

Summer 2015

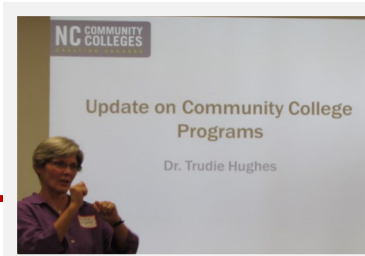


QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

# North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance

## North Carolina Community Colleges Systems

**Trudie Hughes** of the NC Community Colleges System Office provided an informative talk about the transition from Compensatory Education to Adult Basic Education (ABE). Trudie's primary role is to support programs in the 58 Community Colleges as they provide transition-focused options for students with IDD. She outlined the new focus and requirements of **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** funding, which includes contextualized instruction, literacy in the context of employment, transition, inclusion, and meaningful and appropriate career pathways. WIOA funding is provided to programs with an emphasis on employment. Compensatory Education programs are no longer supported by federal funding; those programs that wish to continue must seek alternate funding. WIOA goes into effect August 2015.



### Community College Spotlight

**Career College at Haywood Community College** offers a two-year integrative certificate with hands-on practicum.

**Pathways to Employment at Wilkes Community College** provides employability skills. Classes are free.

**ABE TOPS at Wake Tech Community College** offers Career Pathways classes in Hospitality, Hotel & Restaurant Certifications, Computer Fundamentals, House-keeping, and Auto Detailing. Landscaping and Animal Care Programs are in development.

**Monica Isbell** developed **Career College at Alamance Community College**. Currently a year-long program through Continuing Education, Career College will transition to a two-year program with a summer component in the near future. In addition to Automotive Assistant, Health Services Assistant, and Greenhouse/Nursery Assistant pathways, two new pathways around Food Service and Animal Care are in development. Career College has 24 students starting this August.

Alamance CC has a new Career Able class geared toward students who are transitioning out of high school. The team works closely with local schools to identify trends, referrals, and ways to best serve this population. The Career Able course is designed to bridge the gap of students preparing for PSE.

**Daphne Martin** of **Accessible College Experience (ACE)** at **Western Piedmont Community College** shared a [new video](#) that details the two-year program and creates awareness for this unique inclusive PSE option in our state.

**Nicole Worley** of **Sandhills Community College** shared a table she developed that illustrates the community college's progression from compensatory education to adult basic education. Their plan also highlights the future with career training and inclusion as a main focus.

## Legislative Progress Update: House Bill 921

**The House Bill was approved through House appropriations and has been shared with the Senate!**

Brief review of House Bill 921: *Educational Opportunities for People with Disabilities*

- Part One—*Elementary and secondary education*: Improve outcomes for students with disabilities and increase funding for this purpose;
- Part Two—*Postsecondary education*: Partnerships to identify and promote excellence in postsecondary options for people with disabilities; interagency assessment of and plans for improving postsecondary options, including financial assistance for PSE;
- Funding: requested \$600,000 per year (focused on PSE; training assistance for three regional partnerships; new program development; identifying best practices). Fiscal agent would be CIDD/PSEA;
- Support from legislative liaisons **Jennifer Mahan**, Autism Society of NC and **Julia Adams** of the Arc of NC.

**Duncan Munn** shared next steps, which include budget negotiation by senators on the Higher Education Committee and subcommittees. A conference committee will be appointed from the House and Senate to work through budget disagreements and come to a consensus on a joint budget plan to be submitted to the General Assembly with a vote to follow.

The bill is successfully raising awareness for postsecondary education for students with I/DD! More information can be found at <http://www.ncleg.net/>.

Learn more about the legislative process here: [http://www.house.gov/content/learn/legislative\\_process/](http://www.house.gov/content/learn/legislative_process/)

## Policy Committee

The PSEA's Policy Committee is coordinated by **Joan Johnson** of **Beyond Academics at UNCG**. The committee met recently to brainstorm tasks for the upcoming year. They identified three main priorities:

1. Explore what various agencies are doing across the state that impact PSE and identify gaps or inconsistencies to create recommendations.
2. Develop an evaluation plan on a systems level to collect outcome data across programs.
3. Prioritize topics in training and public awareness.

The Policy Committee will meet and report back at the next quarterly meeting on October 23. The Policy Committee welcomes your ideas and feedback on possible topics to address in the upcoming year. They are also inviting new members and hope to have representation from NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services, and Vocational Rehabilitation. Contact **Duncan Munn** at [marshdunc@aol.com](mailto:marshdunc@aol.com).

## Public Awareness Committee

In the past year, the Public Awareness Committee developed materials to distribute, including the PSE in NC factsheet. This resource, as well as quarterly newsletters and a program directory are also available on the [PSEA website](#). Community college programs that are not currently listed in our directory are encouraged to contact Deb Zuver so they can be added to the directory!

# Member Updates

**Caldwell Community College's Christie Arney** reported that they are applying for a grant to expand Appalachian State's Scholars with Diverse Ability Program (SDAP) to their campus. This collaboration allows students to access courses on both campuses.

**Holly Brigman**, new coordinator for **University Participant (UP)** program at **Western Carolina**, announced that they are navigating another "first" on campus starting this year: the first student who has his license and bringing his own car to campus.

**Tonya Monroe** at **Randolph Community College** is excited to share that Career College now offers two new inclusive programs for students: Facilities Maintenance and Direct Care Worker. They are also in the process of developing an Automotive Repair pathway.

**Michael Cox** announced that **Eye Retreat** is now an independent non-profit in association with the Governor Morehead School. The weeklong summer camp is underway and helps high-school students with visual impairments develop self-advocacy skills needed to navigate college. He shared that Eye Retreat has a new track this year to focus on transition from college to career.

**South Piedmont Community College** is in planning stages for three new programs for students with I/DD in 2016: Human Services, Welding, and Agriculture.

**Mandy Earnest** of **College of the Albemarle** reported that the PACE program, first developed at the Dare campus, is branching out to the Elizabeth City campus. This will increase access to different curricula, including Early Childhood Education courses. She is currently working with Vocational Rehabilitation to assist students with job training in Hospitality.

**Project SEARCH** identifies employment opportunities in a community and focuses job training in that area. This internship program is increasingly promoted at the community college level. The NC Council on DD will fund three community/partner teams to implement Project SEARCH for 2016-2017 academic year.

**[Find out more here!](#)**

**Emily Kerchner** of the **CIDD** is excited to share that she and others in various departments and schools at UNC Chapel Hill are beginning to discuss how to develop a PSE at the flagship campus. Current offerings include PATHSS for high school students and the LEND Self-Advocacy trainee opportunity.

**Amy Jones** shared that **Wake Tech Community College** recently opened their classes to a wider demographic to create more inclusive opportunities for students.

**Sharon Jackson** reports that **Cleveland Community College** recently added a new program in Childcare.

## New Resources!

**The Roads to Learning and Earning (RTLE)**, an initiative funded by the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities and co-directed by **Kelly Kelley**, is a web-based resource for middle- and high-school students with ID. RTLE aims to increase awareness about the role of transition services and encourages students to prepare for life after high school (i.e., PSE, careers, living independently) by changing attitudes and increasing expectations of administrators, teachers, families, students, and service providers. More information on RTLE is provided in the [Spring 2015 PSEA Newsletter](#), or check it out at [www.rtle.org](http://www.rtle.org).

As of July 1, 2015, the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services revised the Manual for Casework & Service Delivery Policy. The Manual covers topics including Program Administration, Services, Assessment, Outcomes, Post-employment outcomes, and Community Rehabilitation Programs. The manual can be found online at: [http://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dvrs/pdf/Policy\\_Manual\\_VR.pdf](http://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dvrs/pdf/Policy_Manual_VR.pdf)

*Head to the mountains this fall!*

## Fall NC PSEA Quarterly Meeting

**Friday, October 23 Noon-3pm**

hosted by

University Participant (UP) Program at  
Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC

*Make a weekend of it!*

\*You are encouraged to reserve a hotel room in advance.

### Quarterly PSEA Meeting Evaluation Results

- 95% “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that meeting format was effective.
- 94% “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that meeting was informative and relevant.

• **Comments include:**

“Should do more often.”

“Great updates.”

“I learned a lot.”

“Difficult to travel midmorning.”



Questions or  
comments?

Contact **Deb Zuver**

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919.962.3603

Information and resources  
can be found at

[www.cidd.unc.edu/PSEA](http://www.cidd.unc.edu/PSEA)

## SAVE THE DATE:

The Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance  
conference is scheduled for April 4 & 5, 2016!

Join us in

Atlanta!

