

Fall 2016



QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

# North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance

## Welcome to Special Guest Speaker Susanna Miller-Raines!

Susanna Miller-Raines is the statewide coordinator of the Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium (GA IPSEC). Ms. Miller-Raines woke up early to drive into NC and join us to talk about the enormous success she's had in Georgia creating postsecondary education opportunities. Since 2007, five programs have been created in Georgia, leading to the graduation of 39 students. Four more schools are on the verge of opening IPSE programs of their own and the state's goal is to be educating 100 new students per year.

Susanna spoke candidly about the journey to get where Georgia's IPSEC is today. They started with a small Think College mini-grant to study opportunities and paths to success. Receiving a larger grant later on allowed them to develop IPSE opportunities state wide. Post mini-grant, the GA IPSEC's goal is to have 10 inclusive PSE programs by 2018.

Key pieces to GA IPSEC's success are the people and programs invested in it. They have a strong relationship with Vocational Rehab and the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities is IPSEC's largest funder and an integral part of the leadership team. Georgia's Department of Education is providing matching funds to hire academic transition teachers at each of the five IPSE programs currently running.

The GA IPSEC has done a great job building capacity across the state. By utilizing statewide consortium meetings, educator seminars and webinars, they are able to keep everyone abreast of the newest trends and opportunities in IPSE. Presentations at transition fairs and state conferences have helped with recruiting students, as have presentations to parent groups.

(Continued on Page 4)



# Member Updates

The NC Division of Career Development and Transition's **Freda Lee** announced that DCDT will be meeting for their first state wide fall meeting Sept. 30. Many speakers will be in attendance and it will be a great opportunity to share new PSE projects and network. An Employer Award will go to those doing outstanding work hiring those with IDD and a Lighthouse Award will be given to an individual doing outstanding work with those with IDD. Frieda announced that the DCDT has made mini grants available for each region of the state to assist with providing transition services to those with special needs. [ncdcdt.org](http://ncdcdt.org)

**Duncan Munn** participates with Beyond Academics (BA) consulting on Systems and Capacity Building; he announced that the development committee plans to set up an endowment for scholarships for students through the BA UNCG partnership. There will be a kick-off event in March to raise money and celebrate the ten year anniversary of the UNCG Beyond Academics program.

**Terri Shelton** announced that new leadership for daily operations of UNCG Beyond Academics (BA) goes to Lalenja Harrington, who has been chief architect of the curricular structure. Lalenja is finishing her PhD in Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations and has been a force in the ever deepening inclusion focus of the program. She has been with BA since the beginning and brings cross-cutting, evidence-based practice in universal design. Lisa Pluff will direct administrative operations, which includes admissions, family education/coordination, and quality improvement. BA currently serves 66 students.



**Steve Strom**, with the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities, (NCCDD) announced that a five-year, five-step plan was unveiled at their last quarterly Council meeting. Current initiatives will address community living, financial asset development, and advocacy development. Project SEARCH has been funded to expand into next year to include paid internships. Steve reports that the NCCDD is partnering with Western Carolina University to expand the grant The Road to Learning and Earning [rtle.org](http://rtle.org) as this project has been successful. NCCDD will launch a new initiative around supported living. They are also discussing Medicaid waiver services to give more opportunities for people to live where they want.



**Monica Isbell** reports that Career College at Alamance CC has 26 students this year. They are developing a fourth pathway—Animal Care—and plan to move to a two-year format in 2017-2018.

**Donna Yerby** spoke about new developments with the UNC system. She shared that a team at UNC-Pembroke would like to launch a program and that the PSEA will continue to collaborate with them as they plan. UNC-Pembroke is also in collaboration with Robeson Community College as they start a new Project SEARCH.

# Member Updates Continued...

**Adela Van Name** reported about the Project Achieve for Transitioning High School Students (PATHSS) program, a high school program geared towards system level students. The goal is to gain employment by using UNC and the community as a classroom and working with Carrboro and Chapel Hill schools. There is a point made to connect students to work they feel passionate about and to help them find new interests. Their two-year pilot program recently ended with two graduates. This year, there are six students, two of them part time. They are continually being asked how to allow PATHSS access to as many students as possible, as others could benefit from this college-campus experience.

**Kenneth Kelty**, former LEND trainee in advocacy spoke at an Employment First event and was also mentioned in an article about LEND trainees. Kenneth is a graduate of Western Carolina University's University Participant program.

**Allison Zoller** with Persever8 teamed up with Power of the Dream to put together a group called Triangle Inclusive Employment, with the goal of getting a foot into the door of different businesses to support employing individuals on the Autism Spectrum. Persever8 provides work force readiness for young adults with Autism.



**Trudie Hughes** with NC Community College System announced that with the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act there has been a steady gain of programs that implement work-based models for those with IDD. More community colleges are involved and implementing different plans to meet the needs of those with IDD. The goal is to include all 58 campuses.

First year Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) trainee in self-advocacy **Remington Brown** is a recent graduate of the UNCG Integrative Community Studies Program. He lives for social justice and finds power in being a LEND trainee. Remington is also a talented musician.



**Robyn Dorton** announced an upcoming First in Families (FiF) event. This month FiF celebrates Sibling of the Month. FIF partnered with national Sibling Leadership Network to form a North Carolina Chapter.

Former LEND trainee and LEND fellow **McCafferty** announced that she was recruited for a newly created position at the CIDD: Advocacy Liaison. The UNC LEND program is one of the first in the country to create this position.

**Deb Zuver** presented the very exciting news that, after years of planning and hoping, they now have seed money to plan starting a PSE program at UNC Chapel Hill. This gift will allow for a year of planning and study. Much is already in place, due to the hard work of a PSEA subcommittee. The PATHSS secondary program on UNC-Chapel Hill campus and other PSEs across the state offer models and laid the ground work for what may be possible, shifting perspective and values in the area.

Cape Fear CC's **Kathy Martinez** announced that CFCC just kicked off their AB Essentials Program. It includes a Hospitality and Tourism Certificate Program to help students find employment. A Health Science Certificate Program will be introduced next. There are currently eight students enrolled in this incredible program, and two who are working at Bow's Coffee were recently featured on the Rachel Ray Show!



*Reminder to save the date for the*  
**Winter NC PSEA Quarterly Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 10**

**Noon - 3 pm**

**CIDD Conference Room**

*A light lunch will be provided*

(Continued from Page 1)

Georgia's IPSEC works with the GA legislature to build new programs. Receiving \$100,000 this year allowed GA IPSEC to create an extra \$10,000 in scholarships. The plan is to ask for additional money to be able to allot \$50,000 for each of Georgia's IPSE programs and an additional \$50,000 for scholarships. A Georgia House of Representatives committee has been formed to study inclusive PSE and Employment First. A policy committee has been created to build capacity across the state and study how to get a law written for scholarships for specific IPSE programs.

Thank you to Susanna for an incredible presentation and question and answer session. We are excited to implement some of Georgia's successful steps into North Carolina's system of PSE opportunities!

**Questions or  
comments?**

**Contact Deb Zuver**

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

**919.962.3603**

**Information and resources can be  
found at [www.cidd.unc.edu/PSEA](http://www.cidd.unc.edu/PSEA)**

**Evaluation results  
for the Fall Quarterly Meeting  
indicate 92% of participants  
were satisfied or extremely satisfied.**

**Special Recognition to Joan Johnson  
Executive Director of Beyond Academics**

Since its inception as a certificate program of study at UNC, Greensboro, Beyond Academics was a pioneering effort that Joan Johnson set in motion. Joan retires at the end of 2016, after almost 42 years of service on behalf of people with IDD. As the NC PSE Alliance formed in 2009, Joan was a tireless supporter, leading state-wide efforts to address a variety of systemic issues through collaboration with state and national programs. She provided policy review, analysis and recommendations at the state and national level. She has mentored the leadership of the UNCG program and generously offers her expertise and enthusiasm to raise expectations and provide technical assistance to postsecondary efforts across the state. Members of the Alliance have benefited greatly from Joan's involvement and we hope to continue to seek her insight even in retirement. We wish you the best, Joan!

