

Fall 2014

Quarterly Meeting Highlights

QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance

Strategic Planning Review!

The PSEA discussed updates from the PATH Strategic Plan that was developed in January. Based on member feedback and program updates, the Alliance revisited those goals, determined which have not been fully met, and discussed strategies needed to continue making progress toward reaching those goals.



What's next for the NC PSEA in 2015?

Members met in small groups to reflect on the strategic plan. The following suggestions were made in terms of priorities and next steps:

- ◆ Get **buy-in** from programs, the community, and funding sources
- ◆ Determine how to **sustain** current programs
- ◆ Make **data based decisions**: use data that has been collected from existing programs and highlight what these programs do for all students on campus; sell how the programs help the university/college and the state as a whole; show how the entire campus has been positively impacted
- ◆ **Increase awareness** among families and the community

Newsworthy

The *Daily Tar Heel*, UNC's newspaper, recently included two articles relevant to the PSEA:

- ◆ "Support Grows for Students with Disabilities" (August 27, 2014) discusses the Beyond Academics program at UNCG and brings awareness to the expanding postsecondary education opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- ◆ "NC Leads in Disability Education" (October 21, 2014) discusses the role of the NC PSEA in sharing resources and ideas to create more opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The article cites North Carolina as a model for inclusive postsecondary education.



Recent Conferences

Reaching the Summit to Success - September 16-17 in Greensboro, NC

- ◆ The conference included two tracks: transitioning to work and PSE opportunities for students with disabilities in North Carolina. Seb Prohn led a panel of students from the UP program at WCU.

NC Training, Instruction, Development, and Education (NC TIDE) - November 2-5 in Asheville, NC

- ◆ The annual conference, which reaches service providers, included a speaker on intellectual and developmental disabilities for the first time.

Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) - November 8-12 in Washington, DC

- ◆ The conference included poster symposiums, special interest groups, and concurrent and plenary sessions. Deb Zuver, Donna Yerby, and Megan McVea presented on the interactive strategic planning process the alliance used in January to facilitate the expansion of inclusive higher education options.

State of the Art Inclusive Postsecondary Education - November 20-21 in Fairfax, VA

- ◆ PSEA presenters included **Joan Johnson**, **Terri Shelton** and their UNCG team, **Kelly Kelley** and **Seb Prohn** from WCU, and **Donna Yerby** and **Deb Zuver** who co presented with Tennessee's PSE Alliance.

Inclusive Higher Education Policy Issues

Julie Adams with The Arc of NC and **Jen Mahan** with the Autism Society of NC were involved in planning and presenting to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The committee learned about PSE opportunities and how they can offer support. As a result of the presentation, the committee requested a site visit and visited both Alamance Career College and Beyond Academics at UNCG on November 18. **Joan Johnson**, **Terri Shelton**, and **Duncan Munn** were involved with this effort.

A Family Perspective on PSE: Panel Discussion

PSEA Alliance members shared their personal stories about parenting a child with a disability and addressing transition issues:

Sherry Mergner, Clinical Assistant Professor, UNC School of Social Work. Sherry promotes autism awareness/education and is the parent of a high school student with ASD. Sherry discussed challenges in the typical education setting and identified resources that have been helpful for her son including Michelle Garcia Winner's Social Thinking curriculum.

Betsy Crais, Professor, UNC Division of Speech & Hearing Sciences. Betsy is active with the NC Autism Alliance and is the parent of a 21-year-old son with an intellectual disability. Betsy discussed the need for both kids and parents to be educated about PSE opportunities and suggested that the transition process, including finding out about deadlines and visiting colleges, be started earlier.

Ann Palmer, CIDD family faculty and author of books on parenting a child with ASD. Ann is the mother of a college graduate with ASD. Ann discussed the importance of self-advocacy skills for individuals with disabilities and shared her son's experience with disability services at the postsecondary level. She also discussed the strategies she used to help prepare her son for the transition into postsecondary education.



Member Updates

Trudie Hughes, of the North Carolina Community College system, has accepted a new position, which will focus on serving students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Kenneth Kelty, self advocate and graduate of Western Carolina's University Participant program, recently accepted a position with The Arc of NC. Kenneth presented at the Reaching the Summit to Success conference.

Bryan Dooley, self advocate and founder of the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program through the Adaptables Center for Independent Living in Winston-Salem, announced the addition of five schools to the program.

Community College Updates



Nancy Gaj with The North Carolina Community College system held a statewide meeting at Alamance Community College on September 19 to discuss ways to better serve students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She discussed various current program models and reflected on how the current programs are meeting the transitional needs of students with I/DD, how the programs are examining the vocational outcomes for students, and how to better collaborate and partner with other change agents. The current focus of the community college system is to transition away from compensatory education to vocationally oriented programs. Suggestions/comments about how to move forward can be emailed to **Trudie Hughes** at: hughest@nccommunitycolleges.edu



Nicole Worley reported that Sandhills Community College is expanding the SUCCEED transition program to include a hospitality program. They will host an informational session early in the semester.

Mandy Earnest, College of the Albemarle Pathways to Accessible College Experience (PACE) coordinator, announced that three PACE students completed courses in CPR and First Aid in October and were awarded certificates for their efforts.

University Updates

Kenneth Kelty, a Western Carolina alumnus, recently returned to campus for homecoming weekend. He announced that two UP Program participants were elected at Western Carolina as the homecoming king and queen. The picture of the homecoming king and queen is from an article in the *Reporter*, the school's newspaper.



Susan Lombardo, transition coordinator at East Chapel Hill High School, announced a new collaboration between UNC and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools called Project Achieve for Transition High School Students (PATHSS). Five students with moderate disabilities will participate in learning a set of job-specific skills and then apply them in an internship; all activities will take place on the UNC campus.

If you have program or contact information updates, please send them to the NC PSEA project assistant, Megan McVea at mcvea@cidd.unc.edu



SAVE THE DATE
WINTER QUARTERLY
PSE ALLIANCE
MEETING

Tuesday, February 3
Noon to 3 pm
UNC Greensboro
Watch for info

Reasons PSEA is a success:

We asked members to come up with the top reasons why PSEA has been a success. The reasons fell into 3 categories:

Collaboration

- ⇒ Access agencies/diverse groups
- ⇒ Develop partnerships
- ⇒ Share resources
- ⇒ Efficiency
- ⇒ Innovation

Education/Learning

- ⇒ Learn from experts in the field
- ⇒ Engage with people you might not otherwise meet
- ⇒ Variety of perspectives

Advocacy

- ⇒ Families
- ⇒ Community awareness
- ⇒ Sense of belonging for students
- ⇒ Students accomplish their goals

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Southeast Regional PSE Alliance Conference

April 16 & 17, 2015 in Atlanta, Ga

Interested in registering or joining the listserv?

Email Susanna Miller: smiller@gsu.edu

UNC-CH Diversity Awareness Event:

Expect, Employ and Empower: Raising Awareness of Disability Employment Issues and Celebrating the Contributions of Individuals with Disability, Available Resources and Initiatives at Carolina

Deb Zuver and Donna Yerby will speak about the CIDD and the PSEA team

Wednesday December 10, 2014

UNC School of Social Work Clinical Lecture Series

Focus on Family and Disability

Upcoming lectures on January 13 and March 17

Email Barbara Leach: leach@email.unc.edu

Questions or comments? Contact Deb at

Deborah.zuver@cidd.unc.edu