

NC PSE Alliance

North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance:
 QUARTERLY MEETING SUMMARY

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Next PSE Alliance Meeting

October 12, 2011

1:00– 4:00 PM
 Appalachian State University
 Boone

Updates on Developments

Across the State:

Appalachian State University - After a year to plan and prepare, a pilot program begins this fall semester with the first student. In May, *Donna Yerby* and *Deb Zuver* visited with the ASU team to learn more.

Western Carolina University— *Kelly Kelley*, coordinator of the University Participant (UP) program reported that four participants successfully completed first their year in the spring and will return in the fall. Four new students begin in the upcoming semester.

As a federally-funded TPSID (Transition and Postsecondary Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities), WCU awards subgrants to satellite programs. In June, WCU offered a webinar about the subgrants; awards later went to Appalachian State and Piedmont Community College. Congratulations! Satellite funding begins this fall and includes support and other resources. As for other WUNC news, CIDD completed the first of a five-year program evaluation for UP. Findings indicate student and family satisfaction and strong support for UP from faculty and the student body.

Randolph Community College— *Tonya Monroe*, director of Career College, reports that the new PSE program gets started this fall. Modeled after the Alamance CC program, Randolph's offers two programs: Hospitality and Tourism program with the nearby Zoo and an Automotive Assistant program. The 16-week program includes a graduation. Career College is designed for students with I/DD, and others who have not completed a GED.

NC PSEA Website — Check the new independent link: www.cidd.unc.edu/psea The site highlights the list of NC programs developed by *Terri Shelton* (Beyond Academics, UNC-G) and includes updates. Please forward your update and links to be added to Deb (Deborah.zuver@cidd.unc.edu). Spread the word to all those wanting information on NC options—this is their one-stop resource!



Melody Schwantes and Kate Brinko at ASU in Boone share PSE progress with Deb Zuver and Donna Yerby (seated).



Updates Across the State, continued

NC Department of Public Instruction — *Freda Lee* reported about the Transition Summit held in February for eight school district teams. This opportunity provided resources, capacity building, and info sessions. Changing expectations for students with cognitive disabilities is critical to laying the groundwork for a student to plan PSE participation after exiting school. Other PSE Alliance members involved with the Summit include *Alma Taylor, Bryan Dooley, Nel-lie Aspel, Sharon Jackson, Donna Yerby, Deb Zuver*.

Emily Furgang— As LEND (Leadership and Education in Neurode-velopmental Disabilities) trainee at the CIDD, Emily is studying how PSE programs affect students over their life time.

TPSID UPDATE: Federal funding for PSE model demonstration sites seems safe through budget deliberations. Five colleges have been approved for financial aid through Higher Education Opportunity Act process, including USC, Charleston, Clemson, Taft, NJ.

Nance Longworth (NC AHEAD) – Nance will share new ideas for increasing PSE student self-advocacy skills at Fall meeting. For info on AHEAD: www.ahead.org/affiliates/north-carolina.

“FIRSTS”

at Beyond Academics

- BA at UNC-Greensboro held its first graduation in May. Proud students earned a Certificate for Integrative Community Studies.
- One graduating student got her dream job at a book exchange and is able to live in her own apartment at the beach near her parents’ home.

Way to go, Grads!

Our Strategic Plan: Focus on Presenting PSE Summit

The need for a statewide Summit was discussed as part of the PSE Alliance Strategic Plan. Action Items toward planning the Summit for the spring, 2012 include:

- ⇒ **WHO:** Reach families, educators, agencies
- ⇒ **WHAT:** Develop partnerships and mutual goals around federal indicators, e.g., post-school outcomes. Offer workshops for program development. Showcase the eight existing programs.
- ⇒ **WHERE:** Pair the Summit with an existing conference as an effective way to engage those with an interest in PSE options. Sug-

gestions include NC AHEAD (Association for Higher Education and Disability) Conference [Note that the fall PSE Alliance meeting is held the day before the AHEAD fall meeting in at APP State in Boone. Other conference suggestions include the NC Division on Career Development and Transition held each spring.

- ⇒ **FUNDING?** Possible options to explore include ThinkCollege minigrant, the NC Council on DD, NC Department of Public Instruction, College Access Funds, NSTTAC (National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center at UNC-Charlotte). Update: Sources for modest funding have been identified.

Your TO-DO List

- Email** update information you'd like to share with the Alliance—include questions and agenda items.
- Forward** this PSE Alliance newsletter to others interested in expanding PSE options.
- RSVP** to Deb by Wednesday 9/28/11: Can't attend? Ask someone to attend in your place.

NC Postsecondary Education Alliance

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NEXT NC PSE ALLIANCE MEETING:: Wed., October 12, 1:00-4:00pm

WHERE: Appalachian State University

21 Belk Library (new library on College Street), Boone

:: Consider ALSO attending the NC Chapter of AHEAD Fall Conference
(*Association for Higher Education and Disability*) October 13-14

For info: www.ahead.org/affiliates/north-carolina

PSEA Agenda to Include:

- ⇒ Alliance Members: PSE Announcements and NC Updates
- ⇒ New Postsecondary Options in NC
- ⇒ Planning for Upcoming Spring NC PSE Summit

⇒ **PLEASE RSVP BY WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28**