blanks as stories are being collected](#)
2. [Send invitation out to collect stories](#)
3. Highlight importance for families to hear from programs and students
4. Show up in person, speaking at schools and using YouTube videos to share student stories
5. Offer more testimonials and stories that capture what the program's actual impact is on a student, also would help family understand if program would be the right fit
6. Tell story about what individual students have accomplished and how the program has impacted them, focus on the student, not the program
7. Use NC Sibs group (through First in Families NC) to collect sibling stories

### NC PSEA Website

1. [Grid with PSE listing for North Carolina will be updated and posted on website](#)
2. [Make PSEA website easier to find and access from searches, including use of Google tags/key words](#)
3. Consider listing under family section of CIDD website or a separate website
4. Link to school systems, ECAC, advocacy websites, inform guidance counselors (Guidance Counselor contact at NC Department of Public Instruction is Cynthia Floyd)
5. Update videos, pictures, and spotlight section regularly, potentially using media from programs around the state

### Social Media

1. [Contact PSE programs about sharing their updates through social media pages](#)
2. [Create a Facebook page to share news and student stories, is CIDD Facebook page available?](#)
3. Connect Facebook to Twitter and Youtube pages
4. Set up blogs for students/families to share on social media, individual blogs

**Contact Deb Zuver with PSEA questions/ideas**

**[Deborah.zuver@cidd.unc.edu](mailto:Deborah.zuver@cidd.unc.edu)**

### Save the Date!

**Spring NC PSEA Meeting :: April 24, 2018 :: 12:00 - 3:00**

*Guest Presentation:*

**Assistive Technology (AT) and Transition to PSE**

**Sue Porr, M. Ed., Ms, OTR/L, CIDD**

AND

**Pat Byers, M.S., CCC-SLP, AT Director, Alamance Burlington Schools**

