

Spring 2014

Quarterly Meeting Highlights

# Strategic Planning Updates!

On April 22, the PSEA convened to discuss updates from the PATH Strategic Planning that was developed in January. Several projects are underway including the identification of important program outcomes and measures, an inclusive community college survey, transition training for families, finalizing the public awareness fact sheet, and the formation of the Inclusive Higher Education policy subgroup of the PSEA.



## North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance

QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

### Measuring Outcomes of Inclusive Higher Ed:

**Seb Prohn**, WCU, and **Lalenja Harrington**, UNCG identified useful outcome measures to evaluate program progress:

- ◆ Measuring change requires data collection at **multiple time points**—Find natural measurements in your program and consider short-term versus intermediate and long-term measures (e.g., knowledge, skills, behaviors, status).
- ◆ Research suggests **desired outcomes** include independent living and employment as most significant, followed by college course access and self-determination.
- ◆ **Accessible outcome measures** ideas: National Core Standards, existing data collection systems are available at the Department of Public Instruction for comparisons of students with disabilities across 18 months post-graduation.
- ◆ **Qualitative data** can identify important themes related to outcomes.
- ◆ Consider getting students involved in **Participatory Action Research**.

### Inclusive Community College Survey

**Karen Yerby** and **Nancy Gaj** surveyed NC Community Colleges:

- ◆ 39 of 58 North Carolina community colleges responded to the survey
- ◆ **33 community colleges report a transition program within the division of Adult Basic Education** where compensatory education was previously housed
- ◆ 6 community colleges report they are in the transition phase
- ◆ 7 community colleges report separate programs within Continuing Education (e.g., Career College at Alamance Community College)
- ◆ Significant changes within the community college system create challenges for funding students who are not identified as making “academic” progress
- ◆ **Holly Riddle** suggests reviewing existing data such as National Core Indicators
- ◆ **Next steps:** Advocating for CC state funds is always needed!

# Transition Training for Families

**Barbara Leach** presented updates on identifying existing family support entities in North Carolina:

- ◆ Emphasized the importance of resources for families as many families are unaware of or not thinking about inclusive higher education possibilities.
- ◆ Began to compile information about services and advocacy available in North Carolina to help families start thinking about what their children can achieve.
- ◆ Considered health transitions and how to connect other transition-related issues for parents.
- ◆ **David Westling** highlighted the importance of reaching families through our systems, such as public schools, to influence parents as their children are progressing.
- ◆ **Cate Weir** noted that Think College has a Family Special Interest Group.

## Inclusive Higher Education Policy Issues

**Joan Johnson**, UNCG, led a discussion on policy issues at state and national levels with the newly formed policy subcommittee. Systems issues within the university level include student admission status, tuition, course access, accommodations, and ranges in certificate requirements and meaning.

At the community college level, concerns were raised regarding current programs and funding and a focus on Career and College Readiness criteria for admission and duration.

Discussion around how to present

inclusive higher education to administration centered on considering the general college student population and an emphasis on diversity.

Additionally, the PSEA discussed the role of Health and Human Services as a support system, including the challenges of utilizing the Medicaid waiver funding and partnering with MCOs and community service providers within the PSE setting and beyond graduation. Eligibility and funding fluctuations across the state through Vocational Rehabilitation were also discussed.

Finally, collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction was addressed regarding transition planning and challenges with possible dual enrollment. The committee has been invited to participate in a June policy meeting led by the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Institute for Community Inclusion.



## Public Awareness Fact Sheet

**Duncan Munn** presented updates about the Public Awareness Fact Sheet, being developed by the PSEA Public Awareness Committee.

The draft consists of a **4-page narrative** of PSE designed to target a **general audience** who is unfamiliar with intellectual/developmental disabilities and postsecondary education. Future versions will target additional audiences, including

families. Ideas for other audiences are welcome!

The Fact Sheet will feature PSE students to highlight the impact of PSE programs. **Student candidates are needed!**

Cate Weir will format the brochure with help from Think College. An electronic copy will be made available this summer for

distribution.

The PSEA is looking for **funding opportunities for hard copies!**

If you have input about student candidates to feature, feedback on the draft, or have an idea about target audiences or funding sources, contact Duncan at [Marshdunc@aol.com](mailto:Marshdunc@aol.com).

# Member Updates

**Stephanie Hanes**, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, is the new program specialist for transition and employment services. She will serve as VR representative to the PSEA. *Welcome, Stephanie!*

**Deb Crossen** wants opportunities to take students on campus to visit a college setting. She may contact you!

**Freda Lee** will serve as the NC Division of Career Development and Transition (DCDT) president next year and will organize next year's annual conference. She is looking for individuals who are interested in being on a committee to focus on various strands of the conference.

If interested, contact Freda at [Freda.Lee@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Freda.Lee@dpi.nc.gov)

**Susan Lombardo**, transition coordinator at East Chapel Hill High School, announced a new collaboration between UNC and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools beginning in the fall. Special Education students will be recruited to 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.

## Community College Updates



**Renate Macchirole** announced that she is working closely with Vocational Rehabilitation in her region in the Outer Banks to develop an integrative outcome-based project for students. An employment task force was also recently formed.

Current PACE students at the College of the Albemarle are starting internships and a second campus in Elizabeth City is opening in the fall and accepting 3 students!

Renate is now working closely with **Mandy Ernest** who serves as program coordinator.

*Welcome, Mandy!*

**Jennifer Fielder** reported that Project SEARCH at Central Piedmont Community College continues to operate with a waiting list with some openings in the fall and a new class to fill. Orientations will be held in summer with possibility of fall enrollment.

**Monica Isbell** at Alamance Community College reported that 7 students demonstrated skill progression on TABE testing and 3 students expressed interest in the Horticulture Certificate Program. Career College is accepting applications for 2014-2015.

**Michele Hall** of Wake Tech Community College reported that Career Pathways is doing great. An Auto Detailing course is starting in June and the START Hospitality and Computer Basics programs will begin again in Fall.

## College & University Updates

**Seb Prohn** announced that WCU is accepting proposals for community college collaborations. The University Participant (UP) program seeks to help inclusive PSE programs with planning and technical assistance and can offer minigrants of up to \$5,000 toward program implementation. Contact Seb at [smprohn@email.wcu.edu](mailto:smprohn@email.wcu.edu) for the application!

**Anna Ward** announced that the Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program (SDAP) at Appalachian State University has funding support for the next two years. SDAP is working toward gaining long-term institution buy-in. Faculty and students are supportive and vocal about the sustaining the program.

**David Westling** announced that future UP students are invited to spend summer at WCU. This year UP is increasing communication about expectations to parents.

**Kelly Kelley**, previous Coordinator of UP at WCU now serves as President of the reformed TASH chapter for North Carolina.



## FACEBOOK GROUP BY PSE STUDENTS & GRADUATES

### Pass this on to students!

After last year's PSE Capacity Building Summit, PSEA Member and former LEND Self-Advocacy Trainee,

**Chris Cordeiro**, started a Facebook page for NC PSE students and graduates. Chris tells students to find the group page, search "**PSE Students**" and look for this **logo!**



"Like" the page and get connected!

### Feature a Student in the PSE Public Awareness Fact Sheet!

Do you know a student who is a great candidate to be highlighted in the Public Awareness Fact Sheet?

The Public Awareness Committee is searching for students who serve as examples of a successful PSE experience!

**Bryan Dooley**, recent graduate of Guilford College, is the first to submit his story!

*See page 2 for details under Public Awareness Fact Sheet.*

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

### Family Matters : Family Retreat at WCU

June 19 and 20 in Cullowhee, NC

Breakout Sessions include guardianship, financial planning, self-determination, PSE, community resources and more!

Contact [KKelley@email.wcu.edu](mailto:KKelley@email.wcu.edu)

### NC PSEA Co-Presents:

### Reaching the Summit of Success –

### PSE and Employment in NC

September, 16 and 17

Tentative location: Raleigh, NC

**More information soon!**

## SAVE THE DATE SUMMER QUARTERLY PSE ALLIANCE MEETING

**Tuesday, July 22**

**Noon - 3 PM**

**CIDD Carrboro, NC**



Questions and comments? Contact Deb at

[Deborah.zuver@cidd.unc.edu](mailto:Deborah.zuver@cidd.unc.edu)