North Carolina Community Colleges Systems

Trudie Hughes of the NC Community Colleges System Office provided an informative talk about the transition from Compensatory Education to Adult Basic Education (ABE). Trudie’s primary role is to support programs in the 58 Community Colleges as they provide transition-focused options for students with IDD. She outlined the new focus and requirements of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding, which includes contextualized instruction, literacy in the context of employment, transition, inclusion, and meaningful and appropriate career pathways. WIOA funding is provided to programs with an emphasis on employment. Compensatory Education programs are no longer supported by federal funding; those programs that wish to continue must seek alternate funding. WIOA goes into effect August 2015.

Community College Spotlight

Career College at Haywood Community College offers a two-year integrative certificate with hands-on practicum.

Pathways to Employment at Wilkes Community College provides employability skills. Classes are free.

Monica Isbell developed Career College at Alamance Community College. Currently a year-long program through Continuing Education, Career College will transition to a two-year program with a summer component in the near future. In addition to Automotive Assistant, Health Services Assistant, and Greenhouse/Nursery Assistant pathways, two new pathways around Food Service and Animal Care are in development. Career College has 24 students starting this August.

Alamance CC has a new Career Able class geared toward students who are transitioning out of high school. The team works closely with local schools to identify trends, referrals, and ways to best serve this population. The Career Able course is designed to bridge the gap of students preparing for PSE.

Daphne Martin of Accessible College Experience (ACE) at Western Piedmont Community College shared a new video that details the two-year program and creates awareness for this unique inclusive PSE option in our state.

Nicole Worley of Sandhills Community College shared a table she developed that illustrates the community college’s progression from compensatory education to adult basic education. Their plan also highlights the future with career training and inclusion as a main focus.
Public Awareness Committee

In the past year, the Public Awareness Committee developed materials to distribute, including the PSE in NC factsheet. This resource, as well as quarterly newsletters and a program directory are also available on the PSEA website. Community college programs that are not currently listed in our directory are encouraged to contact Deb Zuver so they can be added to the directory!
Caldwell Community College’s Christie Arney reported that they are applying for a grant to expand Appalachian State’s Scholars with Diverse Ability Program (SDAP) to their campus. This collaboration allows students to access courses on both campuses.

Holly Brigman, new coordinator for University Participant (UP) program at Western Carolina, announced that they are navigating another “first” on campus starting this year: the first student who has his license and bringing his own car to campus.

Tonya Monroe at Randolph Community College is excited to share that Career College now offers two new inclusive programs for students: Facilities Maintenance and Direct Care Worker. They are also in the process of developing an Automotive Repair pathway.

South Piedmont Community College is in planning stages for three new programs for students with I/DD in 2016: Human Services, Welding, and Agriculture.

Emily Kerchner of the CIDD is excited to share that she and others in various departments and schools at UNC Chapel Hill are beginning to discuss how to develop a PSE at the flagship campus. Current offerings include PATHSS for high school students and the LEND Self-Advocacy trainee opportunity.

Mandy Earnest of College of the Albemarle reported that the PACE program, first developed at the Dare campus, is branching out to the Elizabeth City campus. This will increase access to different curricula, including Early Childhood Education courses. She is currently working with Vocational Rehabilitation to assist students with job training in Hospitality.

Amy Jones shared that Wake Tech Community College recently opened their classes to a wider demographic to create more inclusive opportunities for students.

Project SEARCH identifies employment opportunities in a community and focuses job training in that area. This internship program is increasingly promoted at the community college level. The NC Council on DD will fund three community/partner teams to implement Project SEARCH for 2016-2017 academic year. Find out more here!

Sharon Jackson reports that Cleveland Community College recently added a new program in Childcare.

New Resources!

The Roads to Learning and Earning (RTLE), an initiative funded by the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities and co-directed by Kelly Kelley, is a web-based resource for middle- and high-school students with ID. RTLE aims to increase awareness about the role of transition services and encourages 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. More information on RTLE is provided in the Spring 2015 PSEA Newsletter, or check it out at www.rtle.org.

As of July 1, 2015, the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services revised the Manual for Casework & Service Delivery Policy. The Manual covers topics including Program Administration, Services, Assessment, Outcomes, Post-employment outcomes, and Community Rehabilitation Programs. The manual can be found online at: http://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dvrs/pdf/Policy_Manual_VR.pdf
Head to the mountains this fall!

Fall NC PSEA Quarterly Meeting
Friday, October 23 Noon-3pm
hosted by
University Participant (UP) Program at
Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC

Make a weekend of it!
*You are encouraged to reserve a hotel room in advance.

Quarterly PSEA Meeting Evaluation Results
• 95% “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that meeting format was effective.
• 94% “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that meeting was informative and relevant.
• Comments include:
  “Great updates.”
  “I learned a lot.”
  “Difficult to travel midmorning.”
  “Should do more often.”

SAVE THE DATE:
The Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance conference is scheduled for April 4 & 5, 2016!

Join us in
Atlanta!

Questions or comments?
Contact Deb Zuver
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919.962.3603

Information and resources can be found at
www.cidd.unc.edu/PSEA