

Summer
2018



QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance

What's UP?

University Participant (UP) Program at Western Carolina University

Kelly R. Kelley directs UP, the first federally funded model demonstration site for Inclusive Post Secondary Education (IPSE) in North Carolina. UP continues to evolve.

Western Carolina University recently had changes in leadership, but the Catamount community has maintained stability and continues supporting UP. UP students have been active on campus and beyond, participating in several conferences and preparing for a trip abroad to Salzburg, Austria, where an IPSE program has been launched. **David Westling**, UP codirector, trained natural supports and offered technical assistance to this new program.

UP held a Ten-Year Celebration with alumni contributions totaling \$30,000. Parents have started a Booster Club and UP developed effective ways to track contributions. Graduation festivities included a traditional picnic and other events. In keeping with other traditions, students look forward to heading to Michigan soon when a UP grad opens his own BBQ restaurant. Other UP grads are getting expanded support for apartment living and learning how to navigate an ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) account. www.nctreasurer.com/able/Pages/default.aspx One student will soon realize his life-long dream of owning his own log cabin. **Kelly Kelley** said UP is always considering "How we can help them have their own stories."

Kelly Kelley and **David Westling**, founders of UP, have been working with Routledge Press on a book to be published next year: *Including, Teaching, and Supporting College Students with ID*. The book will include the why/what/how of IPSE, including a training manual for students providing support and a section on funding.

The Road to Learning and Earning (RTLE) was originally funded by the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities for UP to encourage and support middle school students, teachers, and families to plan for successful transition. Since funding concluded, RTLE has evolved and now offers a camping experience for students in four rural school districts. **Gretchen Reece**, transition grant coordinator, reported that a range of fun learning activities introduce campers to the college campus as they create a personal PATH vision for the future and create an academic road map. Parents participate in concluding camp activities.

Kelly Kelley was recently recruited by Think College IPSE Coordinating Center at the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at UMASS-Boston to provide technical assistance to emerging IPSE around the country. She is also active with the NC Chapter of TASH.



*Kelly Kelley and Gretchen Reece
from WCU UP*

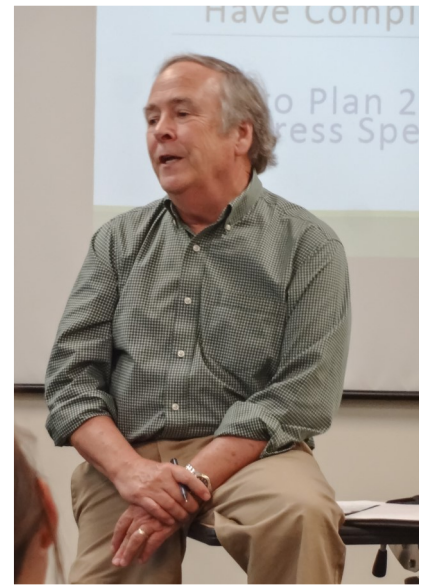
IN MEMORIAM

The NC PSEA honors Renate Macchirole, who passed away August 4th from cancer. She created a strong network to develop the PACE program, a PSE at College of the Albemarle. Renate was committed to advocacy for all, and she continues to inspire all who knew her.

Duncan Munn: Long-Term Supports for PSE Grads

Duncan Munn's background in early intervention led him to support PSE. Now these youths face yet another transition — life after college. We have evidence that students who complete PSE have better outcomes. But what are the challenges? What do we do to sustain the values in PSE? Issues may be related to level of support and building on skills students developed (residential, employment). The best examples of inclusion are natural supports. But how do we address the needs for policies and systems?

What is working? **Kelly Kelley** reports an arrangement with providers for some students; LME MCOs can be of help though funding is limited. **Anna Ward**, director of SDAP at Appalachian State University offered that some families do not trust additional supports and want to find other ways to navigate support needs. Some students who are local receive ongoing peer supports based on relationships they've developed with students and employers. Informal supports can include campus ministries or faith-based groups. Parent-to-parent (age 14 to young adult) programs also provide support in some communities.

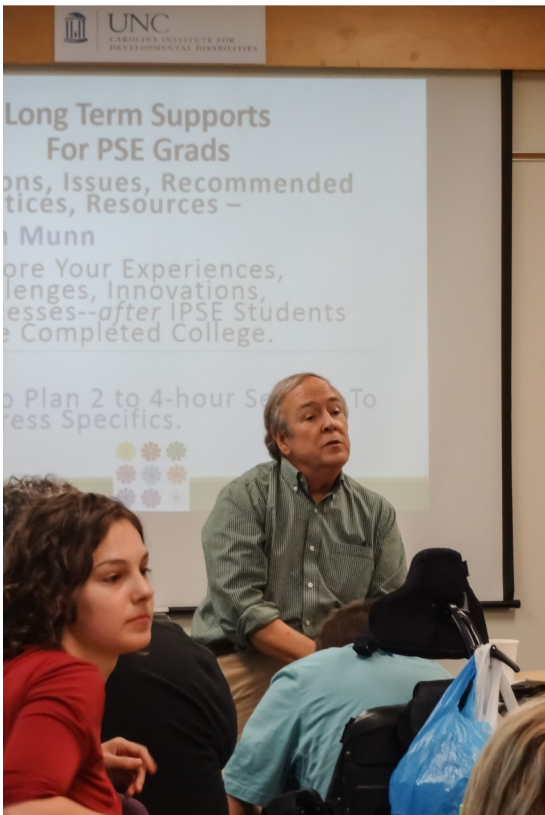


Duncan Munn

What's needed?

- ◆ Counseling for benefits supports — what's available; long-term planning and use of ABL account
- ◆ Awareness in the business community for employment opportunities
- ◆ Financial asset building — decoding how to fund PSE
- ◆ Demonstrate that as students make gains from PSE they experience a decrease in support need
- ◆ Braided funding could serve more individuals

Duncan Munn will gather information toward planning a workshop or webinar to further address this issue.



**Explore Your Experiences,
Challenges, Innovations,
Successes—after IPSE**

MEMBER UPDATES - - - - -

Sharon Jackson and **Jennifer Wall** with Cleveland County Schools reported adding another course on Cleveland Community College's campus to total four courses for the Connexions program.

Bryan Dooley, acting president for the new state-wide self-advocacy group, NC Empowerment Network, announced an upcoming membership drive and encourages IPSE students and graduates to look into it as they would be great candidates.

Member Updates - - - - - Continued:

McCafferty S. Kermion reported on the leadership training opportunity for self-advocates at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (CIDD) at UNC. Two trainees in advocacy have been recruited this year to join the interdisciplinary cohort, Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND).



Kenneth Kelty, IPSE graduate and **Jackie Kelty**, parent advocate (pictured above), recently spoke about inclusion at a planning meeting for HEELS UP (Higher Education, Employment, Living Success-University Participant) at UNC-Chapel Hill. Kenneth is a graduate of UP at WCU. He completed LEND leadership training at the CIDD and continues writing articles. Recently Kenneth presented a toastmasters speech, *Ending Hurtful Words*.

HEELS UP is moving forward at UNC-CH for a Fall 2019 launch. **Deb Zuver** mentioned strong collaboration among Department of Allied Health Sciences, School of Education and the CIDD to work with Administration across campus; assistance from **Kelly Kelley** at UP has been very helpful.

Jacklyn Googins is starting a mobile coffee service, **Best Buddies Brews**, that will employ workers with ID. They will have pop-up opportunities on UNC-CH campus and in the community. More information is at <https://bestbuddiesbrews.com>.



Best Buddies Brews
B³

Tim Sweeny, Director of the Dare County Campus of the College of the Albemarle seeks ideas for funding student supports for the PACE program. **Lisa Pluff** with UNC-Greensboro suggests partnering with service providers. **Anna Ward** has had success with work study funds at ASU for the Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program. **Trudie Hughes** mentioned ABTech in Asheville offers internships through disability services (Everybody Works Campaign) that turned into paid positions.

Trudie Hughes, from the NC Community Colleges System office, is working with Project SEARCH to align standards with community college content lesson plans and working closely with Continuing Ed for Work-Based Learning (WBL). She is working on how best to provide services.

Kelly Kelley, director of University Participant (UP) at Western Carolina University, was named to the Board of Directors for the *Journal of Inclusive Postsecondary Education (JIPE)* a new publication through Think College at the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMASS-Boston. The first issue is complete but new submissions will be solicited for future issues.

Holly Riddle with NC Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services, shared an extensive listing of new resources — Transition Tips for PSE, Employment, and Independent Living; <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PqjUXAmdpbWD0oqUZP8rPnfHmNfmUH1oW-CLbwFbpLQ/mobilebasic>

Member Updates - - - - - Continued:

Travis Williams with the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) mentioned the current funding application will support an Employment Collaborative. The intention is that the successful applicant will unify the state plan process, bringing players together across the state for employment supports and services.

Lisa Pluff, Director of Operations with Beyond Academics at UNCG, mentioned changes. The 2018-2019 academic year includes 60 students. The number of new students is down slightly from the previous year due to program revision and a change in applicant criteria. The non-profit has closed and the program now partners with Monarch for support services. Monarch took on staff to work with college students to determine how to best support them and stay connected after they leave UNCG. Monarch provides individual and small-group supports which can remain consistent through transition to independence, as Monarch has locations across the state.



Debbie Torres of First in Families (FiF)

FiF was started in 1995 to support people with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injury of all ages who live in the community. Thirteen chapters support all 100 NC counties. FiF provides direct family support; it is not a Medicaid provider, so families can come with any needs, and staff/volunteers help to fill gaps. Requests range from transportation, course fees, residential and interim financial support, and navigating systems. FiF's Lifetime Connections works with young adults in transition to create a personal support network and offer supported decision-making. Future planning workshops are offered.

Implementing Recommendations to NC General Assembly: PSEA Public Awareness

Holly Riddle coordinated 2017 recommendations to the NC General Assembly requested by a legislative study group as a result of an unfunded House bill. Resulting recommendations included public awareness efforts. The PSEA is addressing four areas — 1) to identify data that can be tracked, 2) to capture stories of success, 3) to improve the NC PSEA Website, 4) to utilize social media. Suggestions include: Link with the Arc, which has effectively used paid liaisons; identify four key data points to collect and share with the General Assembly; send stories and photos to the PSEA; submit ideas for using social media.

Addressing the Policy Tangle

Certain federal funds are intended to support better employment outcomes for students with developmental disabilities. Some regulations, however, provide somewhat contradictory information leading to different interpretations around the country. **Stephanie Smith Lee**, representing the National Down Syndrome Congress, along with representatives of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and the Autism Society of America created a report and letter to request clarification for WIOA, IPSE, and others. This step will reconcile regulations so that collaboration can move forward as clearly intended by the US Congress. In 2008, Stephanie Smith Lee spearheaded efforts to include students with intellectual disabilities when reauthorizing the Higher Education Opportunity Act.

SAVE THE DATE!
Our Fall NC PSEA meeting
is Friday, October 26, from
Noon to 3pm at the CIDD