



# **2012 National Transition Conference**

## **College and Careers for Youth with Disabilities**

### **Call for Proposals**

**Deadline for submission is March 27**  
**Presenters will be notified by April 16**  
**[www.transition2012.org](http://www.transition2012.org)**

The 2012 National Transition Conference will take place from May 30-June 1, 2012 in Washington D.C. This conference will bring together partners in the transition community, including young adults and family members.

All conference participants will have the opportunity to exchange innovative ideas and approaches; demonstrate knowledge gained from policy implementation, share transition practices and research findings and promote and facilitate the development of networks and relationships in order to promote practice, policy and research that leads to improved employment outcomes and self sufficiency for young people with disabilities.

The Conference Planning Committee is seeking proposals for presentations and posters that align with the six theme tracks selected for the conference:

- Employment
- Family engagement
- Partnerships that support successful transitions
- Program and policy development and implementation
- Secondary and postsecondary education
- Youth development

All proposals must be related directly to the conference topic of transition for young people with disabilities with a focus on paths to careers including training and post secondary education. For both presentations and poster session, the Committee encourages submissions from young people and family members who have personal experience with the transition process as well as the inclusion of young adults and family members on panels and presentation teams.

Each presentation should include at least two of the following components or focus areas: success stories, engagement of young people and families, approaches to transition planning, strategies to support retention in services and education, evidence based and emerging practices, research and/or policy. Presenters are encouraged to consider approaches that will actively engage the audience.

For additional information go to [www.transition2012.org](http://www.transition2012.org). All proposals must be submitted using the online submission process.

If you have questions about the Call for Proposals for the 2012 National Transition Conference please contact Cindy Thomas at [cindy.thomas@umb.edu](mailto:cindy.thomas@umb.edu) or 617-287-4312 or Melanie Jordan at [melanie.jordan@umb.edu](mailto:melanie.jordan@umb.edu) at 617-287-4327.

# Conference Theme Tracks

## Employment

- Interest assessment
- Soft skill development
- Career preparation, development, and advancement
- Role of secondary school personnel
- Work experience (e.g. summer youth employment programs, internships, community service)
- Mentoring
- Employment support
- High demand careers (e.g. STEM, health care)
- Private and public career opportunities (e.g. internships, schedule A)
- Securing and maintaining employment
- Employment for all; developing high expectations for all students
- Entrepreneurial opportunities in transition
- Community supports for employment (e.g. transportation, benefits planning, independent living)

## Family Engagement

- Empowering families to participate in the transition process
- Effective strategies for family training, outreach, and material development
- Fostering advocacy and leadership skills
- Meeting the needs of multicultural families
- Strategies to help professionals partner more effectively with parents/caregivers

## Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

- Interagency collaboration- facilitating involvement of community organizations, as well as businesses in the transition process
- Interagency agreements -roles, responsibilities, communication strategies, and other collaborative actions that enhance the transition process
- Team approaches and communities of practice to improve transition services across agencies
- Connecting to public and private community resources/supports for a successful transition (e.g. health care, mental health services, transportation, youth service organizations, independent living, supported living, recreation, benefits planning)
- Community partnerships addressing rural issues, employer perspectives, post-secondary education/training, homeless issues, substance abuse, behavioral health
- Strategies for addressing underserved populations (e.g. youth in rural or inner cities, youth in the foster care system, youth in the juvenile or criminal justice system, culturally and linguistically diverse youth, youth living in public housing, under identified youth, disconnected youth)

## Program and Policy Development and Implementation

- Policy and practices related to improvement of the overall transition service delivery system and transition outcomes
- Professional development including ethics, emerging technology, cultural competence, putting research into practice, pre-service personnel preparation
- Data based decision making
- Professional standards for transition specialists and other youth serving professionals including certificates, professional degrees and other career pathways

## **Secondary and Postsecondary Education**

- Partnerships and innovative programs for emerging populations (veterans, individuals with Asperger's, ID/DD)
- Disability services and reasonable accommodations
- Independent living
- Student preparation for success in college
- Student retention and engagement
- Transition planning
- Navigating transition to college
- Preparing secondary and post-secondary setting to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment
- Transition to employment from the postsecondary setting

## **Youth Development**

- Youth empowerment including self-awareness, self-esteem, self-advocacy, self-determination, self-efficacy, self-care, self-direction, self-management, self-sufficiency and disclosure.
- Youth-focused planning practices such as using assessment information and facilitating student's self-determination to develop individual education programs based on young adult's post-school goals and person centered futures planning
- Youth development practices addressing life skills, employment, and occupational skill development, financial management through school-based and work-based learning experiences, mentoring
- Youth-focused career exploration (e.g. working with special education and vocational rehabilitation counselors on career exploration, successful self advocacy, making informed choices, developing an IPE)
- Youth skills development addressing independent living activities such as mobility training, supported living, rehabilitation technology and personal assistance services

# Requirements for Proposal Submission

**Proposals must be submitted electronically at [www.transition2012.org](http://www.transition2012.org)**

## **Title (100 characters or less)**

Provide the full title for your presentation or poster. This title will be included in the conference program if your proposal is selected.

## **Proposal Abstract (500 characters or less)**

The abstract should provide an overview of your topic and the goals of your presentation. If your proposal is selected the abstract will be included in the conference program.

## **Theme Track**

Select the theme track that best represents the content of your proposal.

## **Presentation Format**

The conference will offer concurrent 75 minute and 90 minute breakout sessions as well as a poster session. Presenters are asked to select their preferred format. The Conference Committee does reserve the option to recommend an alternative if necessary in development of the conference schedule. Presentations should include time for questions and answers.

## **Presentation Components**

Each presentation should include at least two of the following components or focus areas: success stories, engagement of young people and families, approaches to transition planning, strategies to support retention in services and education, evidence based and emerging practices, research, and/or policy.

## **Proposal Summary (300 words or less)**

This summary will be used by the review panel to evaluate your proposal. In addition to providing an overview of the topic, the summary should help the reader understand the significance and relevance of the topic and how this presentation will inform practices or policy, and how the presenters will effectively engage the audience.

## **Presenter Information**

Name, organization/affiliation, brief bio and contact information must be provided for each presenter. Only the presenters name and organization/affiliation will be listed in the conference program.

## **Presenter Agreement**

By submitting a proposal to the 2012 National Transition Conference presenters acknowledge the following:

- All proposal content must use People First language.
- Presenters are responsible for their own travel and conference registration expenses. A limited number of scholarships may be available for young people with disabilities and family members who do not have access to other sources of support.
- Presenters are responsible for providing the presentation content in alternative formats (e.g. electronic file, large print, captioned video).
- Presenters will have the option to submit their presentation materials for posting on the conference website after the conference. Materials provided should be in an accessible format.
- An LCD projector, screen and power supply will be provided for each concurrent session. Presenters are responsible for providing or paying the cost of any additional audiovisual equipment that is needed.
- Each poster session station will include a 6'x30" table and chair. A board for posting materials and power supply can be available if requested in advance.