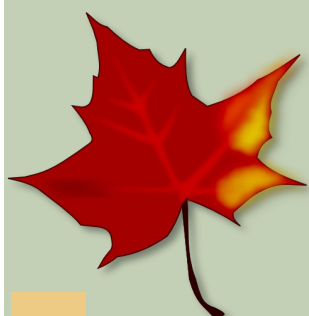


**FALL  
2019**



QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

## North Carolina Inclusive Postsecondary Education Alliance

# NC IPSE Alliance Focus to Increase IPSE Visibility in NC

**Angelia Lightfoot**, IDD Consultant with the NC DHHS Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, specializes in Employment, Postsecondary Education and Assistive Technology. She is spearheading the NC IPSE Alliance effort to increase inclusive IPSE visibility in NC. Collaborators include **Lisa Pluff**, Director of UNCG Beyond Academics, **Dan Earixson**, UNC School Psychology Doctoral Student and LEND Trainee in Transition, and **Deb Zuver**, CIDD education consultant and IPSE Alliance facilitator.



Angelia Lightfoot

**Angelia Lightfoot** discussed specific steps of a strategic plan that the team developed; short-term goals include updating the NC IPSE program resource grid and the website, along with incorporating more user-friendly language. Longer-term goals include developing a plan for ongoing outreach, creating information resources, and collaborating with relevant programs, including the NC Department of Public Instruction. IPSEA fall meeting participants met in small groups to discuss marketing and visibility campaign strategies and then shared input for the full group. The visibility team will review the range of creative ideas and present an expanded plan at the next quarterly IPSE Alliance meeting in January.

***"IF WE CAN HAVE REAL LIFE ACTUAL  
EXPERIENCES FROM NORTH CAROLINA,  
IT MAKES A BIGGER IMPACT BECAUSE  
WE CAN SHOW IT'S HAPPENING HERE."***

***- Angelia Lightfoot***

## **New Developments: Federal Guidance for IDEA and VR Funding**

**Deb Zuver** shared the joint press release from the National Down Syndrome Congress, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), and the Autism Society about the new U.S. Department of Education guidance on Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) funding for PSE students with ID. The press release “makes clear federal funds can be used to support dual enrollment, postsecondary options for students and youth with disabilities.” Guidance in the form of a Q&A appendix clarifies that IDEA and VR funds may be used to support students with ID in postsecondary programs. <https://www.autism-society.org/releases/joint-statement-of-ndsc-aucd-and-autism-society-on-new-u-s-department-of-education-guidance-on-idea-vr-funding/>

**Stephanie Hanes**, NC VR Program Specialist for Transition, reported that administration is discussing the guidance to work through areas that may offer conflicting information or that raise additional questions. She has followed up about these questions and is awaiting new guidance; Stephanie has also reached out to Comprehensive Transition Programs (CTPs) and college readiness programs about program updates.



LEND Trainees, Dan Earixson — School Psychology, and Mara Lewis — Self Advocacy

meeting photos by McCafferty

notes by Laura Hiruma

meeting quotes by Dan Earixson

## **Medicaid Waiver and IPSE**

The Think College Insight Brief #40 (2019) highlights ways the Medicaid Waiver can be used to support college students with ID.

[https://thinkcollege.net/sites/default/files/files/IB\\_40\\_Use\\_of\\_Medicaid\\_Waivers\\_final.pdf](https://thinkcollege.net/sites/default/files/files/IB_40_Use_of_Medicaid_Waivers_final.pdf)

Some examples include supports for tuition, transportation, peer support mentor, and support for independent living skills in campus housing. Note that UNCG Beyond Academics is cited.

**Duncan Munn** commented that employment, housing, friends, nutrition are important for better health outcomes. Consideration of managed care companies may be an important ally in PSE. Health insurance companies may be major players.

***"THE MANAGED-CARE COMPANIES WILL BE A GOOD POTENTIAL ALLY  
IN TERMS OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION...  
THE SIX MANAGED CARE COMPANIES WILL BE MAJOR PLAYERS."***

***- Duncan Munn***

## IPSE and the UNC System

The steering team for the proposed UNC HEELS UP [Higher Education, Employment, Living Success-University Participant] IPSE opportunity presented a half-day *Summit on Inclusive Postsecondary Education: IPSE@UNC*, for UNC Administration on September 27. Nearly 60 attendees heard presentations from a panel of students, supports, and families; **Cate Weir**, Think College; **Elise McMillan**, Vanderbilt University *Next Steps*; and directors of the three university programs in NC. Discussion followed about feasibility for HEELS UP on the UNCCH campus. Implications for the full UNC system were also considered.

**Laura Hiruma**, CIDD IPSEA team, shared compiled evaluation data and comments from the Summit, which was very well-received. Many attendees shared they enjoyed hearing from the directors of other IPSE programs as well as different perspectives on the panel of former students, family members, and support volunteers. Primary questions were raised surrounding the cost to run such a program, the socioeconomic distribution of students participating in IPSE programs, and next steps. In general, attendees expressed great enthusiasm about the prospect of IPSE at UNC.



**"EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT IS RUN THROUGH CONTINUING EDUCATION... IF THEY'RE 18 TO 22, WE SERVE THEM AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BECAUSE THEY ARE FOCUSING ON JOB SKILLS, AND WE ARE ABLE TO OFFER INTERNSHIP DURING THE SCHOOL DAY."**

**- Sharon Jackson — Cleveland County Schools**



## Updates and Developments Across NC

**Kelsey Forrest** (TEACCH Charlotte) indicated that the TEACCH-School Transition to Employment and Postsecondary Education Program (T-STEP) is actively recruiting participants for Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College (CC) in Asheville and Cape Fear CC in Wilmington, as well as continuing to recruit for Pitt CC, Wake Tech, and Central Piedmont CC. T-STEP was developed to support transition to employment and PSE for 16– to 21-year-olds with Autism Spectrum Disorder who receiving the Future-Ready Core high school diploma.

*The Career Development Center at NC State hosted a statewide summit on October 26 connecting North Carolina's employers with college students and recent graduates who are on the autism spectrum: Students Moving Forward: Connecting North Carolina's Workforce. The event was sponsored by SAS.*

**Claire Ricci**, Dean of Adult Education at Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC), provided an update on the new career pathway program for adults with IDD. POWER Pathways courses give students the skills to find meaningful career or volunteer opportunities, and promote self-sufficiency. The Food Service Program prepares students to work or volunteer in the Culinary and Food Supply Industry. Career Development instruction is included in all POWER Pathway courses. For more information, visit [www.gtcc.edu/academics/power-pathways/power-pathways.php](http://www.gtcc.edu/academics/power-pathways/power-pathways.php).

**Wanda Fletcher, Faye Oliver, and Dianne Turner** from College of the Albemarle (COA) reported that the Career Pathways program now offers coursework focusing on healthy living topics including horticulture, nutrition, and independent living. COA also offers the National Industry ServSafe certification. More than 30 students are enrolled and the program has been very well-received. This pilot program is offered at the Elizabeth City campus.

***Kathy Martinez**, coordinator of Cape Fear Community College Essentials Program, announced the New Hanover Transition Fair held in October. The first night focused on sharing information with parents, while the following day featured information for students. The Essentials Program at CFCC was among the programs represented.*

**McCafferty S. Kermon**, LEND Advocacy Faculty at CIDD, has been invited to serve on the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD)'s Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center (ITAC) on Autism and Developmental Disabilities Project Advisory Committee. McCafferty has been working to develop resources for LEND programs and offering technical assistance to leadership (LEND) programs that are not yet inclusive of self-advocate trainees; TA supports programs to expand inclusion.

## Updates and Developments Across NC

**TEACCH** is hosting a Neurodiversity in Higher Education training offered as continuing professional development for individuals working to support students with ASD in higher education settings. The training will be held on November 21 in Pittsboro, and will be led by **Glenna Osborne, McCafferty S. Kermon,** and **Tamara Dawkins.**

**Mara Lewis**, LEND Advocacy Trainee at CIDD, shared her experience in September speaking on a panel of PSE graduates through the CIDD Community Talk Series, which was well attended. She graduated from the Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program (SDAP) at Appalachian State University this past May.

**Anna Ward**, director of Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program (SDAP) at Appalachian State University, reported that research to evaluate the self-efficacy of students in PSE programs is ongoing; additional research by faculty continues, as well.

**Sharon Jackson**, Transition Coordinator with Cleveland County Schools, reported that ConneXions, the collaboration with Cleveland Community College continues to focus on developing entry-level work skills through different courses offered each semester. ConneXions has added a Child Day Care class to prepare students to work in a day care setting.

**Duncan Munn**, consultant and UNCG Beyond Academics board member, indicated that the Beyond Academics Program offers a small scholarship fund for students. The 18 applications under review for two scholarships highlights the increasing demand for such programs and supports. The applications were of high-caliber with tremendous testimonials provided for applicants.

**Laura Hiruma**, Psychologist and PSEA Team Member at the CIDD, announced that several faculty and trainees will represent the CIDD at the AUCD Annual Conference this November in Washington, DC; the theme of the conference this year is *Leading Change Together*. A CIDD faculty panel will present on the topic of *Addressing Health and Well-being for Individuals with I/DD Transitioning into Adulthood*.

### NEXT MEETING

*Winter Quarterly PSEA Meeting*

**Tuesday, January 28, 2020**

**12-3pm at the CIDD**

*A light lunch will be provided*