

PSEA Member Presentations

Scholars with Diverse Abilities

Anna Ward, director of Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program (SDAP) at Appalachian State University, presented the SDAP opportunity along with students **Connor**, **William**, and **Kyle** and program social work intern, **Jake**.

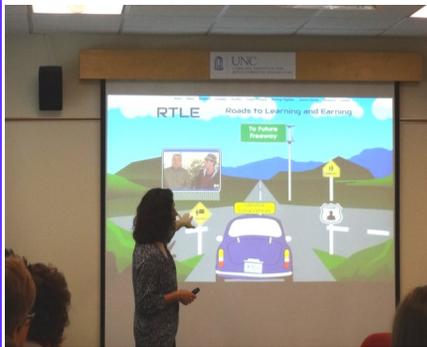
They explained SDAP's aims as providing students with ID access to a two-year college education. The program is inclusive; SDAP scholars participate in courses with typical students and attend concerts, sports, and other campus activities. SDAP scholars determine their own academic, career, personal, and social goals throughout their enrollment in the program and they assess the supports they need to be successful.

Presenters discussed characteristics of successful SDAP students, emphasizing they are self-motivated and explained the SDAP support structure. Each student shared person-centered planning goal areas (academic, social, personal, and career). All are involved in work and volunteer experiences, including service learning and opportunities involving theater, sports, the multicultural center, the school union, a community center, child care center, and a nursing home. <http://sdap.appstate.edu>



Roads to Learning and Earning

Kelly Kelley is professor at Western Carolina University in the School of Education and consultant with University Participant (UP), a model demonstration site for inclusive higher education. **Kelley** is co-director of the Roads to Learning and Earning (RTLE), a initiative funded by the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities. RTLE aims to increase awareness about the role of transition services in raising expectations and attitudes for students with ID. The program encourages middle- and high-school students to prepare for life after high school (i.e., PSE, careers, living independently) by changing attitudes and increasing expectations of administrators, teachers, families, students, and service providers.



The three-year grant funds a web-based resource created as a guide for preparing students with ID for opportunities for positive post-school outcomes. The ultimate goal is to provide the NC Department of Public Instruction with a comprehensive transition guide that offers transition standards for each grade level as students matriculate through school. The RTLE program is currently asking for input; please suggest student success stories/ videos, community service agencies to feature, and expert teachers who have lesson plans for transition objectives. Check it out! www.rtle.org

Policy Committee—Proposed House Bill 921

Duncan Munn and **Joan Johnson** discussed recent progress with the PSEA policy committee. They presented proposed House Bill 921: *Educational Opportunities for People with Disabilities*

- Part One—*Elementary and secondary education*: Improve outcomes for students with disabilities and increase funding for this purpose;
- Part Two—*Postsecondary education*: Partnerships to identify and promote excellence in postsecondary options for people with disabilities; interagency assessment of and plans for improving postsecondary options, including financial assistance for PSE;
- Funding: requested \$600,000 per year (focused on PSE; training assistance for three regional partnerships; new program development; identifying best practices). Fiscal agent would be CIDD/PSEA;
- Formed “quick reaction team” to respond to questions about the proposed bill! Updates soon!
- Thank you to legislative liaisons **Jennifer Mahan**, Autism Society of NC and **Julia Adams** of the Arc of NC for eliciting bipartisan sponsorship; bill was referred right away to appropriations committee.



Disability Policy Seminar: **Joan Johnson** reports that this national week in Washington annually calls on all major state agencies to work collectively and to develop policies.

- Discussion included support for PSE sustainability
- Interest in long-term strategy for PSE – broader outcome indicators, i.e., what happens to PSE students after they complete programs?

Public Awareness Committee

Duncan Munn reports that a new public awareness packet includes the updated grid of NC PSE opportunities, policy information, access and equity, and return on investment information.

Supplemental packets will offer program-specific information, a map illustrating program locations, and student experiences.

The committee welcomes new members: **Freda Lee**, **Shayna Simpson-Hall**, and **Steve Strom**.



The inaugural Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance Capacity-Building Institute was held in Atlanta April 15 and 16. The event was organized by **Susanna Miller**, coordinator of the Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education

Consortium and hosted by the Center for Leadership and Disability at Georgia State University.

Donna Yerby and **Cate Weir** report this was a very productive opportunity to learn from colleagues, students, and families. Attendees represented eight southern states with 23 new and/or established PSE college and university options.

The Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance promotes resource development, collaboration, peer-to-peer education, and access to quality inclusive PSE opportunities

Donna is part of the team that is exploring hosting this event next year in North Carolina.



Member Updates

Susan Kermon, self-advocate LEND trainee, was featured artist for *Diversabilities*, a series of events in Chapel Hill for Autism Awareness Month. She participated in a nationally focused webcast, *Tuesdays with Liz*, to discussing CIDD's interdisciplinary leadership training and her experience.



Mandy Earnest, coordinator of PACE at the College of the Albemarle (COA) in Manteo, presented a brief new video about PACE participants actively engaging in employment, college life, and classes. PACE has strong support from COA administration. The video is available on the PSEA website.

Katie Houser, LEND self-advocate trainee, was profiled in the current CIDD quarterly newsletter, available on the CIDD website.



Shayna Simpson-Hall announced the financial literacy initiative funded by the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities with fall training opportunities on this key topic for PSE students.

Cate Weir announced an upcoming Request for Proposals for another five-year grant cycle for inclusive PSE model demonstration sites.

Kelly Kelley announced that the TASH Regional Conference theme is *Inclusive Education as a Results-Driven Imperative*. Sessions focused on preparing students for college and careers.

Cape Fear Community College (CFCC) in Wilmington is the site of a new PSE transition opportunity. Area stakeholders have been meeting to plan; a key group is ACES (Advisory Council for Exceptional Students) for New Hanover County Schools, bringing together families and professionals to collaborate on developing this valuable community endeavor.

Donna Yerby and **Deb Zuver** traveled to CFCC for a meeting with stakeholders, including **Vicky Valand**, who also participated in the PSEA meeting.

Holly Riddle thanked **Joan Johnson** and **Terri Shelton** for drafting a PSE policy position paper. Revisions are underway.

Steve Strom announced that the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities is sponsoring a Raleigh stop for the National ADA legacy tour. Beyond Academics at UNCG will participate in the celebration recognizing the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Thank you to CIDD trainee Megan McVea for outstanding assistance with the PSEA this past year. Megan returns home to Virginia!

Several PSEA members have mentioned interest in supporting an inclusive PSE opportunity at UNC, Chapel Hill.

Adela Van Name, Betsy Crais, Deb Zuver, Donna Yerby, Emily Kercher, Linda Mason, and Harriet Able have met twice to discuss possibilities for exploring potential next steps. Stay tuned!

Freda Lee is president of the NC Council on Exceptional Children (CEC) Division of Career Development and Transition (NCDCDT). The annual conference and web site offer info on successful transition for educators, transition coordinators, and vocational rehab school counselors. <http://ncdcdt.org>

Robyn Dorton volunteers with First in Families. FiF has initiated a Sibling Leadership Network.

Many college students with IDD are inspired by their brothers and sisters to attend college and they benefit from sibling support.

SLN can strengthen sibling skills and connections. www.Fifnc.org

**Head to the mountains
this fall!**



SAVE THE DATE:

**Friday, October 23
Noon-3pm**

**Fall NC PSEA
Quarterly Meeting**

hosted by

**University Participant
(UP) Program at**

**Western Carolina University
in Cullowhee**

Make a weekend of it!

**Questions or comments?
Contact Deb Zuver**

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NEW AND IMPROVED!!

WWW.CIDD.UNC.EDU/PSEA

THE PSEA WEB SITE NOW HAS:

- **VIDEOS ABOUT PSE OPTIONS
IN NC**
- **UPDATED DETAILED GRID
WITH PROGRAM INFO**
- **CONDENSED GRID TO PRINT**
- **CURRENT PHOTOS**

**SUMMER QUARTERLY
PSE ALLIANCE MEETING**

July 21, 2015

Noon - 3 PM

CIDD, Carrboro, NC

Focus on Community Colleges

