

# NC PSE Alliance

North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance:  
 QUARTERLY MEETING SUMMARY

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Next PSE Alliance Quarterly Meeting(s)

October

1:00 – 4:00 pm

## Regional Groups Look at Next Steps to Form New PSE Options

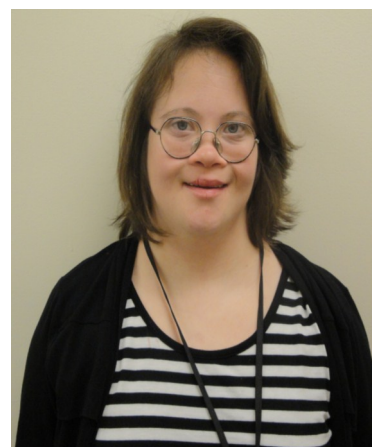
On June 13, NC PSE Alliance members were on hand for conference calls with interested PSE advocates in three North Carolina Regions.

Sharing information and updates from established PSE options was a practical follow-up for participants from the first PSE Capacity-Building Summit looking for answers and ideas. Key points include:

### WEST

- ◆ Randolph Career College continues to expand. Landscaping and construction to be added; programs will extend to 1 year. Success due to close collaboration with VR and schools. Fee is \$175 and includes insurance.
- ◆ Cleveland Community College Connexions has a unique collaboration with the schools; EC pays for teacher assistants, transition coordinators, and related services. Transportation is provided through Early College, Service learning students are paired as mentors.
- ◆ UP at Western Carolina continues to emphasize natural supports for students; a typical students already enrolled in a particular class is recruited. UP student independence is increased through smart pens and other assistive technology. Strong support from WCU administration continues.
- ◆ Western Piedmont Community College is exploring ways to create inclusive option through Continuing Education..
- ◆ Exploring a range of existing programs may provide ideas and inspiration.

Continued on page 2



Kerry Hagner, LEND Self-Advocate Trainee - CIDD 2011-2012, continues her involvement with the PSE Alliance



## PSE Capacity-Building Summit, continued from page 1

### CENTRAL

- ◆ Lots of interest at Wake Tech but multi-campus setting offers a challenge to planning. New Vocational College may offer an opportunity. A visit to Alamance Career College was helpful in learning about resources and support.
- ◆ Wake Tech will consider an advisory committee; including parents and students as advocates can be very effective. Wake Tech Comp Ed currently has student speakers who visit legislators to educate them about current issues.
- ◆ VR offers assistance with books, \$175 in fees and materials as part of pilot. In NC 80% of VR dollars is federal funding based on need with 20% state match so VR can draw on a wide variety of supports.
- ◆ UNCG will have summer orientation for 23 Beyond Academics students. This is the largest class to date. Involvement with VR is being strengthened.
- ◆ Career College at Alamance College sees collaboration as key; the Advisory Council includes reps from schools and VR, families, and graduates.

### EAST

- ◆ Interest since the Summit led to initial contacts at College of the Albemarle and Elizabeth City State University; a more collaborative approach is considered to follow up with next steps.
- ◆ May form an advisory board and visit existing programs to generate ideas and further interest.
- ◆ Creating a spreadsheet comparing about 10 features from each school can be a helpful tool.

## Resources and Supports for New PSE Options

Survey results from the Summit indicate key needs for those considering how to take next steps toward developing a PSE:

Resources and supports needed in the **WEST**:

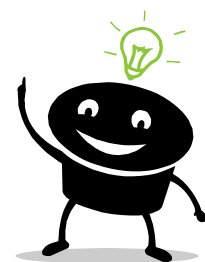
- ◆ Funding information
- ◆ Collaboration with local schools
- ◆ Mentoring from PSE leaders

Resources and supports needed in the **CENTRAL** part of the state:

- ◆ Funding information
- ◆ Collaboration with vocational rehabilitation and business leaders
- ◆ Regional networking

Resources and supports needed in the **EAST**:

- ◆ Mentoring from PSE leaders
- ◆ Local champions
- ◆ Funding information



## Planning for a New PSE: Take- Away Points

**Monica Isbell, president of NCAHEAD,**  
developed Career College at Alamance CC  
When she gets calls asking advice,  
**Monica offers these key steps:**

- ⇒ Begin by investigating what is already in place
- ⇒ Identify stakeholders
- ⇒ Network with others; brainstorm
- ⇒ Visit other programs
  
- ⇒ Connect with transition coordinators; be informed about Indicator 13
- ⇒ Investigate funding sources, existing models
- ⇒ Start small; many programs begin with 1-2 students
- ⇒ Review a range of programs; figure out what can be developed
- ⇒ Learn about local industries in need of workers

## News Notes

- ⇒ Alamance CC Career College started a Student Newsletter for the whole campus. It is completely run by students. The first edition reports results of a campus survey on changing a tire(!) and offers personal and inspiring testimony about student experiences.
- ⇒ PSE Alliance member Bryan Dooley is part of an effort to support accommodations and accessibility at Guilford College . Meetings with leadership will offer ideas and review issues.
- ⇒ The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) has a new website with a focus on transition. Check out [youth-move.org](http://youth-move.org)
- ⇒ The NC PSEA website now includes the brief videos from ThinkCollege

## NC PSE Alliance members presented at state and national conferences:

- ◆ **NC DCDT—VR** counselors and transition coordinators attended. Deb and Donna presented with a focus on building expectations for PSE in early grades; Terri Shelton and Joan Johnson presented on university education for students with ID; Kelly Kelley presented on WCU-UP and person-centered strategies.
- ◆ **CEC** — The Council on Exceptional Children conference was held in Denver. WCU’s Kelly Kelley and David Westling on PSE and program evaluation along with Donna
- ◆ **AAIDD** — The national conference for the American Association on Intellectual Developmental Disabilities was held in Charlotte. Deb, Cate Weir and Kelly Kelley presented on PSE development.
- ◆ **AHEAD** — Deb presented with Nance Longworth, Monica Isbell, Kelly Kelley, and Lance Alexis at the Association for Higher Education and Disability national conference. The panel reviewed issues related to the roles of disability support services on campuses with a PSE program.

## PSEA Web site:

- ◆ Your PSE information on the PSE Alliance web site may need updating. Do you have a new address? Have you created a new web site?
- ◆ Check [www.cidd.unc.edu/psea](http://www.cidd.unc.edu/psea) and email Deb about your changes. [Deborah.zuver@cidd.unc.edu](mailto:Deborah.zuver@cidd.unc.edu)

## Fall Quarterly Meeting

- ◆ Our regional conference calls were an effective way to connect with those who have expressed interest in developing a PSE program in their area. Conversations in the eastern, central, and western regions of our state provided an opportunity for input.
  - ◆ To continue these discussion, the fall PSE meeting will be held as three regional meetings in October:
    - West:** WCU , Friday 10/26, 1-4 pm
    - Central:** CIDD, Tuesday 10/23, 1-4 pm
    - East:** ECU, date to be determined.
  - ◆ Watch for more information in the next few weeks.
- >>>><<<<
- ◆ **Tennessee** — Deb and Donna presented at a capacity-building institute as Tennessee stakeholders create a new PSE alliance. Cate Weir offered a national perspective and current resources.

## NEXT NC PSE ALLIANCE MEETING: October

Remember to



SAVE THE DATE

- ◆ **FALL:** Three regional PSE Alliance meetings to be held in October.
- ◆ **WINTER:** Full member meeting in February.

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