

Summer 2014

Quarterly Meeting Highlights

QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

# North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance

## Innovative Opportunities

PSEA members presented updates and reviewed progress across the state for inclusive higher education. New opportunities that expand options were presented. Surveys to identify program outcomes offer expanded information. Next steps from the policy committee include a PSE Policy statement draft for review.



The Public Awareness Fact Sheet will soon be ready for fall distribution.



### News Across North Carolina

- ⇒ **Kelly Kelley** reports that WCU University Participant graduate, **Michael Kozicki** presented at the Office on Special Education Programs (OSEP) meeting in Washington, DC in July. Local Fox News featured a story on UP grads this spring.
- ⇒ **Debra Childress** of 3C is working on a project to make resilience training available online to parents and students: Propel. Her team is interested in PSEA feedback to help identify what students are best suited to this training.
- ⇒ **Lalenja Harrington**, Beyond Academics at UNC Greensboro, collaborates with a core group of students developing approaches to support faculty, and working with faculty advisory committee. They have started conversations with a faculty member who developed an entrepreneurial track for students

### CAREER COLLEGE

**Monica Isbell**, Career College at Alamance CC, reports new expansion:

- ⇒ ACC recruited the largest number of students (28) ever for the coming year.
- ⇒ Three graduates of the new greenhouse/nursery assistant pathway will transition into the horticulture program, pursuing the Greenhouse Production Certificate.
- ⇒ Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) is now offered for those who can benefit from an academic focus.
- ⇒ A Career College team recently met with IDD care coordinators at Cardinal Innovations to learn about their agency and to discuss opportunities at ACC. They reviewed the innovation waiver and integration at length.
- ⇒ Collaboration with Elon University continues to grow through events and activities.

## PSE Policy Statement

**Joan Johnson**, executive director of Beyond Academics, presented a policy statement draft she created from policy subcommittee input. “This is a launching point!” Joan seeks feedback from the group:

- ◆ **Holly Riddle**: recommended developing a position paper to institutionalize effort to create options.
- ◆ Policy priorities are captured to have impact on the movement and provide a pathway to PSE.
- ◆ PSEA meeting feedback: PSE benefits typical students; mission of Higher Ed includes increasing diversity; condense goals to 5/6 for readability; reference existing standards/benchmarks (Think College); create accompanying Youtube video
- ◆ Employment First Policy Statement was a model for this policy statement.
- ◆ Referenced Institute of Medicine (IOM) Task Force recommendations (2010); objectives remain the same: systems change.

Please review electronic draft: Your feedback? Are key points captured? [jjohn@beyondacademics.com](mailto:jjohn@beyondacademics.com)

## NCCCS Changes Continue: Students with ID

**Nancye Gaj**, directs program and professional development for College and Career Readiness at the NC Community College System Office (NCCCS).

Gaj reports a state-wide meeting September 19 at Randolph County CC will highlight latest changes for students with ID.

A recent survey of 58 campuses yielded 38 responses from programs in place designed to address the needs of students with ID; seven CCs currently have no program.

More than 3,920 students with ID are served by NCCCS across the state. Common recruitment was referral from public schools, VR, local agencies. Placement is due to an initial assessment.

NCCCS is recruiting a committee to review future possibilities for job training and specific academic experiences. The committee will review design for programs based on needs of students with ID to prepare them for employment. A program model—*Ready for Work*—may be adapted. The

committee will design courses for credential. A new bill is “set to roll” to pay for apprenticeship and job shadowing—work force investment.” Barbara Boyce, Associate VP recognizes the importance of inclusive higher education.



**Nancye Gaj**, NCCCS

## Public Awareness Fact Sheet

**Duncan Munn** presented the Public Awareness Fact Sheet draft, developed by the PSEA Public Awareness Committee. Thanks to **Cate Weir** who formatted the brochure with help from Think College.

The four-page sheet targets a general audience with information and data about intellectual/developmental disabilities and postsecondary education. Future versions will target

individuals and families.

**Duncan Munn** also mentioned the success of the FPG Inclusion Institute Panel on PSE for parents preparing for the future-PSE and employment. “We learn from what we learned in early intervention so we can solve problems; and be better advocates for system change.”

**Shayna Simpson-Hall** announced the new director of the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities: Welcome, **Chris Egan!**

The Council continues to actively support the PSEA.

# Member Updates

Autism Speaks has issued a scholarship this year targeted to students with ASD, partnering with campus disability support services for a degree-seeking student.

## EDUCATOR AWARENESS

**Freda Lee**, NC Dept of Public Instruction, is 2014 president of the NC Division of Career Development & Transition.

Regional and state-wide meetings are opportunities to raise awareness about PSE options, reaching transition coordina-

tors, special education, teachers, VR workers and others. If you represent a group and/or would like to present/copresent at state or regional meetings, contact Freda. [Freda.lee@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Freda.lee@dpi.nc.gov)

NC DCDT wants to make a big impact about PSE this year; many teachers and other school personnel are not yet aware!

## Community College Updates

### SURVEY

**Nicole Worley**, ABE director of SUCCEED at Sandhills CC, surveyed her campus. She wanted “to raise awareness and get an idea of where we stand about full inclusion at the community college level.” Most feedback was positive. Many were not aware of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA). Most agreed that both students with ID and typical students can benefit. How do they see inclusion? 80% are supportive; others indicated a need for more information.

CCs need to provide training for faculty; former Comp Ed instructors find transition challenging. It is also difficult for those students who have been at Sandhills in Comp Ed the longest, and for their families.

First transition to START begins early next year. Sandhills received a small grant for purchase of initial supplies; similar to Wake Tech—they collaborate between Basic Skills and other departments.

### PACE:

#### College of the Albemarle

**Mandy Ernest**, PACE coordinator, and students **William Marzano**, **Caroline Parks**, and **Rebekah Miller** reported on their employment experiences including a restaurant internship, IT training, and Beach Pier experience. Rebekah wants to start own scratch-baking business one day.

Check out:

**Youthhood.org**

Great resource for student access.

## More Updates

**Alan Chase**, teacher in Wake County, supports and encourages students with visual impairment to attend college through an annual Eye Retreat, to begin this year on July 27. “Focus on advocacy because a lot of students don’t realize that when they are college students they have to advocate for themselves.” Participants number 35 including group leaders.

### SUMMIT PLANNING

Topic ideas generated:

- Parent/teacher collaboration
- Student panel
- Transition resources
- Self-advocacy for students
- PSE info for employers

- Policy update

- Support for college students on the Autism Spectrum

- Employment outcomes for PSE students.

*The Summit includes keynote speakers, breakouts, planning sessions, policy discussion, and networking opportunities.*



**FACEBOOK GROUP BY PSE STUDENTS & GRADUATES**

**Pass this on to students!**

After 2013 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!

**UPCOMING SUMMIT:**

**Reaching the Summit of Success –**

**Employment and PSE in NC**

**Tuesday 9/16 and Wednesday 9/17**

**Greensboro Downtown Marriott,**

**Greensboro NC**

**Registration opens soon**

**with additional information**

**Fall QUARTERLY  
PSE ALLIANCE MEETING**

**Date/Location to Be Announced**

**[Note: 11/4 was proposed, but conflicts with  
NC Conference on Exceptional Children]**



Questions and comments? Contact Deb at

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