

NC PSE Alliance

NC PSEA QUARTERLY MEETING SUMMARY

FALL 2012

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Next PSE Alliance Meeting:

January 22nd
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Carolina Institute
for Developmental
Disabilities

101 Renee Lynne
Court, Carrboro NC

North Carolina Gains 9th PSE Program!

Western Piedmont Community College announced at the Regional meeting in the West that Accessible College Experience (ACE) program is up and running! ACE is now the 9th



postsecondary education option in North Carolina for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. ACE is a satellite program to the University Participant program at Western Carolina University and shares a mission of facilitating student transition into adult life through education, employment, and independence. ACE supports student skill development through these main areas: Personal Development, Community Participation, Vocational Preparation, Social Participation, and Elective courses. Second-year students complete an internship.

Highlights from Quarterly Regional Meetings

For the first time, NC PSE Alliance held three Regional quarterly meetings, in the East, Central, and West. This approach proved to have many advantages including smaller group discussion on taking next steps and increasing collaboration. We all look forward to coming together to meet and collaborate throughout the state at the next quarterly meeting on January 22, as well as at the PSE Capacity-Building Summit in March at UNC Greensboro!

On October 17 representatives from the **East** in Carteret County, Wayne County, and Dare County joined Alliance members. Highlights include:

- Race to the Top's focus on "college readiness" should include students with I/DD.
- Self-advocates team up to support PSE planning.
- Consultation from Seb Prohn of UP at WCU and Melody Schwantes of SDAP at AppState included engaging administration and establishing support during initial efforts in program development.

Members in the **Central** part of the state met on October 23. Highlights include:

- A PSE focus on employment should include opportunities to reach out and learn from businesses in the community and form relationships that foster future employment options.
- Participants discussed transition services at the middle and high school levels as well as discussion on the differences between IDEA and ADA.
- Dr. Joe Piven, CIDD Director, extended a warm welcome to NC PSEA members.



Campus Tour of University Participant at WCU!

Highlights... continued

On October 23, members from the **West** met at Western Carolina University.

- Meeting participants enjoyed a one-hour tour of WCU and learned about the University Participants program.
- The tour included an overview of the classes and job sites where UP students were working, and also allowed for an opportunity to talk with students and with a professor.

Next Steps Planned Across the State

Resources related to common themes across regional meetings!

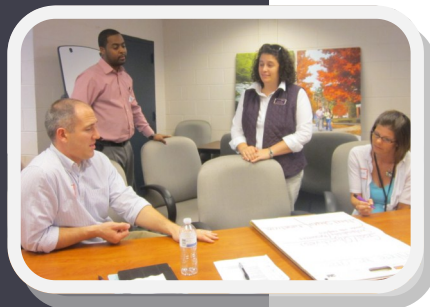
ONLINE RESOURCES:

Planning? Check out *Think College Standards* at:

<http://www.thinkcollege.net/for-professionals/think-college-standards>

IDEA versus ADA clarification? Take a look at:

<http://www.thinkcollege.net/for-professionals/high-school-v-college>



From left: Eric Marshburn of Beyond Academics, Reginald Marshall Jr. of Monarch, Kelly Kelley of Beyond Academics, and Daphne Martin of ACE at WPCC.

East:

- Carteret County: Will meet in January to discuss interest in developing Career College Program with tracks in landscaping and tourism. Goal is program development in next 2 years.
- Wayne County: Developing core team in November. Goal is to plan how program will meet student's individualized needs and program development over next 2 years.
- Dare County: Contacting stakeholders and team building in November. Goal is to establish support for program development at College of Albermarle and Elizabeth City State University.

Central

- Wake Tech: Meet with grants manager. Goal is to find funding for part-time coordinator, identify key supporters, and reach out to parents and students.
- Beyond Academics: Has a focus on transition and establishing alliances both horizontally and vertically, to share information with Career Information Center and encourage more effective IEP transitions. Goal is to strengthen voices in transition meetings and clarify admissions criteria.
- Systems level agency representatives "Think Tank" discussed how to address state legislative issues, policies, and procedures. Goal is to identify policies that need to be changed and increase awareness within respective agencies.

West:

- Cleveland County Community College's ConneXions: Next step to obtain grants for students no longer receiving support under IDEA to help with access and transportation. Goal: Transportation for students who are not dually enrolled.
- Western Piedmont Community College: Next step is statewide marketing through transition fairs and conferences, developing website will continue to follow PSE "trailblazers." Goals include sustainability and resources.

Member Updates

- Freda Lee: Ensuring that Race to the Top's focus on "college readiness" includes students with disabilities.
- Representative Verla Insko reviewed ADA and IDEA considerations
- Seb Prohn: University Participants at WCU has enrolled the first out-of-state student; he is from Georgia.
- Monica Isbell at Alamance CC reported that Career College is developing a third track in lawn and maintenance.
- Kelly Kelley from WCU described the student-led movement for UP students to participate in graduation, changes in administration, and the impact of parent contracts.
- Laura Norris discussed Circles Grant funded by the Institute for Education Science— OCS students from 2 Mecklenburg high schools present about needs and goals to a community collaborative.
- Chad Chastain, with Cleveland CC ConneXions program collaborates between high school and college level. Two new classes of students serve a total of 22 students.
- Daphne Martin, Disability Services Coordinator at WPCC, reported that ACE is planning for a total of 4 students in the Fall of 2013. Keep your eyes out for their webpage which will be available soon!
- Eric Mashburn at Beyond Academics noted that with 22 new freshman students, they are learning how to expand connections with faculty and outside employers. They will examine outcomes during spring semester of sophomore year with a focus on career planning.

NC PSE Alliance members presented at state and national conferences:

- Donna Yerby and Emily Furgang presented "New Access and New Identities: Opening Doors to Meaningful Employment" at the Southwest Conference on Disability in early October in New Mexico.
- Emily Furgang presented on postsecondary education to an Occupational Science audience in Oregon at Society for the Study of Occupation Research Conference.
- Deb Zuver co-presented with Kelly Kelley and Cate Weir at the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Conference in Charlotte.
- Keith Errickson and Donna Yerby presented on postsecondary education at the NC School Counselors Association Conference in Greensboro.

SUMMIT Planning

NC PSEA meeting participants suggested 2013 Summit topics, panels, and workshops.

- Increase Summit participation from program graduates and families

- Include workshops on self-advocacy and self-determination
- Explore the increase in PSE applicants
- Offer PSE Program planning and development resources
- Increase secondary education support during transition
- Reach out to guidance counselors
- Address supportive employment in the community
- Grant-writing tools
- PSE Training Program
- Offer information about Certified Transition Programs
- Universal Design for Learning

SAVE THE DATE!
 2nd Annual
 PSE Capacity-
 Building
 Summit
 will be held
 March
 11 & 12
 at UNC
 Greensboro!

Changes to Compensatory Education

Karen Yerby from NC Community College System explained that **Compensatory Education** is going through a transition phase to better serve students. Students enrolled in Compensatory Education will be served through Basic Skills and Curriculum and Continuing Education. Future efforts include professional development for coordinators and instructors.

In response, Freda Lee of NC DPI stated that she is "excited to see community colleges move toward more integrated environments and experiences."

Congratulations to our Neighbors to the East!

Our colleagues at Tennessee's two existing PSE programs, Next Steps (Vanderbilt) and FUTURE (UT-Knoxville), report that the TN Council on DD will award up to \$100,000 per year for two years to a Tennessee college or university to establish a PSE to serve students with ID.

NC PSEA continues our collaboration with TN PSE leaders in December when Donna and Deb copresent on Building Alliances at the Association of University Centers in Disabilities National Conference.

College Access Challenge Grant:

Expanding Postsecondary Education Options for Students with I/DD

The CIDD has received an award from the College Access Challenge Grant (CACG). Funds will support the NC Postsecondary Education Alliance to produce a PSE Capacity-Building Summit in the spring to expand and enhance college access services to students with intellectual/developmental disabilities. The Summit will offer resources and technical assistance for developing new inclusive PSE options in North Carolina and expanding current ones. The PSE Alliance will also partner with College Fund of North Carolina (CFNC) Pathways director to include information on PSE programs and resources for students with I/DD and their

families on the CFNC web site.

CACG is a US Department of Education program begun in 2008. Governor Purdue has designated UNC General Administration to administer the North Carolina CACG Award. The program is designed to:

- Increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and thrive in PSE.
- Build and expand partnerships among federal, state, and local governments.
- Operate in a current series of five one-year cycles from 2010-2011 through 2014-2015.

PSE Website Updates and Access through CFNC



As PSEA Program Assistant, LEND trainee Adrienne Villagomez is updating postsecondary education program information to provide students and families a more consistent layout of NC program information and help identify programs that fit their goals and needs. Additionally, the PSEA website will feature an “At-a-Glance” grid of PSE programs at community colleges and colleges and universities across North Carolina (www.cidd.unc.edu/psea).

We’re also excited to announce that the updated PSE program information for students with I/DD will soon be included on the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) website. The CFNC is an online resource used by students and families in North Carolina to access information about postsecondary education. Soon, students with I/DD and their families will be able to access information about postsecondary education through this site (www.cfnc.org)!

Save the date: Next PSE Alliance Meeting → Tuesday, January 22

1:00-4:00 PM at the CIDD 101 Renee Lynn Court, Carrboro, NC

Agenda to include:

- * **Input and Preparation for upcoming Capacity-Building Summit in March**
- * **Update on changes in Compensatory Education**