

NC PSE Alliance

North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance:
QUARTERLY MEETING SUMMARY

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Next PSE Alliance Meeting

February 7, 2012

1:00– 4:00 pm

CIDD-UNC
Carrboro,
NC

Updates: PSE Developments Across the State:

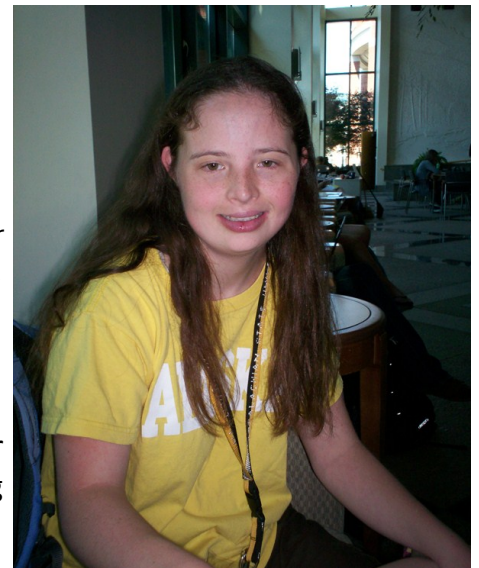
Appalachian State University - ASU offers North Carolina’s newest PSE option, Scholars With Diverse Abilities (SDAP). Program director *Melody Schwantes* reported that the program is going well and the first participant was able to join us and talk about the program. She is clearly excited and proud.

Courtney Bell is taking four classes this semester and she has four natural supports for daily living and academics. “The transition has been really good. She has transitioned into taking two classes independently. She has met with faculty, administration, and been a huge advocate for the program. The program has been spending a lot of time developing policies and procedures so that they align with the same requirements as other students.”

The ASU team has just completed the certificate of achievement policies and they are now working on programs of study. They have been putting together promotional items.

Courtney expects to get into the dorms in January. The team is working with Rec management, micro-entrepreneurship, a sustainability program, child development, and arts-based programs as different avenues for possible career paths. They have already had visits from other students who found SDAP from the ThinkCollege website and from local high schools. The SDAP team is hoping to have 4 new students in the Fall. This is a two-year program and they expect to apply for the Pell Grant as well. SDAP students pay tuition; they have some on-campus money and college student volunteers provide support.

Bringing Courtney to meetings has helped ASU administrators understand the program from her point of view. This has been a positive experience and the administrators want to help the program grow. *Mike Mayfield*, the Vice provost for undergraduate education, and the Dean of Music have been very supportive.



Courtney Bell is a student at ASU through the SDA Program.

Photo by Brandi Crosmer



Updates Across the State, continued from page 1

Cleveland Community College — *Sharon Jackson*, with Cleveland Community College and Cleveland County Schools, collaborated on Connexions to serve students with developmental disabilities who want to attend college. Students are able to attend each school with the help of an EC teacher. They take a course called Employee Development 1 and the Compensatory Education program, which picks up on some of the reading and math. Connexions is a one-year program and the students have an option to continue a second year. This is the second year for this program. The EC Director picks up the cost of the Connections program. Sharon said that when Nellie Aspel became the EC Director, she initiated discussions and the school system began to work with the college.

Western Carolina University — *David Westling*, director of UP (University Participant) program reported that UP just began a second year of funding with a complete class of eight; four students in the first year and four students in the second year. The program is filled to capacity with participants and employees. Participants take a variety of courses based on their interests and they are engaged in social groups on campus. They complete internships on campus and learn job skills. David feels they are moving in the right direction though he is concerned about sustainability when the external funding is no longer available. Western has applied for eligibility for federal student loans. They are looking at other external grants to help support some of the students.

Randolph Community College—*Tonya Moore*, director, reports, “The new Career College is going great—students love the college atmosphere. The program works closely with the North Carolina zoo for hospitality and with auto repair opportunities.”

Emily Furgang is collecting data at Beyond Academics, UNC-G for her dissertation. She is studying the postsecondary education environment and how it influences identity and life experiences.

AHEAD: Emerging PSE Role

The Association for Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) is the national professional organization for disability support professionals on college campuses.

North Carolina has an active AHEAD chapter. Members meet in the fall and spring to discuss current issues and resources related to postsecondary education and students with disabilities.

Members discuss what others are doing and share ideas. It is a wonderful organization to be a part of. A listserv allows members to share

ideas and trouble shoot. The fall conference will have a range of sessions that help disability service providers.

The incoming president of NC AHEAD, Monica Isbell, directs the postsecondary program at Alamance Community College. Career College benefits students with intellectual/developmental disabilities as they learn skills leading to employment in the automotive repair and the long-term healthcare fields.

As the fall PSEAlliance meeting and the NC AHEAD meeting coincided at Appalachian State, many resources and perspectives could be shared.

Updates: PSE Developments

Continued from page 2

Beyond Academics-UNC-Greensboro— *Joan Johnson* reports that BA has 38 students this year and is expanding. The basic framework of the model continues; a new feature is the postgraduate advancement serving the first six students who graduated in May. “Five of the students are living in the areas they wanted; four of the six are employed. A lot of that comes from the relationships they built while they were on internship or volunteering. One student is on her way to starting her own business. There is a need to plan even further ahead than what was thought.” They realize that they need to start with the junior level and especially the seniors so they can prepare them for graduation.

Students have self-directed studies where they spend a lot of time listening to what students are saying about where they want to live and the jobs they want. Fran is learning about systems issues in the community and how to work with other providers and other resources. “One of the things they need to do is have the students use their voice and tell employers what they do and don’t need.”

Lalenja said, “The academic side is exciting because of the deeper integration into the University process. The certificate has been integrated into the registration process and there are more connections with the faculty.”

Alamance Community College—*Monica Isbell* reported that the 16-week program is growing. Career College is also a satellite program partnering with WCU, from whom they receive funding, and Elon University. They are trying to expand socialization opportunities. Being a two-year college is limiting socially and their academic offerings are limiting as well. They are looking to open more programs for students.

Career College has had 37 graduates and 12 of them are employed. Six students have transitioned into general curriculum and different certificates. They are doing well academically. As a continuing education program, it would need to move into the curriculum side to be eligible to apply for financial aid. They feel fortunate that community organizations donate scholarships. Students pay only for the program areas; others are free. Wake CC is looking to get started, too.

Self-Advocacy Tools for PSE Students

Nance Longworth at Davidson University is working on a video for students to practice advocating for themselves. This collaboration between students and faculty is currently developing written media to distribute.

Nance hopes to bring the 10-minute video to an upcoming PSE meeting. She would like a series of videos on different topics that can potentially be placed on the PSE Alliance website.

The NC PSE Alliance was represented at:

- ✓ **The NC CEC DCDT Conference.** The NC Council on Exceptional Children Division of Career Development and Transition held its fall conference 9/30 in Sanford. Donna presented a workshop on PSE evaluation.
- ✓ **NC AHEAD Fall Conference.** The NC Association on Higher Education and Disability met 10/13-14 in Boone. Deb and Donna presented on PSE success.
- ✓ **State of the Art in PSE Conference.** This national conference 11/3-4 showcased PSE options around the country including national and local perspectives and resources. Deb and Donna attended.
- ✓ **National TASH Conference.** With the theme "No Excuses" TASH met in Atlanta 12/3-4. Deb and Donna presented with WCU-UP's David Westling, Kelly Kelley, and a panel of students and volunteers.

>> WHERE HAVE YOU SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT PSE IN NORTH CAROLINA? LET US KNOW!

Updates Across the State— from p. 3

Project SEARCH—*Pat Kuel* is the coordinator across NC. Project SEARCH was developed at Children's Cincinnati Hospital and has spread across the country including Piedmont Community College, where a Project Search is being developed in different disciplines. Students attend class for the first year; the second year they move to their internship. Hopefully the internship moves into a job placement. The next NC site is Durham Schools and the Duke Regional System. Durham's first students began their internship last year. A program is expected to launch in Greensboro.

- ✓ **Alliance for Full Participation Summit.** AFP met in DC November 17-18. With a focus on Employment First, many PSE options from around the country were represented on state AFP teams. Deb and Donna attended.
- ✓ **NC DPI Exceptional Education Conference.** Donna and Kelly Kelley presented a workshop on the role of evaluation in WCU-UP on 11/2.

NEXT NC PSE ALLIANCE MEETING:: Tuesday, February 7, 2012,

WHERE: CIDD Conference Room—from 1pm—4pm

101 Renee Lynn Court, Carrboro, NC 27510



Remember to **SAVE THE DATE** for

⇒ **PSE Capacity-Building Summit: P.O.W.E.R for NC**

(Postsecondary Options with Expanding Resources)

Friday, March 23 at Wake Tech

Watch for more information soon!

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