

# NC PSE Alliance

North Carolina Postsecondary  
Education Alliance  
QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

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**Next  
Alliance  
Meeting  
Tuesday,  
April 23  
1pm - 4pm  
At the  
CIDD**



## 2nd Annual PSE Capacity-Building Summit: Leading the Way

[Register Here!](#)

This year's PSE Capacity-Building Summit, supported by the College Access Challenge Grant (CACG), is co-hosted by UNCG Beyond Academics and is being held at the University of North Carolina Greensboro on March 11 and 12.

The two day summit features a variety of "how-to" breakout sessions, planning workshops, and panels on topics including self-advocacy, employment, transition, and engaging families. Learn more about our keynote speakers on page 4 and [find out more about the Summit](http://www.cidd.unc.edu/psea) at [www.cidd.unc.edu/psea](http://www.cidd.unc.edu/psea).

Additionally, this year's Summit features a **PSE Student and PSE Graduate Networking Breakfast**, where students will have an opportunity to connect with other students and share their experiences. Breakfast will be provided on Tuesday morning during registration.

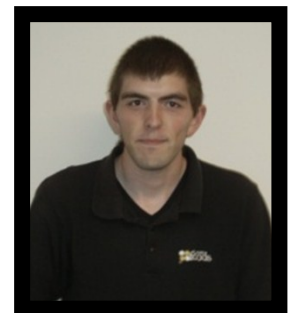
Highlights of the 9 current NC PSE options will be presented by student faculty and support staff representatives across both days.

Join us as we recognize Representative Verla Insko for her commitment to post-secondary education for individuals with I/DD and celebrate the 9 PSE options.

## Application open for LEND Trainee: Self-Advocacy and Leadership at CIDD

Our 2012-2013 Self-advocate, **Chris Cordeiro** explains that his favorite part of the experience has been learning and being part of the class. He emphasizes that through this experience he is gaining answers to questions he's had from previous experiences.

The LEND traineeship is a one year commitment that **emphasizes leadership and self-advocacy skills**. The trainee will be supported by an individual educational coach and faculty mentor across team projects and coursework.



For **applications and questions** about applying, contact Donna Yerby [donna.yerby@cidd.unc.edu](mailto:donna.yerby@cidd.unc.edu).



## Changes in Compensatory Education in NC Community College System

Nancye Gaj, Team Leader and Director of Professional Development and Instructional Support in College and Career Readiness presented on changes in the compensatory education program.

In addition to compensatory education not receiving specialized funding since 2010, the system as a whole has not kept up with the field in terms of services for this population. Revisions include serving students under The Basic Skills division, increasing access,

and enhancing training opportunities.

Discussion included topics such as model programs in PSE for individuals with I/DD, curriculum standards, professional development, and accountability.

Learn more about the changes in compensatory education and next steps at the **Summit** breakout session held Monday, March 11 from 2:00-3:00PM, presented by Nancye Gaj and Karen Yerby of NCCCS.

## Announcements

Chapel Hill-Carrboro and Orange County School Districts are holding a **Transition Fair March 26 from 5:30-8:00 PM** at East Chapel Hill High School. The fair is designed for parents and children with special needs to learn more about resources, services, and programs in the community and includes a panel discussion from postsecondary education options in NC.

The **North Carolina Division on Career Development and Transition Conference** is being held **April 24-26** at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro, NC.

NCCCS is planning a **Training Academy** focused on changes in compensatory education and transition at the community college level. The conference will be held on **August 5th–7th** at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. If you are interested in being involved with planning or presenting, contact Nancye Gaj at [gajn@ncccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:gajn@ncccommunitycolleges.edu).

The Developmental Disabilities Training Institute at UNC Chapel Hill will kick off a **Leadership Training opportunity for self-advocates** in May. The Training will take place one Saturday per month over six months. Applications will be available soon.

Duke University's Divinity School is starting a **Friendship House** for individuals with intellectual disabilities to secure safe, affordable, and community-oriented housing in partnership with the divinity school. Applications are being accepted this summer.



**Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program at Appalachian State University** has their first student graduating in May and will be joining the School of Education graduation ceremony. This year they have 3 students and next year they are planning on taking up to 8 students. Additionally, they have been approved as a Certified Transition Program (CTR) and that students with I/DD can apply for financial aid. App State recently received a grant for the College Star Program to provide students with learning differences access to a host of services.

**Davidson College** recently opened a community center club house for young adults (18-25 years old) with high-functioning Autism (HFA). This initiative is part of the **IGNITE program** to support adults with HFA to be more involved in the community. IGNITE offers activities, skills training, and educational workshops to foster independence and experience a sense of community. For more information, [click here](#).

### **NCCDD Awards Funds for *Reaching the Summit of Success***

Reaching the Summit of Success will work closely with employment initiatives to leverage resources and coordinate activities. Find out more at the Capacity-Building Summit panel led by Emery Cowan, NC lead for State Employment Leadership Network (SELN).

### **University Participant Students Join WCU Graduation Ceremony**

A **student-led movement** for UP students to participate in WCU graduation ceremony has met with approval by the university. UP students will be walking at graduation this May!



### **WCU UP Invites Students to Learn about Programs and Services for Adults with DD in England and Ireland**

WCU UP students will be studying abroad May 14-28 with Dr. David Westling, Project Director of the WCU University Participant Program. This option is being offered in conjunction with the WCU International Programs and Services (IPS) and includes a course covering programs and services for adults with DD in England and Ireland. **Students will visit organizations and agencies as well as postsecondary education programs.** For more information about applying, contact Dr. David Westling at [westling@email.wcu.edu](mailto:westling@email.wcu.edu).

### **North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities sponsors Janice & Micah to present at FPG in May**

NCCDD is sponsoring Micah Fialka-Feldman and Janice Fialka to present at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute Conference in May. Micah is a national speaker on inclusion in postsecondary education. [Click here](#) to learn more.



# Keynote Speakers at the PSE Capacity-Building Summit: Leading the Way

## Monday March 11

*“The Next Frontier: PSE Possibilities”* by Stephan Hamlin-Smith

Stephan Hamlin-Smith is the executive director of the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) and has been with the organization since 1994. Stephan has advocated for inclusion for individuals with disabilities in education and the workplace at local, state, and national levels.

## Tuesday, March 12

*“PSE Successes through National Standards”* by Cate Weir

Cate Weir is the coordinator of Think College at the Institute of Community Inclusion of the University of Massachusetts Boston. Cate provides technical assistance to the 27 model demonstration PSE sites across the country.

## Summit: Spread the word!

As PSEA members, we encourage you to spread the word about the Capacity-Building Summit and **share and distribute registration information with others!**

This year’s summit is geared towards educators, disability support service professionals, transition coordinators, counselors, administrators, students, families, and community members supporting PSE development.

**Register Here!**

We appreciate the PSEA **volunteers** help to host breakout sessions and panels. The host is responsible for introducing presenters and distributing and collecting evaluation forms for a given session.

Please contact Adrienne Villagomez at [adrienne.villagomez@cidd.unc.edu](mailto:adrienne.villagomez@cidd.unc.edu) with questions.

**Registration closes February 25.**

**Space is limited!**

**Reminder! PSE Students and Graduates registration fees are waived**, but they must register online.

