

PROGRAM

ntc
2012

NATIONAL
TRANSITION
CONFERENCE

**MAY 30–JUNE 1
WASHINGTON, DC**

*College and Careers for
Youth with Disabilities*

Schedule at-a-glance

TUESDAY MAY 29	WEDNESDAY MAY 29	THURSDAY MAY 31	FRIDAY JUNE 1
3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Early Registration Lobby Level Convention Registration Desk	7:30 a.m.- 6:30 p.m. Registration Lobby Level Convention Registration Desk	7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Registration Lobby Level Convention Registration Desk	7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast and Resource Exhibits Marriott Salon Foyer
	7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast and Resource Exhibits Marriott Salon Foyer	7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast Marriott Salon Foyer	9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Breakout Session 1 See Breakout Session schedule
	9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Opening General Session Marriott Salon 2 and 3	8:00 a.m. – 8:45 p.m. Roundtable Discussions Marriott Salon 2	10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Closing session Marriott Salon 2 and 3
	10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Breakout Session 1 See Breakout Session schedule	9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Breakout Session 1 See Breakout Session schedule	
	12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Lunch On your own	10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Breakout Session 2 See Breakout Session schedule	
	1:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m. Breakout Session 2 See Breakout Session schedule	12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch and Keynote Marriott Salon 2 and 3	
	3:00 p.m.-4:15 p.m. Breakout Session 3 See Breakout Session schedule	1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Breakout Session 3 See Breakout Session schedule	
	4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Poster Session and Reception Marriott Salon 1 and 2	3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Breakout Session 4 See Breakout Session schedule	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

May 29, 2012

Dear 2012 National Transition Conference Attendee:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2012 National Transition Conference: "College and Careers for Youth with Disabilities" and to thank you for all you do to further the successful transition of youth with disabilities from school to adult life.

This national conference promises to be an exciting one. Convening a forum for a national dialogue on transition is important and timely. The conference offers the opportunity to:

- 1) bring together critical partners in the transition community,
- 2) facilitate the exchange of knowledge of transition-related research, policy and practice among researchers, practitioners, youth and family members;
- 3) strengthen working relationships among the individuals and entities who serve youth with disabilities; and
- 4) commit to an action agenda to reduce barriers to post-secondary education, training, and employment for transition-age youth.

"The Year of College and Careers," an initiative we are launching during this conference, is aimed at increasing collaboration, partnerships and information among federal, state and local officials, VR personnel, practitioners, community groups, businesses, youth and researchers that will result in more youth with disabilities accessing post-secondary education, being involved in internships, and engaging in competitive employment. The information being shared at this conference will also include evidence-based practices that result in a smooth transition for youth with disabilities from school to adult life.

We believe the new strategies and ideas presented at this conference will inspire and assist you in applying innovative practices for the benefit of youth across the country. Please take advantage of the opportunities to network with others who share the same passion for the successful transition of youth with disabilities from school to the world of work.

Thank you for your dedication, commitment and for everything you do everyday on behalf of youth with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Alexa Posny, Ph.D.

With Thanks...

A conference of this magnitude is only possible because of the contributions of many people who shared their ideas, resources and most importantly their time to insure the success of the 2012 National Transition Conference.

Conference Planning Committee

Cindy Thomas, Chair

Institute for Community Inclusion
University of Massachusetts Boston

Cassandra Shoffler, Co-Chair

Rehabilitation Services Administration

David Test, Co-Chair

National Secondary Transition TA Center

Holly Anderson

U.S. Department of Education

RoseAnn Ashby

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PACER Center, Inc.

Bill East

National Association of State Directors
of Special Education

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Administration on Developmental
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Leslie Caplan

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Rehabilitation Research

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Keynote Speaker and Panels

Opening Session

Wednesday, May 30th 9-10:30

Join us for this exciting opening session. Facilitated by Sue Swenson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), the session will include opening remarks by Alexa Posny, Assistant Secretary for OSERS along with a dynamic panel of young adults.

The Young Adult Panel, Personal Perspectives on Transition: Voices that Matter, will include three young adults who will share their personal perspectives and insights on the transition to College and Careers.

Personal Perspectives on Transition: Voices that Matter

Vander Cherry

Vander Cherry is a 19-year-old young man who attended the Washington D.C. public schools and recently completed Project SEARCH. He is employed full time for the U.S. Department of Education. Vander did not enter school until 5th grade and was misdiagnosed as cognitively disabled an error that was not corrected until he was in high school. Throughout his education he received special education services including a one-on-one aide. In his senior year he was strongly encouraged to participate in Project SEARCH, a school-to-work transition program which led to his current job. In April Vander was awarded the Yes I Can! Award from the Council for Exception Children for his hard work and perseverance.

Michaela Fissel

Michaela is currently a graduate student in Community Psychology at Central Connecticut State University. Michaela is a young person in long-term recovery from mental health and substance related disorders. She is a behavioral health advocate and has testified at the state, regional, and national levels to promote youth and young adult recovery services that are tailored to their unique needs. Michaela has found that the adversity that she has experienced due to her mental health diagnosis has made her more attuned to the value of life and the rewards that can be obtained when overcoming barriers. Michaela has completed research to identify services and supports that effectively assist a young person to reach and sustain recovery. She believes that it is essential that young people be brought to the table as equal partners to ensure that services continue to transform into an authentic recovery-orientated system of care.

Andraéa LaVant

Andraéa LaVant serves as the Inclusion Specialist at the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital (GSCNC). Andraéa formerly served as the Youth Development Specialist for the Center for Workforce Development, housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, DC. With a passion for service and volunteerism, Andraéa's other work experience includes working for Youth Service America, a national non-profit that strives to improve communities by increasing the number and diversity of young people serving in substantive roles. Her own dedication to the national service movement stems from her year of service as an AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) at Volunteer Tennessee, Tennessee's state service commission. Andraéa holds a B.S. in Public Relations from Middle Tennessee State University.

Keynote Speaker and Panels



Keynote

Preparing Today's Youth for Tomorrow's Workforce
Thursday, May 31st, 12:00-1:30

Ann Wilson Cramer

Director – IBM Americas
IBM Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs

Ann Wilson Cramer's commitment to and involvement with children and youth has been a lifelong journey.

IBM promotes K-12 education, job training and employment, community and family services, and literacy programs for people with disabilities and other challenges. The company's primary emphasis is on education reform, especially related to using services, software, and technology as tools for learning.

In support of these education reform efforts, Ann serves as chair of the Atlanta Partners for Education and the Council on Foundations Public Policy Committee. She also serves on many other boards, corporate councils, and executive committees in Atlanta and nationally.

Ann is the recipient of multiple awards, including the first "Essence of Atlanta" Award at the 41st Anniversary of Outstanding Atlanta in 2009. She was honored with the Georgia Center for Non-Profits 2011 Revolution Legendary Philanthropist Award, and was named by Atlanta Woman Magazine as the Power Woman of the Year in 2008.

Federal Panel and Closing Remarks

Friday, June 1st, 10:30-12:00

Representatives from a number of federal agencies will share with the audience the plans they have to support improved transition outcomes for young people with disabilities. This informative panel will be facilitated by William Kiernan, Director of the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

And be sure to stay for closing remarks and a call to action from Andy Imparato, Senior Counsel and Disability Policy Director for the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee.

Panel Members:

Sharon Lewis
Commissioner
Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Kathy Martinez
Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy
U.S. Department of Labor

Ruby Neville
Cross Matrix Lead on Disability and Military Families
Assertive Adolescent and Family Treatment Program
SAMHSA/DSCA

Dan O'Brien
Deputy Associate Commissioner
Office of Employment Support Program
Social Security Administration

Alexa Posny
Assistant Secretary
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
U.S. Department of Education

Conference Highlights

Breakfast Resource Exhibits

Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m.

Don't miss the resource exhibits that will be located in the Conference Registration area on Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. On your way to breakfast stop by the exhibits to learn more about the resources available through various federal agencies and technical assistance centers from across the country.

Conversations on Transition: A World Café

Wednesday, 1:30p.m.—2:45 p.m. and Thursday, 1:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

Join your colleagues from around the country for an engaging dialogue about key issues in transition. During this facilitated World Café session, participants will address three thought provoking questions about the current and future state of transition. Check out the breakout schedule and descriptions for more information.

Poster Session and Reception

Wednesday, 4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

Join your friends and colleagues in the Marriott Salon 1 and 2 for our Poster Session and Reception. This is a great way to relax and network while checking out the latest tools and resources, research and policy initiatives. Appetizers will be served along with a cash bar.

Roundtable Discussions

Thursday, 8:00 a.m.—8:45 a.m.

Pick up your breakfast and then join your colleagues at a table in Marriott Salon 2 for a thought provoking discussion. Tables will be organized by topic and each table will have a facilitator with expertise on the specific topic. This is a great way to start your morning on Day 2!

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

We will be offering CRCC Credits on a daily basis. Attendees must sign in and out each day in order to receive a CRCC certificate. A sign-up sheet will be available at the registration desk between the hours of 7:30 AM and the end of each conference day.

For those attendees needing other than CRCC credits, we will also be offering a daily General Attendance Letter which can then be applied to whichever affiliation / professional credentialing organization the attendee belongs to. A sign-up sheet will be available at the registration desk between the hours of 7:30 AM and the end of each conference day.

Conference Theme Tracks

The following tracks will include sessions focusing on a variety of topics.

Employment

- Career preparation, development, and advancement
- Role of secondary school personnel
- Mentoring
- Private and public career opportunities (e.g. internships, schedule A)
- Securing and maintaining employment
- Entrepreneurial opportunities in transition
- Community supports for employment

Secondary and Postsecondary Education

- Partnerships and innovative programs for emerging populations (veterans, individuals with Asperger's, ID/DD)
- Disability services and reasonable accommodations
- Student preparation for success in college
- Student retention and engagement
- Navigating transition to college
- Transition to employment from the postsecondary setting

Program and Policy Development and Implementation

- Policy and practices related to improvement of the overall transition service delivery system and transition outcomes
- Data based decision making
- Professional standards for transition specialists and other youth serving professionals including certificates, professional degrees and other career pathways as well a professional development

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

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 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

Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

- Interagency collaboration- facilitating involvement of community organizations, as well as businesses in the transition process
- Team approaches and communities of practice to improve transition services across agencies
- 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)

Sessions by Theme • Wednesday, May 30

Session 1: 10:45-12:00pm			Session 2: 1:30-2:45pm			Session 3: 3:00-4:15pm		
Employment	Project SEARCH in New York State and Rural Southwest Virginia Influences School-to-Work Systems Change Julie Christensen, Katherine Wittig, Lisa Holland Delaware A	Obstacles Into Opportunities: Turning Away From Closed Doors and Opening Up New Ones Presenter: Stephen Shore Wilson C	The Case for Customized Employment as an Effective Transition Strategy for Youth with Disabilities Chris Button, Serena Lowe, Richard Luecking Delaware A	Community Service as Career Preparation for Students Transitioning to Employment Presenter: Nancy Keeler Maryland A				
	Support-Engage-Retain-Empower! Check & Connect: An Evidence-Based Student Engagement Intervention Presenter: Kay Augustine Maryland A	How to Walk the Tightrope Successfully: Transition Strategies for Juvenile Offenders Deanne Unruh, Miriam Waintrup Wilson C	Federal Employment Pathways for Youth with Disabilities: Schedule A Hiring and the WRP Maria Town, Sara Mahoney Delaware A					
Secondary and Post Secondary Education	Better Futures: Increasing the College Participation of Youth with Mental Health Conditions in Foster Care Isha-Charlie McNeely, Miranda Cunningham Maryland B	Remembering Assistive Technology in the Transition Process Presenter: Janet Peters Maryland A	Effectively Engaging Faculty and the Campus Community: Success Stories from One TPSID Martha Mock, Sean O'Donnell, Eileen Radigan, Kym Woodard Maryland B	Bridging the Gap to Improve Employment Opportunities and Outcomes for Students with Disabilities Howard Green Delaware B				
	Yours, Mine, & Ours: Integrating K-12 and Community College Services to Ensure Successful Transitions Andrew Moore, Douglas Prentice, Sonya Pearson Maryland C							
Program and Policy Development and Implementation	A National Snapshot of the Postsecondary Education Landscape for Students with Intellectual Disabilities Meg Grigal, Debra Hart, Stephanie Smith Lee Delaware B	Wisconsin Let's Get to Work: A Policy & Practice Approach to Launching Youth with Disabilities into Work Beth Swedeen, Lisa Pugh Delaware B	Building Capacity and Maintaining Momentum: Practical Tools for Transition Education and Services Jennifer Coyle, June Gothberg, Paula Kohler Maryland C					
	Partnerships in Employment: Transition Systems Change Karen Filippo, Olivia Raynor, Lisa Pugh Virginia A	Extending Research to Practice: Effective Transition Practices and Policies that Support Their Implementation Presenter: Paula Kohler Maryland C	Systems Reform in Emerging Federal Policy: Transitioning Toward Excellence, Achievement, & Mobility Madeleine Will, Curtis Richards, Barb Trader Wilson A					
Family Engagement	Social Security Employment Support and Youth Transition Demonstration: Population/Findings Marie Strahan, Joyanne Cobb Virginia B		Transition Planning: Just for Families Kathleen Casey, Karen Millman Wilson B					
Youth Development	Key to a Successful Transition: Independence Cami Smith, Teri Smith Virginia C	Paso a Paso: Making Transitions Work Presenter: Lourdes Rosa-Carrasquillo Virginia A	It's Not "I THINK I Can," It's "I KNOW I Can!": The Process and Power of Self-Determination Clement Coulston, Chris Coulston, Ellen Coulston Virginia A					
	Learning about Self-Determination with Students with Disabilities Rashell Bowerman, Jennifer Coyle Wilson B	Transition Planning for Youth with Developmental Disabilities Using Technology: Project MY VOICE Traci Van Laarhoven-Myers, Toni Van Laarhoven, Erika Blood Virginia B	CLIs, Secondary Transition, & Lehigh Valley CLIs Holistic Model for Transition Programming Seth Hoderewski, Joe Michener Virginia B	An Evidence-Based Approach to Developing Transition Competencies for Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder Presenters: David Hagner, Alan Kurtz Maryland B				
Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions	Empowering Computer Science High School Students with Disabilities for College Inclusion Presenter: James Lawler Wilson A	Shelby Nurse--From Pre-K to College: A Real-Life Transition Success Story Shelby Nurse, Thomas Nurse, Victor Panoff Virginia C	Transition to Adult-Centered Care in a Medical Home: A Necessary Building Block Molly Gatto, Renee Turchi, Esther Falcetta Virginia C					
	P&As, PTIs, CPRCs: Collaborating to Support Successful Outcomes for Students with Disabilities Curt Decker, Paula Goldberg Harding	Improved Transition Education: Implementation at the Local and State Levels Patricia Noonan, Melisa Lunderville, Lorrie Sheehy Coolidge	Sustaining systemic seamless transition: The MSTC model Adele Connolly, Richard Luecking, Debra Luecking Wilson C					
	Strategies to Improve Transition Outcomes for Students with Acquired Brain Injury Presenter: Bonnie Todis Coolidge	AUCD Network Approach to Comprehensive Interdisciplinary, Interagency Collaboration for Transition Tony Antosh, Margo Izzo, Olivia Raynor Harding	Supporting Youth with Disabilities in the Transition from Foster Care: Lessons from the My Life Project Miranda Cunningham, Isha-Charlie McNeely Harding					
	Achieving Interagency Collaboration through Communities of Practice Presenters: Joanne Cushman, Jane Razezghi, Dale Matusevich Hoover	Conversations on Transition: A World Café Facilitator: Karen Filippo Hoover	Seamless Transition Practices: A National Perspective of Collaborative Strategies Joan Kester Coolidge					

Day I Sessions — Wednesday, May 30th



10:45–12:00pm

Project SEARCH in New York State and Rural Southwest Virginia Influences School-to-Work Systems Change

Presenters: Julie Christensen, Katherine Wittig, Lisa Holland

Theme Track: Employment

Room: Delaware A

The focus of this session is on two states' efforts to implement Project SEARCH sites located in Rochester, western New York's third most populous city, and in rural southwest Virginia along the Appalachian Plateau. The unique challenges of developing and implementing Project SEARCH in these areas will be highlighted. Effective collaboration brought disparate systems together. Learning gained from the initiatives has informed systems change efforts on a broader scale.

Obstacles Into Opportunities: Turning Away From Closed Doors and Opening Up New Ones

Presenter: Stephen Shore

Theme Track: Employment

Room: Wilson C

An examination of how deficits and challenges pervasively attributed to autism and other disabilities can be reframed as strengths. The session will employ an autobiographical structure built around real-life experiences. Participants will come away with practical solutions for considering individual characteristics as springboards for successful transition to adulthood. Areas of discussion will include education, employment, self-advocacy, and meaningful engagement in the community for leading a fulfilling and productive life.

Support-Engage-Retain-Empower! Check & Connect: An Evidence-Based Student Engagement Intervention

Presenter: Kay Augustine

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Maryland A

Join us to learn about Check & Connect, a structured, personalized intervention you can implement using a data-driven process to: support students with a school-based mentor, increase engagement and success at school, support and engage families, and empower self-determination and self-advocacy. Mentors build a relationship with the student that focuses on their specific transition path and strategies to meet individualized needs. Documented by What Works Clearinghouse, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Education, with positive evidence for student retention.

Better Futures: Increasing the College Participation of Youth with Mental Health Conditions in Foster Care

Presenters: Isha-Charlie McNeely, Miranda Cunningham

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Maryland B

During the presentation, we will share information on the Better Futures project, a randomized clinical study testing a new intervention to help young people in foster care with mental health conditions go to college. Presenters include a peer coach and staff member who will describe the challenging context youth with serious mental health conditions in foster care typically face as they plan for their futures. The speakers will also share strategies for supporting young people's goals around higher education.

Yours, Mine, & Ours: Integrating K-12 and Community College Services to Ensure Successful Transitions

Andrew Moore, Douglas Prentice, Sonya Pearson

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Maryland C

Mesa, Arizona is undertaking a major multi-sector effort to improve post-secondary completion for low-income young adults as one site in an initiative supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. As part of this initiative, Mesa Public Schools and Mesa Community College have launched comprehensive efforts to smooth and support the transition of students receiving special education services in the overlapping district-college catchment area. The goal of this presentation is to outline efforts to date, identify early lessons learned, and solicit feedback from other educators.

A National Snapshot of the Postsecondary Education Landscape for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Presenters: Meg Grigal, Debra Hart, Stephanie Smith Lee
Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation
Room: Delaware B

This session will present the current state of practice, research, and policy on postsecondary education for students with intellectual disabilities. Presenters will cover the Higher Education Act and related policies, current research and practice, and evaluation findings from different Think College projects.

Partnerships in Employment: Transition Systems Change

Presenters: Karen Flippo, Olivia Raynor, Lisa Pugh
Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation
Room: Virginia A

Employment is a primary pathway to independence and autonomy for youth. Yet there is a disparity between employment outcomes of youth with and without disabilities, particularly those with intellectual disabilities. Partnerships in Employment, funded by ADD, will address the systemic impediments affecting transition to employment for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities in California, Iowa, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, and Wisconsin. This session will discuss this project.

Social Security Employment Support and Youth Transition Demonstration: Population/Findings

Presenters: Marie Strahan, Joyanne Cobb
Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation
Room: Virginia B

The Social Security Administration's (SSA) Office of Employment Support Programs and Office of Program Development and Research will present data, analysis, and research findings regarding the youth population on SSI/SSDI disability benefits. SSA is working to improve employment outcomes for these youth. Over 1.5 million youth ages 13 to 30 receive SSI/SSDI benefits based on disability. We will present VR and Ticket to Work program data and SSA's Youth Transition Demonstration findings to date.

Key to a Successful Transition: Independence

Presenters: Cami Smith, Teri Smith
Theme Track: Family Engagement
Room: Virginia C

In this session, a mother and daughter will explain how teaching independence early leads to successful employment, independent living, and attendance at a four-year university. Cami and her sister are diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder. Now in their twenties, they are thought to be the oldest people to have lived with this. They are an inspiration to everyone they meet. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in an activity to assess their knowledge and set goals of their own.

Learning about Self-Determination with Students with Disabilities

Presenters: Rashell Bowerman, Jennifer Coyle
Theme Track: Youth Development
Room: Wilson B

This session highlights strategies and barriers two middle schools encountered implementing a self-determination curriculum and reflections on "aha" moments, what worked, and what didn't. We demonstrate how a school uniquely adapted the pre- and posttest to meet needs of their students with hearing impairments or deafness. Additionally, we will showcase student and teacher reflections on changes in their beliefs and ideas about transition planning, as well as data records from IEP meetings.

Empowering Computer Science High School Students with Disabilities for College Inclusion

Presenter: James Lawler
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Wilson A

This presentation describes a program that is empowering computer science high school students with disabilities to be included in the campus life of a major metropolitan university. The program is designed to lead these students to become future scientists. Attendees of this presentation will learn critical features of the program that might be modified into programs in their own settings.

P&As, PTIs, CPRCs: Collaborating to Support Successful Outcomes for Students with Disabilities

Presenters: Curt Decker, Paula Goldberg

Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

Room: Harding

The presentation will focus on how Protection & Advocacy agencies, Parent Training and Information Centers, Community Parent Resource Centers, the National Disability Rights Network, and the National Parent Technical Assistance Center in partnership with the Regional Parent Technical Assistance Centers can collaborate to support education outcomes. We will review the responsibilities of both the P&As and Parent Centers, and how NDRN, NPTAC, and Regional PTACs have worked together to develop strategies for improved coordination and collaboration.

Strategies to Improve Transition Outcomes for Students with Acquired Brain Injury

Presenter: Bonnie Todis

Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

Room: Coolidge

This session presents strategies used by students with acquired brain injury (ABI) and their parents to achieve employment, post-secondary education, and community integration goals. These strategies emerged during an eight-year longitudinal study of transition outcomes for students with ABI. Participants in the study, which employed both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, were 89 young adults with ABI and their parents in the Pacific Northwest. Quantitative results of the study will also be presented.

Achieving Interagency Collaboration through Communities of Practice

Presenters: Joanne Cashman, Jane Razeghi, Dale Matusevich

Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions Room: Hoover

Increasingly, state agencies that share responsibility for transition recognize the need to connect with each other and their stakeholders. Ten states, facilitated by the IDEA Partnership at the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), have built a national Community of Practice that permits sharing, learning and change. Join us to learn how these states support each other in meeting the needs of youth with disabilities as they transition to college and careers.

Wednesday, May 30

1:30–2:45pm

The Case for Customized Employment as an Effective Transition Strategy for Youth with Disabilities

Presenters: Chris Button, Serena Lowe, Richard Luecking

Theme Track: Employment

Room: Delaware A

Since 2000, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has invested significantly in the dissemination of best practices related to the employment of citizens with disabilities, including customized employment strategies. This presentation will illustrate the case for customized employment as an evidence-based strategy for individuals with disabilities, introduce DOL's new customized employment toolkit, and describe the criteria outlined in DOL's Customized Employment Competency Model.

How to Walk the Tightrope Successfully: Transition Strategies for Juvenile Offenders

Presenters: Deanne Unruh, Miriam Waintrup

Theme Track: Employment

Room: Wilson C

To achieve success in the community and reduce recidivism, young offenders with disabilities must learn to walk a tightrope, balancing employment readiness skills and available supports (e.g., VR, WIA, counseling) to obtain employment opportunities. This presentation focuses on strategies that can be used by special education practitioners and youth to successfully obtain and maintain employment on their trajectory to adulthood.

Remembering Assistive Technology in the Transition Process

Presenter: Janet Peters

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Maryland A

This session will discuss specific skills regarding assistive technology that young adults with disabilities need to be successful in post-secondary or employment environments. It will include checklists on specific transition skills and knowledge, including information on the Americans with Disabilities Act. The session will highlight the Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology in Post-Secondary Education and the Punch-in, a self-directed employment resource.

Effectively Engaging Faculty and the Campus Community: Success Stories from One TPSID

Presenters: Martha Mock, Sean O'Donnell, Eileen Radigan, Kym Woodard

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education
Room: Maryland B

Participants will discover how a Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) consortium of colleges in one state has effectively engaged faculty and the wider campus community on four campuses. Specific success stories and challenges will be shared. Find out what types of technical assistance and strategies have been used to create meaningful opportunities at a community college, two liberal arts colleges, and one research university.

Wisconsin Let's Get to Work: A Policy & Practice Approach to Launching Youth with Disabilities into Work

Presenters: Beth Swedeen, Lisa Pugh

Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation
Room: Delaware B

An overview of one of six state Projects of National Significance systems-change grants to improve competitive employment outcomes for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Participants will leave this session with an overview of the Wisconsin project, including a better understanding of: 1) how to implement evidence-based practices at the local level and systemically; 2) policy barriers that impact employment; and 3) strategies for engaging policymakers in systems change.

Extending Research to Practice: Effective Transition Practices and Policies that Support Their Implementation

Presenter: Paula Kohler

Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation
Room: Maryland C

This presentation will include a brief overview of effective transition practices generated from the research literature. A policy analytic framework for evaluating district and local policies will be presented. Participants will use the framework to identify local policies that facilitate and inhibit implementation of the effective practices. Participants will also learn strategies for identifying research-based practices and extending these practices in their local settings.

Paso a Paso: Making Transitions Work

Presenter: Lourdes Rosa-Carrasquillo

Theme Track: Family Engagement

Room: Virginia A

Paso a Paso educates parents and their children with disabilities about their rights in order to improve transition outcomes. It provides strategies for working effectively in high school, after high school, and with ACCES-VR. Our workshops were the families' first opportunity to understand their rights, practice strategies for improving negotiating skills, and explore post-secondary options. We will share findings and focus on concerns that parents and students raised.

Transition Planning for Youth with Developmental Disabilities Using Technology: Project MY VOICE

Presenters: Traci Van Laarhoven-Myers, Toni Van Laarhoven, Erika Blood

Theme Track: Youth Development

Room: Virginia B

This presentation provides an overview of Project MY VOICE, a youth-advocacy project. Project MY VOICE supports youth with developmental disabilities in creating and presenting multimedia presentations that reflect their dreams for the future at their IEP or transition planning meetings. Outcome data from the first three years will be presented, and resources and tutorials for project implementation will be shared with participants. Sample multimedia presentations will be also be shared.

Empowerment to Entrepreneurship: Using Creativity & Technology to Build Self-Esteem and Life Skills

Presenters: Jay Klein, Rob Rothschild

Theme Track: Youth Development

Room: Wilson B

We examine an online creativity and technology program that encourages positive self-expression and teaches life skills to a population of transitioning students with disabilities. We will discuss creativity as a modality and the ArtThread Online Gallery as a tool for learning key skills such as focus and patience. Through a case study, we will further examine the Work of Art program, a student-based enterprise program blending creativity, self-advocacy, technology, and employment skills.

Shelby Nurse--From Pre-K to College: A Real-Life Transition Success Story

Presenters: Shelby Nurse, Thomas Nurse, Victor Panoff
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Virginia C

In this self-advocate presentation, Shelby Nurse weaves an insightful story of how evolving programs, policies, and family involvement combined to significantly improve her opportunities and outcomes. Shelby is assisted by her father, Thomas Nurse, and joined by Victor Panoff, Senior Advocate with the Protection and Advocacy program serving Florida. Together they will share the importance of informed involvement and the power of self-determination.

Improved Transition Education: Implementation at the Local and State Levels

Presenters: Patricia Noonan, Melisa Lunderville, Lorrie Sheehy
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Coolidge

This presentation will describe a transition framework developed by one rural Arizona district and their journey to better prepare students through participation in the Arizona Secondary Transition Mentoring Program (AZ STMP). This transition program implements high-quality transition plans while facilitating authentic learning through community partnerships. An overview of AZ STMP, a two-year training that uses school and community teaming to promote evidence-based practices, will be provided.

AUCD Network Approach to Comprehensive Interdisciplinary, Interagency Collaboration for Transition

Presenters: Tony Antosh, Margo Izzo, Olivia Raynor
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Harding

AUCD is a national organization that promotes interdisciplinary practices. This session will present a blueprint that describes (a) the components of a comprehensive interdisciplinary and interagency approach to transition, and (b) the strategies that have been demonstrated to be effective in implementing those components. Presentation will summarize evidence about effective transition, provide examples of collaboration from several states, and offer a blueprint for implementation.

Conversations on Transition: A World Café

Facilitator: Karen Flippo
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Hoover

Join your colleagues from around the country for an engaging dialogue about key issues in transition. During this facilitated World Café session, participants will address three thought-provoking questions about the current and future state of transition to college and careers for young people with disabilities. Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to the dialogue on transition and to learn from and network with your peers. **(This session will be repeated on Thursday at 1:45)**

Wednesday, May 30 3:00–4:15pm

Community Service as Career Preparation for Students Transitioning to Employment

Presenter: Nancy Keeler
Theme Track: Employment
Room: Maryland A

Transitioning to work without prior experience can be challenging. Several projects investigated through NextSTEP show that students who engage in national and community service experience growth in personal, vocational, and community development. Join this session to learn about the power of structured volunteerism in building employment skills, how to partner with service organizations to create transition program options, and how such programs can affect positive change in your community.

Federal Employment Pathways for Youth with Disabilities: Schedule A Hiring and the WRP

Presenters: Maria Town, Sara Mahoney
Theme Track: Employment
Room: Delaware A

In 2010, President Obama signed an executive order to increase federal hiring of people with disabilities. To take advantage of hiring priority established by this executive order, transitioning youth with disabilities need to be aware of current policies and programs that provide accessible pathways to federal employment. This workshop will present a new youth-targeted guide on Schedule A hiring. It will also provide information about the Workforce Recruitment Program.

Bridging the Gap to Improve Employment Opportunities and Outcomes for Students with Disabilities

Presenters: Howard Green
Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education
Room: Delaware B

As employers expand their diversity initiatives to include people with disabilities, they look to universities as a source of talent. However, a disconnect often exists between college disability and career offices and students with disabilities. The National Organization on Disability will explore ways to bridge this gap. We will also make recommendations based on best practices to improve employment opportunities and outcomes for students with disabilities.

Building Capacity and Maintaining Momentum: Practical Tools for Transition Education and Services

Presenters: Jennifer Coyle, June Gothberg, Paula Kohler
Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation
Room: Maryland C

The National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC) assists states and transition teams to build capacity. Two toolkits will be highlighted. The Transition Team Leader’s Sustainability Toolkit provides resources for the transition team and for overcoming challenges to team effectiveness. NSTTAC’s Evaluation Toolkit includes strategies and specific instruments for evaluating students’ learning experiences, curriculum implementation, and other aspects of transition programs.

Systems Reform in Emerging Federal Policy: Transitioning Toward Excellence, Achievement, & Mobility

Presenters: Madeleine Will, Curtis Richards, Barb Trader
Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation
Room: Wilson A

The presentation will educate participants about the need for cross-systems reform in the area of federal transition policy. We will highlight the key objectives of the Transition toward Excellence, Achievement and Mobility legislation (including TEAM-Education Act, TEAM-Empowerment Act, and TEAM-Employment Act). The topic is significant because it highlights the first legislation ever introduced that attempts to provide cross-system reform of disability transition policy.

Transition Planning: Just for Families

Presenters: Kathleen Casey, Karen Millman
Theme Track: Family Engagement
Room: Wilson B

Effective transition planning includes parents and students working collaboratively with educators. This session focuses on practical ways families, students, and educators can improve post-school opportunities. Families will explore ways to work directly with their children. Educators will learn about tips for working more effectively with families and students. Highlights of this session include: early planning, developing a student-centered team, and preparing for IEP meetings.

It’s Not “I THINK I Can,” It’s “I KNOW I Can!”: The Process and Power of Self-Determination

Presenters: Clement Coulston, Chris Coulston, Ellen Coulston
Theme Track: Youth Development
Room: Virginia A

This session is presented by students who participated in self-determination training by the Brandywine Special Needs PTA. Through practice and opportunities to develop problem-solving, decision-making, and leadership skills, students will share how they developed an awareness of their strengths, learning styles, and communication skills to use in setting goals and planning their future. Students will also show how vital technology is to their learning process.

An Evidence-Based Approach to Developing Transition Competencies for Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Presenters: David Hagner, Alan Kurtz
Theme Track: Youth Development
Room: Maryland B

This presentation reports the results of a demonstration of a new transition model for transition-age youth with autism spectrum disorders. Coordinated person-centered planning, family training, and career exploration resulted in significant increases in self-determination, career decision-making, and expectations for adult life, as well as improvements in the quality of transition plans on student IEPs. Efforts are underway to implement this model with sustainable blended funding.

CILs, Secondary Transition, & Lehigh Valley CIL's Holistic Model for Transition Programming

Presenters: Seth Hoderewski, Joe Michener

Theme Track: Youth Development

Room: Virginia B

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are a natural fit for young adults with disabilities who are making the transition to adulthood. The four core services of information and referral, advocacy, peer support, and helping with independent living skills can be vital. Each CIL provides unique services to their specific regions based on the needs of their consumers. Lehigh Valley CIL's School to Adult Life program provides holistic transition programming for young adults with disabilities from ages 14-25.

Transition to Adult-Centered Care in a Medical Home: A Necessary Building Block

Presenters: Molly Gatto, Renee Turchi, Esther Falcetta

Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

Room: Virginia C

This session will enable attendees to understand the role of transition in adoption/implementation of a medical home in primary care. We will examine the needs of adult primary care practices in Pennsylvania in medical home adoption, and resources to care for youth with special health care needs as they transition. We will also discuss areas for growth for partnerships with pediatric and adult primary care providers, describe efforts to support youth and family advocacy, and detail statewide partnerships developed to enhance successful transitions.

Sustaining Systemic Seamless Transition: The MSTC Model

Presenters: Adele Connolly, Richard Luecking, Debra Luecking

Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

Room: Wilson C

The Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative is a model for delivering seamless transition services based on components of the research-based NCWD/Y Guideposts for Success. Through collaboration at state and local levels led by the state VR agency, with the assistance of TransCen, Inc., this model has been applied in 11 of the 24 school districts in Maryland for diverse special education populations. It has had substantial influence on sustainable transition service in the state.

Supporting Youth with Disabilities in the Transition from Foster Care: Lessons from the My Life Project

Presenters: Miranda Cunningham, Isha-Charlie McNeely

Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

Room: Harding

Employment and education outcomes for youth transitioning from foster care reveal significant difficulties, particularly for youth with disabilities. Presenters will share strategies learned from the My Life project, an intervention aimed at enhancing the self-determination of foster youth with disabilities in the transition to adulthood. Presenters will include research staff and a young adult who will share strategies from her own experiences in the transition from foster care to adulthood.

Seamless Transition Practices: A National Perspective of Collaborative Strategies

Presenter: Joan Kester

Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

Room: Coolidge

A predictor of successful post-school outcomes of youth is the creation and replication of transition practices through interagency collaboration. This session will explore interagency collaboration to bridge the gap between research and practice: how do we define it, what are the barriers and facilitators, and how can we establish a context that facilitates collaborative practices? In addition, we will explore a plethora of national research-based transition practices, along with strategies to replicate these practices

Sessions by Theme • Thursday, May 31

Session 1: 9:00–10:30am		Session 2: 10:45–12:00pm
Employment	<i>Social Security Benefits: What You Need to Know for a Successful Transition from School to Work</i> Amy Wallish, Joe Longcor Maryland A	<i>Developing Successful Internship Programs and Community-Based Career Exploration Experiences</i> Wendy Claizer, Brian Freedman, Maxwell Kursh, Deborah Bain Maryland A
	<i>High-Tech Prep for STEM Careers</i> Nilli Sleibi, Julia Donovan, Melanie Hogan Maryland B	<i>Disclosing Juvenile Justice Involvement: Empowering Young Offenders for What to Say (or Not)!</i> Deanne Unruh, Miriam Waintrup, Michael Johnson Delaware B
	<i>It Takes A Mentor: Supporting Effective Transition Through Career-Focused Mentoring for All Youth</i> Patricia Gill Maryland C	<i>Self-Employment as a Career Opportunity</i> Colleen Moynihan Harding
Secondary and Post Secondary Education	<i>Environmental Approaches to Supporting Success of College Students with Mental Health Conditions</i> Marsha Ellison, Amanda Costa, Mark Salzer Virginia A	<i>National Study of Graduation Requirements and Diploma Options for Students with Disabilities</i> David R. Johnson Delaware A
	<i>Breaking New Ground for Youth with ID: Cooperative College 2 Career Programs Between VR and Community Colleges</i> Olivia Raynor, Catherine Campisi Virginia B	<i>College STAR: Supporting Transition, Access, & Retention for Students with Learning Differences</i> Sarah Williams, Emily Johnson Maryland B
	<i>Tips and Tricks for Educating Individuals with Autism and Other Disabilities for Success in Adulthood</i> Stephen Shore, Pavan Antony Harding	
Program and Policy Development and Implementation	<i>Nothing But The Best: The Vermont Model for VR Transition Services</i> Renee Kievit-Kylar, Katy Chaffee Wilson A	<i>The Journey to Enlightenment: Arizona's PSO Experience</i> Lorrie Sheehy, Alissa Trollinger, Sean Boggess Maryland C
	<i>Using Evidence-Based Practices and Predictors: Implementing What Works</i> David Test, Catherine Fowler Delaware A	<i>Research on Education and Employment Supports for Youth with Psychiatric Disabilities</i> Maryann Davis, Amanda Costa Virginia A
		<i>Effective Strategies to Increase Teacher Knowledge in Supporting Student Self-Determination</i> Cindi Nixon, Colleen Thoma, Ron Tamura Virginia B
Family Engagement	<i>Transition Planning for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Youth and Families with Disabilities</i> Presenter: Gary Greene Wilson B	<i>The Ultimate Transition Workshop, or, From a Cruise Ship to a Dinghy</i> Jo Ann Simons Coolidge
Youth Development	<i>Transition Through Technology</i> Rick DeRennaux, Kimberly Osmani Wilson C	<i>"What About Me?": Transition and Youth with Multiple Disabilities, Including Chronic Illness</i> Staci Forrest Virginia C
	<i>Evidence-Based Practices to Promote Self-Determination and Student Involvement</i> Michael Wehmeyer, Karrie Shogren Virginia C	
Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions	<i>Establishing the National Youth Transitions Center and Collaborative</i> Jessie MacKinnon, Richard Luecking, Tad Asbury, Curtis Richards Coolidge	<i>Interagency Partnerships: How to Proactively Collaborate to Exchange and Utilize Existing Information</i> Cheryl Carver, Robin Bauknecht, Linda Tegtmeier Wilson B
	<i>Transitioning Youth with Emotional Disabilities to Adult Life</i> John Coppola, John Carbaugh, Katie Miller Delaware B	<i>By Design or Happenstance? A Model of a Successful Partnership Serving College Students with ID</i> Kathryn Yamamoto, Robert Stodden, Alison Lee Wilson C
		<i>Navigating the Silos: Funding Strategies for Aligning and Leveraging Grant Funds</i> Kim Hutchinson Wilson A

Sessions by Theme • Thursday, May 31

Session 3: 1:45–3:15pm		Session 4: 3:30–5:00pm
Employment	<i>The Effect of Project SEARCH on Employment Outcomes for Adults with ASD</i> Paul Wehman, Carol Schall, Jennifer McDonough Delaware A	<i>SEarly Findings from the Center on Transition to Employment for Youth with Disabilities</i> Richard Luecking, Paul Wehman, Ellen Fabian, George Tilson Delaware A
	<i>Holistic Employment Services for Transition-Age Youth</i> John Coppola, Ming Wang Maryland A	<i>Our Students CAN Get Jobs! Changing the Way School Systems Do Business with Businesses</i> Amy Dwyre Maryland A
	<i>iPod Touch, iPad, iPhone--Technology and Employment--Hands-on Training</i> Suzanne Simpson, Rebecca Pate Johnson, Carrie Clawson Maryland B	<i>The Apple iPod Touch as a Multi-Function Vocational Support Aid for Young Adults with Autism: Strategies for Success</i> Tony Gentry, Alissa Molinelli Maryland B
Secondary and Post Secondary Education	<i>College Options for Students with Intellectual Disabilities: Aligning Standards and Practices</i> Meg Grigal, Debra Hart, Cindi May, Margo Vreeburg Izzo, Liz Getzel Maryland C	<i>The Elephant in the Strategies to Succeed in Post-Secondary Transition Planning</i> Paige Lindahl-Lewis Maryland C
	<i>At-Risk American Indian College-Ready Students! A Summer Program and Curriculum Focused on Successful Transition</i> Jean Ness Virginia A	<i>Real Stories of AmeriCorps: Gain Skills, Make Friends, Earn an Education Award, and Attend College</i> Paula Sotnik, Jewel Bazilio-Bellegarde Virginia A
		<i>National Perspective: Student and Family Transition Plan Participation, Post-Secondary Education, and Employment</i> Presenters: Lynn Newman, Renee Cameto, Deborah Leuchovius Wilson A
Program and Policy Development and Implementation	<i>Effective Practices for Successful Post-Secondary Outcomes: The Pennsylvania State Model</i> Michael Stoehr Virginia B	<i>Improving Post-School Outcomes with Evidence-Based Special Education</i> Dawn Rowe, Charlotte Alverson Virginia B
	<i>Building Youth Capacity Using Individualized Learning Plans: Promising Practices and Strategies</i> Taryn Williams, Jennifer Kemp Wilson A	<i>Giving Kids with Disabilities a Chance: Aligning Education & Transition Policy</i> Madeleine Will, Barb Trader Coolidge
Family Engagement	<i>Successful Transitions--Learning from Diverse Communities</i> Jody Manning, Sharman Barrett Wilson B	<i>Developing Soft Skills for Employment Success: The Role of Family</i> Sean Roy Virginia C
	<i>Elbow Grease, Not Rocket Science</i> Diane Ruth-Lovell, Javetta Jones, Robert Lovell Virginia C	
Youth Development	<i>"What Do You See When You Look At Me?": Youth Leadership Development Through Peer Relationships</i> Daniel Ekman, Adam Shand, Barbara Ibáñez Wilson C	<i>Partnering to Promote an Empowered Future for Youth with Special Needs</i> Deb Golding, Pauline Thompson Wilson B
Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions	<i>RSA Model Demonstration Grants: Effective Transition Partnerships and Programs</i> Tom Finch Delaware B	<i>Everyone Working Together for Successful Young People</i> Ming Wang, John Coppola, John Carvaugh Wilson C
	<i>Accessible Transportation in Transition Planning: Collaboration across Education and Transit</i> Judy Shanley, Doug Birnie, Mary Leary, Kristen Stanton Coolidge	<i>Success Through Partnerships: Careers in Government for Urban Youth with Disabilities</i> Rebecca Salon, Susie Rutkowski, Martin Pursley, Denise Ford, Laverdia Roach, Vander Cherry, Diandra Garnett, Michelle Lucas Delaware B
	<i>Conversations on Transition: A World Café</i> Facilitator: Karen Flippo Hoover	<i>Start on Success: 18 Years of Community/Business Partnership & Paid Internships Leading to Careers</i> Carol Glazer, Marsha Legg Harding



9:00–10:30am

Social Security Benefits: What You Need to Know for a Successful Transition from School to Work

Presenters: Amy Wallish, Joe Longcor

Theme Track: Employment

Room: Maryland A

Since a major barrier in the transition process is the fear of losing a Social Security (SSA) cash or health benefit, understanding the rules surrounding SSA benefits prior to working will help reduce these fears. An interactive discussion on the differences between the SSDI and SSI programs, what happens at age 18, and a description of work incentives will be highlighted. Self-advocacy tips for interacting with SSA and a description of the State Medicaid threshold amounts will be highlighted.

High-Tech Prep for STEM Careers

Presenters: Nilli Sleibi, Julia Donovan, Melanie Hogan

Theme Track: Employment

Room: Maryland B

Learn about an evidence-based program that uses technology to improve outcomes for youth. The goals are: 1) share key elements: STEM preparation, work-based learning, youth development, and community inclusion; 2) describe the impact of effective assessment, hands-on STEM experiences, wrap-around services, and community service; 3) demonstrate free, portable, high-quality assistive technology solutions that are customizable to students' needs; and 4) highlight youth who have worked for NASA, worked on Capitol Hill, and engaged with virtual environments via Second Life.

It Takes A Mentor: Supporting Effective Transition Through Career-Focused Mentoring for All Youth

Presenter: Patricia Gill

Theme Track: Employment

Room: Maryland C

Mentoring is one of the most important strategies for assisting youth in making a positive transition into adulthood. However, there are few resources for mentoring youth with disabilities or career-focused mentoring. This session will be an interactive dialogue about what works. Participants will hear success stories and strategies from a national multi-site program, as well as share effective approaches with others in the room. Participants will receive a free guide and practical strategies.

Environmental Approaches to Supporting Success of College Students with Mental Health Conditions

Presenters: Marsha Ellison, Amanda Costa, Mark Salzer

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Virginia A

This presentation will describe approaches to “mental wellness” on campuses and so promote college success for students with mental health conditions. These approaches include: educational accommodations, supported education, student movements, “stigma-busting” campus activities, and college policies for handling mental health. A college student will describe some of these approaches based on personal experience and research. Research findings from a national survey will be described.

Breaking New Ground for Youth with ID: Cooperative College 2 Career Programs Between VR and Community Colleges

Presenters: Olivia Raynor, Catherine Campisi

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Virginia B

The session focuses on new ground broken by California's Department of Rehabilitation and community college system in establishing the College 2 Career (C2C) programs for students with intellectual disabilities. Responding to consumer, family, and agency needs, C2C provides inclusive post-secondary education in preparation for successful, integrated, competitive employment. Topics include: policy and program development, description of C2C programs, and success stories to date.

Tips and Tricks for Educating Individuals with Autism and Other Disabilities for Success in Adulthood

Presenters: Stephen Shore, Pavan Antony
Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education
Room: Harding

Professor Stephen Shore, a person with autism, and Professor Pavan Antony, who has extensive experience educating people with disabilities, will act out common school situations for people with autism. These scenarios will be followed by discussion on how to enrich understanding between students and teachers and promote successful inclusion. Audience interaction is encouraged.

Nothing But The Best: The Vermont Model for VR Transition Services

Presenters: Renee Kievit-Kylar, Katy Chaffee
Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation
Room: Wilson A

VocRehab Vermont is committed to serving youth with disabilities. We will share our journey with you to inspire your VR agency to improve vocational outcomes for youth with disabilities. Participants will: understand the history, funding, and mechanics of the VR Transition Counseling Program; receive a copy of "Nothing But the Best," a guidance document; and understand functionality and daily operations, including connections with partners, technical assistance, and support to counselors.

Using Evidence-Based Practices and Predictors: Implementing What Works

Presenters: David Test, Catherine Fowler
Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation
Room: Delaware A

Educators, service providers, and families know that it is best to implement strategies that have evidence of their success. The National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center annually reviews the intervention and correlational research in secondary transition to identify evidence-based instructional practices and predictors of positive post-school outcomes. Participants will become familiar with major evidence-based practices and predictor resources available online.

Transition Planning for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Youth and Families with Disabilities

Presenter: Gary Greene
Theme Track: Family Engagement
Room: Wilson B

Data from the National Longitudinal Transition Study 1 and 2 demonstrate that culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) youth with disabilities have poorer transition outcomes than white youth with disabilities. The purpose of this presentation is to review literature on the challenges of CLD youth with disabilities in the transition planning process. We will discuss how to engage in culturally responsive transition planning with these individuals and their families.

Transition Through Technology

Presenters: Rick DeRennaux, Kimberly Osmani
Theme Track: Youth Development
Room: Wilson C

This presentation will provide an overview of the Oklahoma-based Tech-Now, an innovative, technology-focused, secondary transition program for students with disabilities. The curriculum presents a major shift in implementing transition programs. Tech-Now provides an opportunity to acquire real-world technical skills through a rigorous, interactive, multimedia curriculum. The program helps students meet high school graduation requirements and prepares them for post-secondary education and careers.

Evidence-Based Practices to Promote Self-Determination and Student Involvement

Presenters: Michael Wehmeyer, Karrie Shogren
Theme Track: Youth Development
Room: Virginia C

This presentation offers an overview of self-determination and student involvement. We will report findings from two randomized-trial, placebo control group studies that provide causal evidence for the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction (SDLMI) and the Whose Future is it Anyway? (WFA) process. SDLMI promotes self-determination, access to the general education curriculum, and goal attainment. WFA supports student involvement in transition planning and transition knowledge.

Establishing the National Youth Transitions Center and Collaborative

Presenters: Jessie MacKinnon, Richard Luecking, Tad Asbury, Curtis Richards
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Coolidge

The National Youth Transitions Center provides a single location in the nation’s capital for modeling innovative cross-systems collaboration in the transition field. It is also home to the National Youth Transitions Collaborative, a mission-driven “collaborative community” that guides programming. In this interactive session, participants will have the opportunity to hear from founding Collaborative members and to provide feedback on the Center, what it offers the community, and its national agenda.

Transitioning Youth with Emotional Disabilities to Adult Life

Presenters: John Coppola, John Carbaugh, Katie Miller
Theme Tracks: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Delaware B

Maryland Healthy Transitions Initiative (HTI) is attempting to change the poor outcomes of youth with emotional disabilities by providing comprehensive transition services using a youth-led family-supported approach. This session will focus on the effective strategies HTI is using to address the barriers to a seamless transition for this population. Participants will hear from a transition facilitator, a youth participant, and a parent about what makes these strategies work.

Thursday, May 31st
10:45–12:00pm

Developing Successful Internship Programs and Community-Based Career Exploration Experiences

Presenters: Wendy Claiser, Brian Freedman, Maxwell Kursh, Deborah Bain
Theme Track: Employment
Room: Maryland A

In this presentation, we will describe our process for developing, implementing, and evaluating a continuum of internships and community-based career exploration experiences for transition-age students with disabilities. Strategies for developing such programs in order to promote self-determination and gainful employment will be described. Establishing successful collaborations with campus administration, local business owners and supervisors, and state agency staff will also be discussed.

Disclosing Juvenile Justice Involvement: Empowering Young Offenders for What to Say (or Not)!

Presenters: Deanne Unruh, Miriam Waintrup, Michael Johnson
Theme Track: Employment
Room: Delaware B

In this session, we will discuss how to empower students involved in the juvenile justice system to disclose (or not) their criminal history when applying for jobs. Participants will learn what entry-level employers think about hiring young ex-offenders. We will provide a framework to help young job seekers assess the pros and cons of disclosing criminal background.

Self-Employment as a Career Opportunity

Presenter: Colleen Moynihan
Theme Track: Employment
Room: Harding

Self-employment is an option for individuals with disabilities. Self-employment starts with an idea that is evaluated through use of a business plan. New England Business Associates (NEBA) has developed 30+ entrepreneurs in western Massachusetts since 2007. NEBA’s goal is to support individuals through employment and self-employment, leading to some level of self-sufficiency. How is this done? What staff skills are required? What are the time lines and costs? All of this is covered in the presentation.

National Study of Graduation Requirements and Diploma Options for Students with Disabilities

Presenter: David R. Johnson

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Delaware A

This presentation will summarize findings and implications of the recent national study on state high school graduation requirements and diploma options available to students with and without disabilities. Intended as well as unintended consequences and implications for post-secondary education and employment will be discussed.

College STAR: Supporting Transition, Access, & Retention for Students with Learning Differences

Presenters: Sarah Williams, Emily Johnson

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Maryland B

This session will describe the College STAR initiative and the collaborative work of three University of North Carolina system universities to help our campuses be more welcoming of students with learning differences. This grant-funded project weaves together supports for students and the faculty who teach them. Key elements of the structure for this initiative are student voices, collaboration among educational partners, and shared learning. Presenters will share project goals, structures, and lessons learned to date.

The Journey to Enlightenment: Arizona's PSO Experience

Presenters: Lorrie Sheehy, Alissa Trollinger, Sean Boggess

Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation

Room: Maryland C

Collecting meaningful data can look easy on paper--but in reality, creating a useful data collection system can be challenging. This session will describe the Arizona Department of Education's: 1) "aha" moment and action plan; 2) variables that impacted the process; 3) practical solutions to challenges; and 4) vision for the future. It will highlight intra-agency collaboration within the department that made change possible, as well as technical assistance from the National Post-School Outcomes Center. Tips for replication will also be provided.

Research on Education and Employment Supports for Youth with Psychiatric Disabilities

Presenters: Maryann Davis, Amanda Costa

Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation

Room: Virginia A

Research findings from three ongoing studies of education and employment supports for youth with psychiatric disabilities in transition to adulthood will be shared, and implications for education and employment support practices discussed. Studies are underway at the NIDRR-funded Transitions Rehabilitation Research and Training Center. The goal is to describe some unique needs of this population in education and employment supports, and to highlight new interventions in development that address those needs

Effective Strategies to Increase Teacher Knowledge in Supporting Student Self-Determination

Presenters: Cindi Nixon, Colleen Thoma, Ron Tamura

Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation

Room: Virginia B

The Self-Determined Learning Model designed to prepare educators to support student self-determination was used in graduate classes at three universities. Teachers were given pre-post checks on their knowledge of self-determination and to assess skills at the end of the module. Effective strategies to increase knowledge of self-determination and how to use research-based practices will be presented, along with reflections on the implications of the qualitative study and future research options.

The Ultimate Transition Workshop, or, From a Cruise Ship to a Dinghy

Presenter: Jo Ann Simons

Theme Track: Family Engagement

Room: Coolidge

This workshop will prepare families (and those who work with them) for a new world: a world largely without entitlement for services. Participants will be provided with an overview of creative housing options, use of tests, employment possibilities, ways to build relationships, post-secondary educational opportunities, and funding resources. Participants will understand all elements of transition.

“What About Me?”: Transition and Youth with Multiple Disabilities, Including Chronic Illness

Presenter: Staci Forrest
Theme Track: Youth Development
Room: Virginia C

Staci, a self-advocate with a vision impairment, anxiety, and a chronic illness, will share her transition story. She will also present current research in the field of transition for youth with multiple disabilities and chronic illnesses. Appropriate approaches to transition planning, and ways to engage youth from all backgrounds with multiple disabilities and/or chronic illnesses in their own transition journey, will also be shared and discussed. This workshop will encourage lots of discussion.

Interagency Partnerships: How to Proactively Collaborate to Exchange and Utilize Existing Information

Presenters: Cheryl Carver, Robin Bauknecht, Linda Tegtmeier
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Wilson B

This interactive session will provide discussion of the documentation gap between the K-12 system (Individualized Education Programs) and meeting eligibility requirements for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). We will discuss how Colorado’s education and vocational rehabilitation partners collaborate to identify gaps in understanding one another’s systems, to ensure shared information is beneficial to all, and to apply information for program planning.

By Design or Happenstance? A Model of a Successful Partnership Serving College Students with ID

Presenters: Kathryn Yamamoto, Robert Stodden, Alison Lee
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Wilson C

The DEIS Project is developing inclusive college opportunities for young adults with intellectual disabilities. Through the voices of students, collaborators, and project staff, the presentation will include an overview of the project and initiatives. We will also highlight the partnership with vocational rehabilitation to fund and support these students in an inclusive college setting. Audience members will learn about strategies to build and sustain inclusive college opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities.

Navigating the Silos: Funding Strategies for Aligning and Leveraging Grant Funds

Presenter: Kim Hutchinson
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Wilson A

A funders panel: Many foundations are facing new opportunities to leverage their grantmaking with public funding targeted to revitalize local economies post-recession. Learn how foundations are using their financial and intellectual capital for systemic change traditionally offered to programs supporting youth in transition.

Thursday, May 31
1:45–3:15pm

The Effect of Project SEARCH on Employment Outcomes for Adults with ASD

Presenters: Paul Wehman, Carol Schall, Jennifer McDonough
Theme Track: Employment
Room: Delaware A

This session presents preliminary findings from research on the effect of Project SEARCH on the employment of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). In addition to the review of preliminary data, this session will also include the presentation of success stories and strategies to address behavior. Upon conclusion of this session, participants will describe the supports required by individuals with ASD at work, define strategies that address challenging behaviors at work, and identify essential work supports.

Holistic Employment Services for Transition-Age Youth

Presenters: John Coppola, Ming Wang
Theme Track: Employment
Room: Maryland A

Transition to adulthood is often challenging for youth and young adults with emotional and behavioral difficulties. This is extremely evident in employment outcomes. The Healthy Transitions Initiative is addressing this issue in seven states. This session will focus on associated employment and career development challenges faced by this population, effective service methodologies, and implementation in different systems.

iPod Touch, iPad, iPhone--Technology and Employment--Hands-on Training

Presenters: Suzanne Simpson, Rebecca Pate Johnson, Carrie Clawson

Theme Track: Employment

Room: Maryland B

The same device used to listen to music and play games can be used as a tool for employment. Bring your own iPod, iPad, iPhone (or other smart phone device) with you, or use one of ours, to explore available apps and how they can be used to support employment. We will present successful case studies, and answer questions about the technology itself, and how to use it effectively for employment-related issues. Learn the benefits of instructional videos and how to create and edit your own.

College Options for Students with Intellectual Disabilities: Aligning Standards and Practices

Presenters: Meg Grigal, Debra Hart, Cindi May, Margo Vreeburg Izzo, Liz Getzel

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Maryland C

This panel will provide an overview of the Think College Standards for Inclusive Higher Education. Representatives from the National Coordinating Center and three TPSID projects will share their experiences, success stories, insights, and challenges as well as strategies used to bring the standards into practice. Panelists will use stories to illustrate how practices in their institutes of higher education reflect the Think College Standards, and relate outcomes students have experienced.

At-Risk American Indian College-Ready Students! A Summer Program and Curriculum Focused on Successful Transition

Presenter: Jean Ness

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Virginia A

For more than 15 years, the University of Minnesota and Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College have collaborated to provide a summer residential transition program for at-risk high school American Indian students (with and without disabilities) in northeastern Minnesota. The presenter will describe activities for Native youth that include learning about self, non-academic skill development (such as goal-setting and self-advocacy), and exploration of post-high-school choices.

Effective Practices for Successful Post-Secondary Outcomes: The Pennsylvania State Model

Presenters: Michael Stoehr

Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation

Room: Virginia B

Since 2007, the state of Pennsylvania has implemented two highly effective training models with over 400 local education agencies focused on effective practice and on meeting federal compliance requirements. Content for these models is based upon elements of effective transition practices and the role of leadership in design and oversight of transition programs. This presentation will examine these two statewide efforts, including an analysis of related data and a review of lessons learned.

Building Youth Capacity Using Individualized Learning Plans: Promising Practices and Strategies

Presenters: Taryn Williams, Jennifer Kemp

Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation

Room: Wilson A

As youth prepare to transition from school to work, they need to identify their career interests, be exposed to careers, develop soft skills, and have opportunities to practice work through internships, part-time jobs, and community service. This workshop's ILP How-To Guide is based on research, and is designed and vetted by educators. It was developed by the National Collaborative on Workforce & Disability for Youth and the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy.

Successful Transitions--Learning from Diverse Communities

Presenter: Jody Manning, Sharman Barrett

Theme Track: Family Engagement

Room: Wilson B

This session focuses on effective strategies used by parent centers to explore transition planning for youth with disabilities and families from diverse cultures and communities. A panel of parent center staff will provide success stories of working with families in three areas of transition: Jobs and Job Training, Independent Living, and Post-Secondary Education. Facilitators will engage participants in transition-planning activities for youth and their families from diverse communities.

Elbow Grease, Not Rocket Science

Presenters: Diane Ruth-Lovell, Javetta Jones, Robert Lovell
Theme Track: Family Engagement
Room: Virginia C

This session will showcase one family’s journey to employment for their son with disabilities. Learn how the family assembled a team to create an employment opportunity for their son. Perspectives will be shared by several involved in making this job work for the last five years. Participants might arrive believing that finding and retaining employment in a rural community for a young adult with disabilities is rocket science, but will leave knowing all it really takes is elbow grease.

**“What Do You See When You Look At Me?”:
Youth Leadership Development Through Peer Relationships**

Presenters: Daniel Ekman, Adam Shand, Barbara Ibáñez
Theme Track: Youth Development
Room: Wilson C

This presentation is conducted by youth leaders with disabilities from New Mexico Disability Youth Leaders (NMDYL). The youth leaders developed this presentation to increase awareness about specific disabilities. The presentation includes success stories and hands-on activities about how each disability impacts daily life. Currently, NMDYL is developing draft legislation on disability awareness.

RSA Model Demonstration Grants: Effective Transition Partnerships and Programs

Presenter: Tom Finch
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Delaware B

In 2007, six states (MD, MA, OH, OR, PA, and SC) were awarded Five-Year Model Demonstration Transition Grants to improve post-secondary and employment outcomes of youth with disabilities. We will focus on transition models that incorporate effective, research-based transition methods and interagency collaboration strategies to improve post-school outcomes for youth with disabilities in employment and post-secondary education. Grantees will share their outcomes, successes, and challenges.

**Accessible Transportation in Transition Planning:
Collaboration Across Education and Transit**

Presenters: Judy Shanley, Doug Birnie, Mary Leary, Kristen Stanton
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Coolidge

Access to inclusive transportation is critical for students to participate in community-based experiences while they are in school. Transportation also helps students attain post-school employment, higher education, and independent living goals. This session will model partnerships across education and transit, and will engage audiences through the use of interactive tools. Presenters will highlight activities to improve the coordination of services and improve partnerships across the education and transportation sectors.

Conversations on Transition: A World Café

Facilitator: Karen Flippo
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Hoover

Join your colleagues from around the country for an engaging dialogue about key issues in transition. During this facilitated World Café session, participants will address three thought-provoking questions about the current and future state of transition to college and careers for young people with disabilities. Don’t miss this opportunity to contribute to the dialogue on transition and to learn from and network with your peers.

Thursday, May 31
3:30–5:00pm

Early Findings from the Center on Transition to Employment for Youth with Disabilities

Presenters: Richard Luecking, Paul Wehman, Ellen Fabian, George Tilson
Theme Track: Employment
Room: Delaware A

The Center on Transition to Employment is conducting six complementary studies to identify factors that promote and that hinder successful transition to employment for youth with disabilities. The center is focusing on youth who typically have the poorest post-school employment outcomes, that is, youth with intellectual disabilities, youth with emotional or mental health disabilities, and minority youth with disabilities. This session will present the six studies and their progress to date.

Our Students CAN Get Jobs! Changing the Way School Systems Do Business with Businesses

Presenter: Amy Dwyre

Theme Track: Employment

Room: Maryland A

There is a job for anyone who wants one. Yet we often hear, "Well, not for MY students," or "The economy is just too bad." A tough job market and high support needs are NOT good excuses; we need to change the way school systems do business with businesses. Ms. Dwyre will present a training/field work intervention that led one school system in Maryland to a 700% increase in paid jobs for students. Learn some strategies that helped them--and other systems and agencies--achieve this success.

The Apple iPod Touch as a Multi-Function Vocational Support Aid for Young Adults with Autism: Strategies for Success

Presenters: Tony Gentry, Alissa Molinelli

Theme Track: Employment

Room: Maryland B

Handheld devices such as the Apple iPod Touch offer rich opportunities for vocational support among people with cognitive-behavioral challenges. This presentation discusses assessment and treatment collaborations among an occupational therapist, a vocational counselor, and young people with autism, focused on the use of the iPod Touch as a job support aid. We will offer case studies, tool integration strategies, and recommendations for apps and adaptations that have worked with our clients.

The Elephant in the Room: Strategies to Succeed in Post-Secondary Transition Planning

Presenter: Paige Lindahl-Lewis

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Maryland C

College is an expectation for the majority of high school students, but for students with disabilities it's not always that simple. By the end of the session, navigating this journey will seem more plausible. The speaker will address various strategies for transition planning, including a guide for 6th-12th graders, a mentoring program for students and parents, and a transitional program at the University of Illinois. After attending this session, attendees will feel empowered to support their students to self-advocate.

Real Stories of AmeriCorps: Gain Skills, Make Friends, Earn an Education Award, and Attend College

Presenters: Paula Sotnik, Jewel Bazilio-Bellegarde

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Virginia A

National and community service are proven avenues through which individuals can gain skills, explore educational and career paths, develop networks, and make a difference in their communities. This session will identify strategies for using AmeriCorps to advance post-secondary opportunities, pay for college, repay student loans, and fund accommodations using the Segal Education Award. Stories of young adults who served in AmeriCorps and used their education award for college will be highlighted.

National Perspective: Student and Family Transition Plan Participation, Post-Secondary Education, and Employment

Presenters: Lynn Newman, Renee Cameto, Deborah Leuchovius

Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Room: Wilson A

Using national data on youth with disabilities (NLTS2), this session will provide a picture of student and family involvement and satisfaction with transition planning. We will discuss the employment and post-secondary education transition experiences of youth with different disability and demographic characteristics, and how those experiences have changed over time. Presenters from a national leader for parent information centers, the PACER TATRA project, will share the implications of the findings for policy and parents.

Improving Post-School Outcomes with Evidence-Based Special Education

Presenters: Dawn Rowe, Charlotte Alverson

Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation

Room: Virginia B

This session will provide an overview of post-school outcomes (e.g., employment and post-secondary enrollment) and the use of evidence-based practices and predictors to improve programs for youth with disabilities. Presenters will share post-school outcome data, define practices and predictors of post-school success based on high-quality empirical research, and model how to use state and district post-school outcome data to improve programs, leading to positive employment and further education outcomes.

Giving Kids with Disabilities a Chance: Aligning Education & Transition Policy

Presenters: Madeleine Will, Barb Trader

Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation

Room: Coolidge

This presentation will outline the findings of a two-day national education and transition reform roundtable hosted in May 2012 by the Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination. Participants will be briefed on recommendations agreed to by national experts on topics such as inclusion of students with disabilities in general education, reform goals (including alternate assessments and growth modeling), outcomes-based transition strategies for state college prep, and career readiness goals.

Developing Soft Skills for Employment Success: The Role of the Family

Presenter: Sean Roy, Jennifer Kemp

Theme Track: Family Engagement

Room: Virginia C

Recent reports and surveys from leading employer organizations show the strong link between “soft skills” and success in employment. Soft skills are the non-technical, interpersonal skills we all need to communicate effectively and to be able to work as part of a team. This session will discuss the vital role that soft skills play in the employment success of youth with disabilities. We will also highlight how families can help younger relatives to build key soft skills.

Partnering to Promote an Empowered Future for Youth with Special Needs

Presenters: Deb Golding, Pauline Thompson

Theme Track: Youth Development

Room: Wilson B

Adolescence is hard, and data suggests it can be twice as hard for youth with special needs (YSN). Research supports the positive impact of youth development/leadership (YD/L) programs. However, YSN are often isolated from mainstream programs. Targeted YD/L opportunities for YSN help them to gain the necessary skills to make successful transitions to adulthood. Participants will learn how one state is partnering to provide access and support to help YSN meet their full potential.

Everyone Working Together for Successful Young People

Presenters: Ming Wang, John Coppola, John Carvaugh

Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

Room: Wilson C

It takes a village to raise a child, but it takes a community to develop a successful adult. The road to adulthood is filled with opportunities and challenges, especially for those with mental health concerns. This workshop examines how to develop collaborative partnerships to help young people with mental health concerns transition into adulthood. We will discuss partnerships involving career, education, housing, community living, and wellness. We will also examine how such partnerships can be attuned to young people’s need for independence.

Success Through Partnerships: Careers in Government for Urban Youth with Disabilities

Presenters: Rebecca Salon, Susie Rutkowski, Martin Pursley, Denise Ford, Laverdia Roach, Vander Cherry, Diandra Garnett, Michelle Lucas

Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

Room: Delaware B

This interactive session will highlight Project SEARCH, a high school transition program for youth with disabilities. The program expanded three years ago into the federal government, and is now in five sites in four federal agencies (the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Interior, and Education). Partners in this initiative, including employed youth with disabilities, will discuss successful strategies, accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities for replication in local, state, and federal government.

Start on Success: 18 Years of Community/ Business Partnership & Paid Internships Leading to Careers

Presenters: Carol Glazer, Marsha Legg

Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

Room: Harding

Presenters will share best practices and success stories from the National Organization on Disability’s 18-year-old Start on Success paid internship initiative, which has graduated over 4,000 students with disabilities in six states, with approximately 85% of students going on to post-secondary education or employment. The presentation will highlight lessons from this successful program, with a focus on the Maryland site, where the program has grown to serve 150 graduating students each year.

Sessions by Theme • Friday, June 1

Session 1: 9:00–10:15am	
Employment	<p><i>Transition to Employment: It's Everybody's Business</i> Teresa Grossi, James Emmet Delaware A</p>
	<p><i>Increasing the Employment of Youth with Disabilities Through Registered Apprenticeship</i> Cherise Hunter, Laura Ibañez Delaware B</p>
Secondary and Post Secondary Education	<p><i>It Happens After Class: An Engaged Learning Model of Student Residential and Post Graduate Support</i> Terri Shelton, Joan Johnson Maryland A</p>
	<p><i>Beyond Compliance: Using the Summary of Performance to Enhance Transition Planning</i> Presenter: Lyman Dukes, Joseph Madaus Maryland B</p>
Program and Policy Development and Implementation	<p><i>Promoting Innovation: The Role of Transition Policy in Increasing Access to Customized Employment</i> Barb Trader, Norciva Shumpert, Ellen Condon Maryland C</p>
	<p><i>Cost-Effective Strategies for Improving Statewide Transition Services and Professional Development</i> Jordan Knab, Mary Podmostko Virginia A</p>
Family Engagement	<p><i>Planning A Life: Making the Most Out of High School</i> Terri McLaughlin, Julie Sinclair Virginia B</p>
Youth Development	<p><i>Empowering Youth to Succeed Through Innovative Independent Living Skills Training Programs</i> Jocelyn Kennedy, Alana Marino Virginia C</p>
Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions	<p><i>Creating a Community of Practice for Supporting Transition-Age Youth with Mental Health Conditions</i> Marsha Ellison, Amanda Costa, Joann Starks Wilson A</p>
	<p><i>Successful Transitioning for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing</i> Cathy McLeod, Mary Morrison Wilson B</p>
	<p><i>How Do You Know the Special Education Services Provided Contributed to Achieving the Purpose of IDEA?</i> Deborah Leuchovius, Dawn Rowe Wilson C</p>

Day 3 Sessions — Friday, June 1



9:00–10:15am

Transition to Employment: It's Everybody's Business

Presenters: Teresa Grossi, James Emmet
Theme Track: Employment
Room: Delaware A

Work is a central part of people's lives. When students transition to employment, it becomes a shared responsibility—students, families, schools, adult agencies, and employers working together. This session will examine what we are doing in the content of school services to improve employment outcomes. Finding the right job match requires consideration of a number of factors from the perspective of the individual student, the employer, and the support agencies involved. A variety of examples will be provided.

Increasing the Employment of Youth with Disabilities Through Registered Apprenticeship

Presenters: Cherise Hunter, Laura Ibañez
Theme Track: Employment
Room: Delaware B

Apprenticeship can be an effective method to develop pathways to successful careers for youth with disabilities. Apprenticeships provide paid on-the-job learning in traditional industries as well as new emerging industries. This session will present two apprenticeship training modules that can be used by individuals to learn about apprenticeship, or by a facilitator to train groups. Participants will learn how to identify existing apprenticeship opportunities and create new ones.

It Happens After Class: An Engaged Learning Model of Student Residential and Post Graduate Support

Presenters: Terri Shelton, Joan Johnson
Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education
Room: Maryland A

Integrative Community Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro is an experiential learning community optimizing outcomes for its graduates. This four-year certificate program defines a successful student as a deeply engaged learner outside the classroom. The fully inclusive Student Life model supports successful college and community navigation. The post-grad support system builds on the foundation of college adjustment skills acquired in the freshman and sophomore years. Policy and funding strategies are detailed.

Beyond Compliance: Using the Summary of Performance to Enhance Transition Planning

Presenter: Lyman Dukes, Joseph Madaus
Theme Track: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education
Room: Maryland B

IDEA 2004 requires that each local education agency provide a Summary of Performance (SOP) to exiting special education students. This session will share an array of practices that schools can implement to make the SOP useful. Effective SOPs document the need for accommodations in post-school settings, enhance self-determination skills, and foster improved adult outcomes.

Promoting Innovation: The Role of Transition Policy in Increasing Access to Customized Employment

Presenters: Barb Trader, Norciva Shumpert, Ellen Condon
Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation
Room: Maryland C

The presentation will educate participants about trends in the evolution of customized employment strategies to improve employment outcomes of youth with disabilities. We will also introduce a series of public policy recommendations related to increasing access to customized employment strategies for youth with disabilities transitioning to adulthood.

Cost-Effective Strategies for Improving Statewide Transition Services and Professional Development

Presenters: Jordan Knab, Mary Podmostko
Theme Track: Program and Policy Development and Implementation
Room: Virginia A

Project 10: Transition Education Network, Florida's secondary transition technical assistance provider, will describe strategies for delivering cost-effective professional development, technical assistance, and resources to transition staff in districts and schools. The goal is to improve the academic success and post-school outcomes of students with disabilities. Strategies include online modules, the project website, "green" approaches to information sharing, and interagency partnerships.

Planning A Life: Making the Most Out of High School

Presenters: Terri McLaughlin, Julie Sinclair
Theme Track: Family Engagement
Room: Virginia B

Working together, families and schools can make transition work. Transition plans create a framework assisting students to be effective self advocates, exploring work and post-secondary options to make their dreams a reality. Coordinated services, supports, and activities assist in the development of a student's vision and generate skills that can lead to a full life. Find out what you need to know, when to ask, and who to go to for answers. Interactive activities will energize the session.

Empowering Youth to Succeed Through Innovative Independent Living Skills Training Programs

Presenters: Jocelyn Kennedy, Alana Marino
Theme Tracks: Youth Development
Room: Virginia C

KEYS is a life skills training program for youth in foster care with disabilities and therapeutic needs. The program prepares them for independence through internships, mentoring, vocational training, and group sessions. Youth receive financial incentives from money raised through community fundraising. The presentation will help the transition community learn to successfully implement interrelated life skills programs. Youth in the program will be present to speak about their experience in KEYS.

Creating a Community of Practice for Supporting Transition-Age Youth with Mental Health Conditions

Presenters: Marsha Ellison, Amanda Costa, Joann Starks
Theme Tracks: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Wilson A

This presentation will describe the process of a community of practice (CoP) convened on transition-age youth and young adults (TAYYA) with serious mental health conditions. We will present a case study of one CoP for TAYYA and describe its planning, implementation, activities, evaluation, and resulting outputs: the creation of three highly regarded and widely distributed tipsheets (on jobs, communication, and records). We will also describe guidelines for implementing CoPs in other locales.

Successful Transitioning for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Presenters: Cathy McLeod, Mary Morrison
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Wilson B

Transition is not a service added at the end of the senior year. It is a way of interacting and creating opportunities for learning throughout a lifetime. This presentation will look at the unique needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in the transition process and will provide parents and professionals with information they need to facilitate a smooth transition. Participants will take away valuable resources and access to a national network of professionals in the field of deafness.

How Do You Know the Special Education Services Provided Contributed to Achieving the Purpose of IDEA?

Presenters: Deborah Leuchovius, Dawn Rowe
Theme Track: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions
Room: Wilson C

This session will provide participants with an overview of the national data collection initiative that requires states to collect post-school outcomes data (e.g., employment and post-secondary education). We will discuss how states, local districts, and families can apply what is being learned from these efforts. We will also share strategies to engage youth and families in the data collection process and to become active members of state and local district stakeholder groups.

Poster Presentations

How Social Communication Skills Can Improve the Employability of Students with Autism and Asperger Syndrome

Presenter: Beth Clavenna-Deane

Theme: Employment

Transition to adulthood presents significant challenges for students with autism and Asperger syndrome. The employment outcomes for this population have shown that young adults with Asperger syndrome attend post-secondary institutions, but are being underemployed as adults due to social and communication challenges. This poster will present the results of using a social communication intervention with adolescents with autism and Asperger syndrome to improve employment experiences.

Ticket to Work Program: Good Jobs, Good Careers, and Better Self-Supporting Futures

Presenters: Mike Greenberg, Tara Cronin

Theme: Employment

Social Security offers people ages 18 through 64 who receive SSDI and/or SSI an opportunity to pursue employment through the Ticket to Work program, and work incentives to help make that pursuit easier. Representatives from the Ticket to Work program will be available to answer questions about the program and explain work incentives for young adults. They will also share success stories of people with disabilities who have used the Ticket to Work program to increase their earnings on the path to self-sufficiency.

I Want a Job Now: Employment Solutions for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Food Service Industry

Presenter: Chris Harper, Sr.

Theme: Employment

This poster will demonstrate the successful training and employment of deaf and hard-of-hearing students in the food service industry. Emphasis will be placed on industry-designed training curriculums, best practices for summer internships, student placement, and job fit. Attention will also be given to engaging families in students' career development process.

Skills to Pay the Bills: Helping Youth Develop Soft Skills Doesn't Have to Be Hard

Presenter: Michael Huberman

Theme: Employment

What do employers look for in new employees? This poster explores the soft skill areas that employers identify as essential for candidates. Presenters will answer questions about a free curriculum recently released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy. The curriculum is designed to help service professionals to build soft skills with youth.

Institute for Community Inclusion

Presenter: Melanie Jordan

Theme: Employment

The Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston offers training, clinical, and employment services, conducts research, and provides assistance to organizations. The goal of these endeavors is to promote inclusion of people with disabilities in school, work, and community activities. This poster and resource table will provide an overview of information and materials, with a focus on employment and transition issues for youth and young adults with disabilities.

The Technology for Untapped Talent Project: STEM Opportunities for Students with Disabilities

Presenter: Jeanine Lewis

Theme: Employment

The Technology for Untapped Talent program provides vocational training to enable individuals with disabilities to access employment and economic self-sufficiency. This project increases opportunities in engineering and hands-on design and crafting, using computer numerically controlled devices and technology. This program strives to open up the STEM fields of employment to students with disabilities in a supportive environment to assist in gaining the skills necessary to access competitive employment within the community.

Transition Work Experiences Through Oklahoma Project SEARCH

Presenter: Kimberly Osmani

Theme: Employment

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (OK-DRS) has implemented an innovative employment training program for youth and young adults with disabilities. Project SEARCH forms partnerships between schools, rehabilitation agencies, large businesses, and community rehabilitation providers. The goal is to braid funding and provide an intense work training experience to prepare youth for future employment. OK-DRS has taken the national model and modified components to meet the needs of our state.

Discover, Learn, and Work: New Approach to Transition Planning and Vocational Education

Presenters: Michelle Ouimette, Marc Piacentini

Theme: Employment

The Discover, Learn, Work program is a unique vocational internship and exploration program for transitioning students. The program assists students with discovering their unique strengths and learning the necessary professional skills to acquire and maintain a job in an area of interest. Our innovative approach to vocational education incorporates social and independent life skill learning with real-world work experience to fully prepare individuals for employment and independence.

Maintaining Vocational Skills of Students with ASD and DD Through Video Modeling

Presenters: Toni Van Laarhoven, Erika Blood, Traci Van Laarhoven-Myers

Theme: Employment

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effectiveness of using video modeling to maintain vocational skills of six high school students with autism and developmental disabilities over winter break. Results indicated that skills not only maintained over break, but also improved and generalized to other tasks. Findings were surprising yet consistent across learners. Plausible explanations for findings will be shared.

The Project SEARCH Federal Model: Employment Outcomes of Student Trainees with IDD in 2010-2011

Presenters: MJ Karimi, Christopher Bacote

Theme Track: Employment

Executive Order 13548 described the federal government's interests "in encouraging Americans with disabilities to seek employment in the Federal workplace" through "increase[d] participation of individuals with disabilities in internships, fellowships, and training and mentoring programs." The finding of the Project SEARCH Program evaluation is that employability of the participating student-trainees increased, as a result of participation in this program.

Regional Transition Councils: Connecting Transition Stakeholders in Ohio

Presenters: Robert Baer, Amy Szymanski, Karen Johnson, Ed Flegel, Suzanne Beck, Mike Kinney

Theme: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

Regional Transition Councils (RTCs), established in 16 State Support Team sites, respond to unique needs in each region to improve adult outcomes for youth. RTCs use data-based decision making to improve practices and services across agencies. This poster will summarize first-year and second-year accomplishments, concerns, and plans for the future. Presenters will be available to share success stories and lessons learned, including examples of interagency agreements and blended funding.

Quality of Life Technology Engineering Research Center: Bridging Critical Junctures in STEM

Presenters: Shelly Brown, Mary Goldberg, Maria Milleville

Theme: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

All students face critical junctures from which key life decisions impact the journey, particularly the academic portion of the sojourn. For underrepresented students, factors at those key junctures can positively impact or deter furtherance of a path toward higher education, particularly for students with disabilities (SWDs). This poster highlights sustainable programs that can be replicated in support of SWDs engaging in STEM-focused activities at critical academic junctures.

Preparing Young Adults for Independence: Transition and Moving Out

Presenters: Diane Dressler, Mary Scott
Theme: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

Transition from living with family to independent living can be stressful. Careful and thorough planning before, during, and after transition can help to ensure success. This poster will provide resources for affordable housing, accessibility modification, and the housing search. Presenters will be available to discuss real applications for combining housing and support resources, as well as use of a planning tool.

Collaborative Transitions: Creating A Network to Support Successful Transitions

Presenters: Janice Emerzian, Samara Trimble, Melissa Affeldt
Theme: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

Reedley College Disabled Students Program & Services has established a Transition to College (TTC) program to assist students with disabilities in successfully transitioning from K-12 to community college. Developing an effective network is a key factor in creating a successful transition. This poster will cover the structure of the TTC program, the important factors to consider in transition to college, and the key supports necessary to create an effective transition network.

Preparing Teachers and Rehabilitation Counseling Students for a Specialization in Transition: Lessons Learned

Presenters: Bob Morgan, Scott Kupferman
Theme: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

This poster will describe a transition specialization program for special education teachers and rehabilitation counseling students. Courses are interdisciplinary, i.e., special education teachers take courses with rehabilitation counselor trainees. Experiences of faculty, transition teachers, and transition students will be summarized based on activities of the first year of the program. Presenters will reflect on lessons learned, and will also discuss future development and evaluation activities.

Improving Post-Secondary Outcomes for Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Presenters: Jeanne Repetto, Susan Horky, Angela Miney, John Reiss, Arwa Saidi, Jenna Lindsey
Theme: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

As youth with invisible chronic illness are living into adulthood, it is necessary that they prepare for their future. Health care and education have different processes for transition, although both focus on preparing youth for independence. This poster addresses the collaboration between health care and education to improve post-secondary outcomes for youth with invisible chronic illness.

Innovative Strategies: Making the Critical Connections for Youth

Presenters: Curtis Richards, Taryn Williams
Theme: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

As youth prepare to transition from adolescence and secondary school to adulthood—entering work, post-secondary education, and independent living—they need a comprehensive range of competencies, opportunities, and supports to navigate through transition. This poster highlights information, strategies, and tools used by successful programs to meet these needs. Focus is on the five transition areas that research indicates all youth, including youth with disabilities, need to navigate to adulthood.

Implementing Strength-Based Transition Plans

Presenters: Raschelle Theoharis, Christina Yuknis
Theme: Partnerships that Support Successful Transitions

This poster will reveal ways to implement strength-based transition planning that focuses on the strengths and needs of the whole family. Presenters will discuss the obstacles and barriers students and families continue to face in the transitioning process from high school to post-secondary education or employment. The poster will identify strategies for overcoming these challenges and illustrate how to develop and implement strength-based transition plans.

What Do Transition Specialists Need to Know?

Presenters: Catherine Callow-Heusser, Audrey Hoffmann, Scott Kupferman

Theme: Program and Policy Development and Implementation

Utah State University received a personnel preparation grant for a master's program for transition specialists. The transition literature was synthesized to identify evidence-based competencies expected of graduates. A survey to confirm competencies was developed and completed by (a) national experts in the field of transition and (b) practitioners from five states. This poster will highlight findings, discuss similarities/differences among responses, and suggest additional research directions.

Tiered Support of District Teams to Improve Transition Services and Dropout Prevention

Presenters: Beth Clavenna-Deane, Kayla Supon Carter
Theme: Program and Policy Development and Implementation

Tiered support is widely used by schools to support all students to be successful academically and behaviorally and to prepare for college and career goals. Kansas Secondary Connections applied this concept with district teams to build and scale up sustainable change in the areas of transition services and dropout prevention. This poster will highlight the framework and tools that assist district teams and the preliminary results districts have experienced.

Best Practices in Transition: Empirical Modeling of Statewide and National Comparative Datasets

Presenters: Arun Karpur, David Brewer
Theme: Program and Policy Development and Implementation

Our comparative analysis of New York State's Model Transition Program and the National Longitudinal Transition Study 2 datasets empirically estimates the role of the multitude of transition best practices in improving postsecondary employment and educational engagement for youth with disabilities. Employing mediation modeling and propensity score matching, our research demonstrates that there is no "silver bullet" to address poorer transition-to-adulthood outcomes for youth with disabilities.

Moving Beyond the Magic Transition Checklist to Improved Student Outcomes

Presenters: Marianne Moore, Dana Yarbrough
Theme: Program and Policy Development and Implementation

Virginia Department of Education's initiatives that bring transition front and center will be featured on this poster. These initiatives focus on enhancing planning and services to assist students with disabilities in transitioning to the adult world with skills and tools for success. Implications of data collected for Indicators #13 and #14, the "I'm Determined" website, successes of ACE-IT in College, Project SEARCH sites, and the Customized Employment Model Transition Program will be celebrated.

Real-Life College Experiences from Individuals with Visual Disabilities

Presenter: Mary-Anne Joseph
Theme: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

This poster will present the post-secondary educational experiences of individuals with visual disabilities. The specific areas of experience displayed will include: reasonable accommodations, the positive and negative role of college/university Disability Support Service offices, the use of assistive technology, the inaccessibility of technology on college campuses, and self-advocacy. These experiences were identified during a qualitative phenomenological study.

The Florida Consortium on Post-Secondary Education & Intellectual Disabilities: A Statewide Approach

Presenters: Jordan T. Knab, Michael Shaffer
Theme: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

This poster will provide an overview of Florida's strategic approach to developing a network of post-secondary institutions that offer opportunities for transition-age youth with intellectual disabilities. The goal of the network is to support these young people to participate in academic studies and community life on a college campus. Success stories from the consortium will illustrate ways participants can begin to expand post-secondary options for students within their own communities.

National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center

Presenters: Catherine Fowler, David Test

Theme Track: Secondary and Post Secondary Education

This poster will display resources available and evidence of technical assistance provided by the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center, funded by OSEP.

National Perspective: Post-Secondary Education and Employment Experiences of Young Adults with Disabilities Up to 8 Years After High School

Presenters: Lynn Newman, Renee Cameto, Deborah Leuchovius

Using data from the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2, this poster will highlight the post-high-school employment and post-secondary education enrollment and completion experiences of young adults with different disability characteristics. The poster will offer information about the availability of national-level data on the high school, transition planning, post-secondary education, employment, residential, social, and community involvement experiences of youth with disabilities. Content will include how these experiences have changed over time.

Opt4College: An Online Transition Curriculum for Youth with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs

Presenters: Myra Rosen-Reynoso

Theme: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

This poster will discuss the role of an online program in assisting high school students with disabilities to apply for and transition into post-secondary education. The online program is entitled Opt4College. A randomized control group pre-test/post-test design was used to test the effectiveness of Opt4College.

Supporting Students with Intellectual Disabilities in Post-Secondary Education

Presenters: Robert Stodden, Eric Folk, Kathryn Yamamoto

Theme: Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

This poster will share the conceptual framework and operational strategy of a successful effort to enroll and support young people with intellectual disabilities in post-secondary education. This effort features the use of self-determination principles to drive person-centered planning and interagency team support. Everyone involved in the effort has focused upon a “front door” approach in the planning and provision of supports and activities.

Think College: Postsecondary Education Options for Students with Intellectual Disability

Presenters: Debra Hart, Meg Grigal

Theme: Secondary and Post Secondary Education

This poster will present information on postsecondary education for students with intellectual disabilities. Information on a standards based conceptual framework including the Standards, Quality Indicators, and Benchmarks tool will be made available.

“Sense of Community” as a Transition Outcome

Presenters: Nicole Ditchman, Brianna Elg, Amanda Easton

Theme: Student Development

Young adults with disabilities continue to face poor community outcomes. While there is growing acceptance of the need to improve community integration, relatively little is known about the extent to which youth feel a sense of belonging and purpose within their communities. This poster will review McMillan and Chavis’s (1986) “Sense of Community” (SOC) theory. It will also present findings highlighting factors impacting SOC, and offer recommendations to guide future research and transition practice.

A Great Opportunity for Transition: AmeriCorps!

Presenter: Erin Gannon

Theme: Student Development

AmeriCorps provides a chance for young adults to make a big difference in their lives and in the lives of others. Each year, AmeriCorps offers opportunities for adults of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups and to give back to their communities. AmeriCorps provides the chance to gain skills, get a living allowance, develop social networks, get an education award, and go to college. Visit this poster and find out how!

Supporting Secondary Self-Advocacy Skill Development

Presenters: Laura Guillion, Amina Ghannam
Theme: Student Development

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) is a federal law that provides guidance to special educators to facilitate secondary to post-secondary transition planning. This poster will focus on how special educators can develop students' self-advocacy skills. The goal is to help students to disclose their disability and their needs to teachers in various classroom settings. Suggested activities will support students to understand their rights under IDEA, as well as their options for accessing disability services under the Americans with Disabilities Act as adults.

Learning and Working During the Transition to Adulthood Research & Training Center Resource Table

Presenters: Amanda Costa
Theme Track: Student Development

Through rigorous research, knowledge translation, and training activities, the NIDRR funded Transitions RTC aims to improve supports for youth and young adults, ages 14-30, with serious mental health conditions so they can successfully complete their schooling/training and move into rewarding work lives. The Transitions RTC has created multiple tip sheets and briefs that can help influence policy and practice in this area. Visit the resource table for more information!

The Initiative for Women with Disabilities Young Women's Program: A Unique Approach to Transition

Presenter: Suzanne Hurwitz
Theme: Student Development

This poster will highlight the work of the Initiative for Women with Disabilities (IWD) Elly and Steve Hammerman Health and Wellness Center at NYU Langone Medical Center. The IWD is a comprehensive health and wellness program serving women with physical disabilities. The program offers accessible medical care, fitness classes, social work, and nutrition and wellness services to women with physical disabilities. The IWD's Young Women's Program focuses on transitioning youth and helping them adopt healthy lifestyles.

Assistive Technology Transition Assessment for Youth, Families, and Service Providers

Presenter: Scott Kupferman
Theme: Student Development

This poster will demonstrate a computerized assessment that helps to simplify the complex assistive technology transition process for youth with disabilities. This assessment is based on a meta-analysis of evidence-based research. It is composed of youth, family, and service provider sections. Once completed, the assessment leads to a youth-centered assistive technology transition plan. A hands-on demonstration and a free version of the assessment will be distributed to attendees.

Knowledge is Power: Exploring PEPNet's Online Transition-to-Work Training Modules

Presenters: Cathy McLeod, Mary Morrison
Theme: Student Development

Transition-to-work has been identified as an area of great concern due to a lack of adequate resources and trainings. This poster shows how PEPNet has addressed this need by developing a series of online training modules. All modules are presented in American Sign Language, captioned, and voiced, and they all include supplemental resources. The training modules are designed to address the needs of students exiting from high school, but are also applicable to individuals exiting two-year and four-year post-secondary programs, as well as adults returning to work.

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About Washington DC

Few places in the world are as easily recognizable as Washington, DC. Just the mention of our nation's capitol conjures images of monuments and museums, power and intrigue, and, the ongoing, ever-changing great American experiment in representative democracy. This is especially true as we enter another presidential election year.

As America's second most visited city (after New York), Washington's list of superlatives are nearly endless. Getting around town is relatively easy and inexpensive, thanks to the Metro Rail system (www.wmata.com/rail/). Most key tourist sites are near a station, and, our conference hotel is adjacent to the Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan Station (Red Line).

Washington DC Old Town Trolley Tours (Leaves from Union Station (Red Line) or 10th & E Streets NW) www.trolleytours.com/washington-dc/ or 202.832.9800 x0: Tour runs 9am-5:30 pm, daily, every half an hour, admission prices available online or at kiosk. Please call 24 hours in advance to reserve a trolley with a lift. This is a "hop-on, hop off" tour and will take you to many of the sights on this list.

United States Capitol: Site of stirring inaugurations, moving tributes to fallen leaders, great compromises, and, not an insignificant amount of political foolishness, the Capitol is more than just the setting of Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol* – it is where the people and power intersect. (www.aoc.gov/cc/visit/index.cfm).

White House: Every school child in America knows the address – 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Now it's your turn to see where 43 of our 44 First Families have lived. (www.whitehouse.gov/about/tours-and-events).

Supreme Court: Interested in where our laws are declared constitutional – or not? The Supreme Court is a must see for any budding lawyers. (www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/visitorservices.aspx).

Library of Congress: Washington's most beautiful building, the Library of Congress is well known to National Treasure fans as the home of the Presidents' Book of Secrets. With amazing architecture and fascinating exhibits, you won't want to miss this jewel. (www.loc.gov/visit/)

The Pentagon: Make sure you're wearing good walking shoes for this tour of the world's largest office building. Your visit will include a stop by a memorial chapel set up to remember the victims of the 9/11 attack. Remember to visit the outdoor memorial, as well. (<http://pentagon.afis.osd.mil/>)

National Archives: Few things are as inspiring as gazing upon original copies of America's founding documents, including the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights. (www.archives.gov/nae/)

Smithsonian Museums: Free, fun and informative, the Smithsonian museums surround the National Mall and extend far beyond. Make sure to do your homework before you visit. Lindbergh's "Spirit of St. Louis", Dorothy's ruby slippers, and, the renowned Hope diamond are all here – but all in separate museums. Plan wisely! (Blue/Orange Lines) 202.633.1000 (voice/tape) or 202.633.5285 (TTY). Most museums open daily, 10am-5:30pm (www.si.edu/Museums)

Monuments: The Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial Wall – they are among our nation's most well known landmarks which are on and around the National Mall. Most are accessible by a short walk from a Metro Rail Station, though you may want to investigate a one-day pass from one of the tour tram operators if you plan to visit more far-flung monuments, such as the one in memory of Franklin Roosevelt. Keep in mind that the Washington Monument may still be closed or under renovation due to damage from the 2011 earthquake.

National Zoo: A short walk from our hotel, the Zoo, like all Smithsonian units, is free. If you haven't ever seen a giant panda up close, here's your chance! 202.633.4800; 202.673.7800 (TTY) 10am-6pm (<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/>)

Also of interest: Washington has too many attractions to list here, but some additional sites you might find interesting include Ford's Theatre (<http://fordstheatre.org/>), the Newseum (www.newseum.org/), Washington National Cathedral (www.nationalcathedral.org/), the International Spy Museum (www.spymuseum.org/) and, the National Museum of Crime and Punishment (www.crimemuseum.org/), just to name a few.

Additional websites for the Washington DC area include:

<http://thedistrict.com>

<http://washington.org/visiting/browse-dc/attractions>

Area Restaurants

(Within five minutes walking distance from the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel)

Café Paradiso, 2649 Connecticut Avenue, (202) 265-8955

Intimate dining with a quaint fireplace. Offers Northern and Southern Italian cuisine featuring homemade pasta, fresh breads, desserts and Cappuccino. Open for lunch and dinner. Patio seats (seasonal) and private rooms are available.

Chipotle, 2600 Connecticut Avenue, (202) 299-9111

'The gourmet restaurant where you can eat with your hands'. Modern Mexican, serving gourmet burritos and tacos.

Hot and Juicy Crawfish, 2651 Connecticut Ave, (202) 299-9448

Jandara, 606 Connecticut Avenue, (202) 387-8876

Serving Thai cuisine, such as crispy whole flounder, grilled rockfish, and soft-shell Crabs in a newly remodeled, contemporary atmosphere. Lunch and dinner 7 days a week. Delivery is available.

Lebanese Taverna, 2641 Connecticut Avenue, (202) 483-7420

Known for authentic Middle Eastern fare and a "perennial good buzz" ("Where Magazine", December 1996) where groups of diners can enjoy Mezza specialties. Complimentary parking available for lunch and dinner guests.

Medaterra, 2614 Connecticut Avenue, (202) 797-0400

Offering Mediterranean cuisine including variety of appetizers, entrees, and desserts in a modern, art deco setting. Carryout and delivery available through Takeout taxi.

Murphy's Irish Pub, 2609 24th Street, (202) 462-7171

Murphy's offers live Irish music. Serves sandwiches, stew, steaks, and seafood for lunch, dinner and late into the evenings. A sidewalk café and a wood burning fireplace are seasonal attractions.

New Heights, 2317 Calvert Street, (202) 234-4110

Innovative New American cuisine that combines the best of fresh regional international flavors. Award-winning architecture offers exceptional views of Rock Creek Park and showcases local artists for sale.

Open City, 2331 Calvert Street, (202) 332-2331

Petit Plats, 2653 Connecticut Avenue, (202) 518-0018

Intimate French bistro with a sunny touch. Petit Plats means "special dish that you prepare for someone you care about." Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner. Carryout is available.

Pasta Italiana, 2623 Connecticut Avenue, (202) 332-2207

Rajaji, 2603 Connecticut Avenue, (202) 265-7344

Delectable Northern and Southern Indian cuisine served in this very unique locale since 1972. Delivery and carryout available. Only carryout for lunch. Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner.

Taste of India, 2621 Connecticut Avenue, (202) 483-1115

Authentic Indian cuisine, specializing in Tandoori, Curry, Kabobs and a variety of vegetarian dishes offered at reasonable prices. Carryout and delivery are available. Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner.

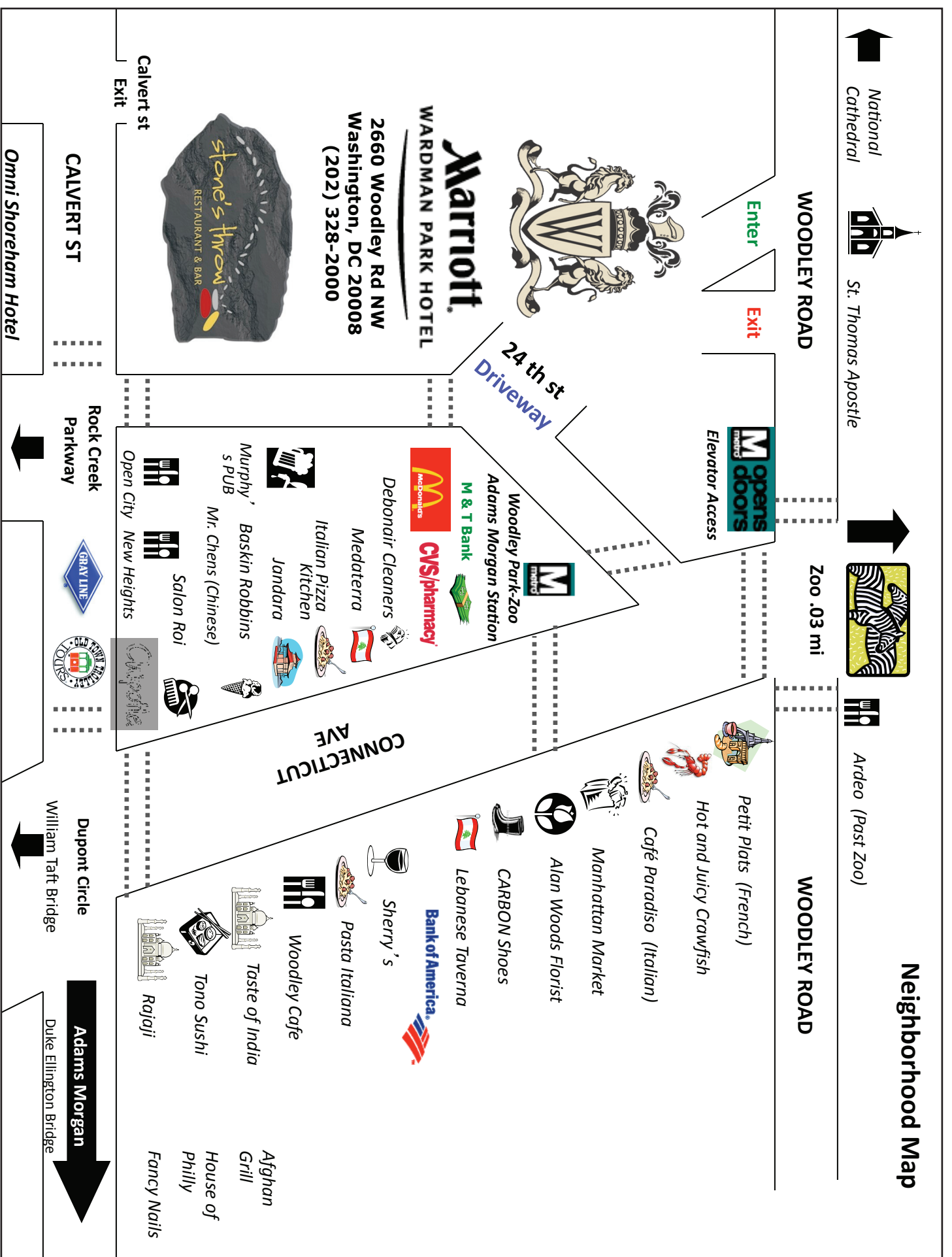
Tono Sushi, 2605 Connecticut Avenue, (202) 332-7300

Excellent Japanese cuisine offering sushi, teriyaki and tempura. Also offers a variety of appetizers, salads and noodle dishes. Open for lunch and dinner.

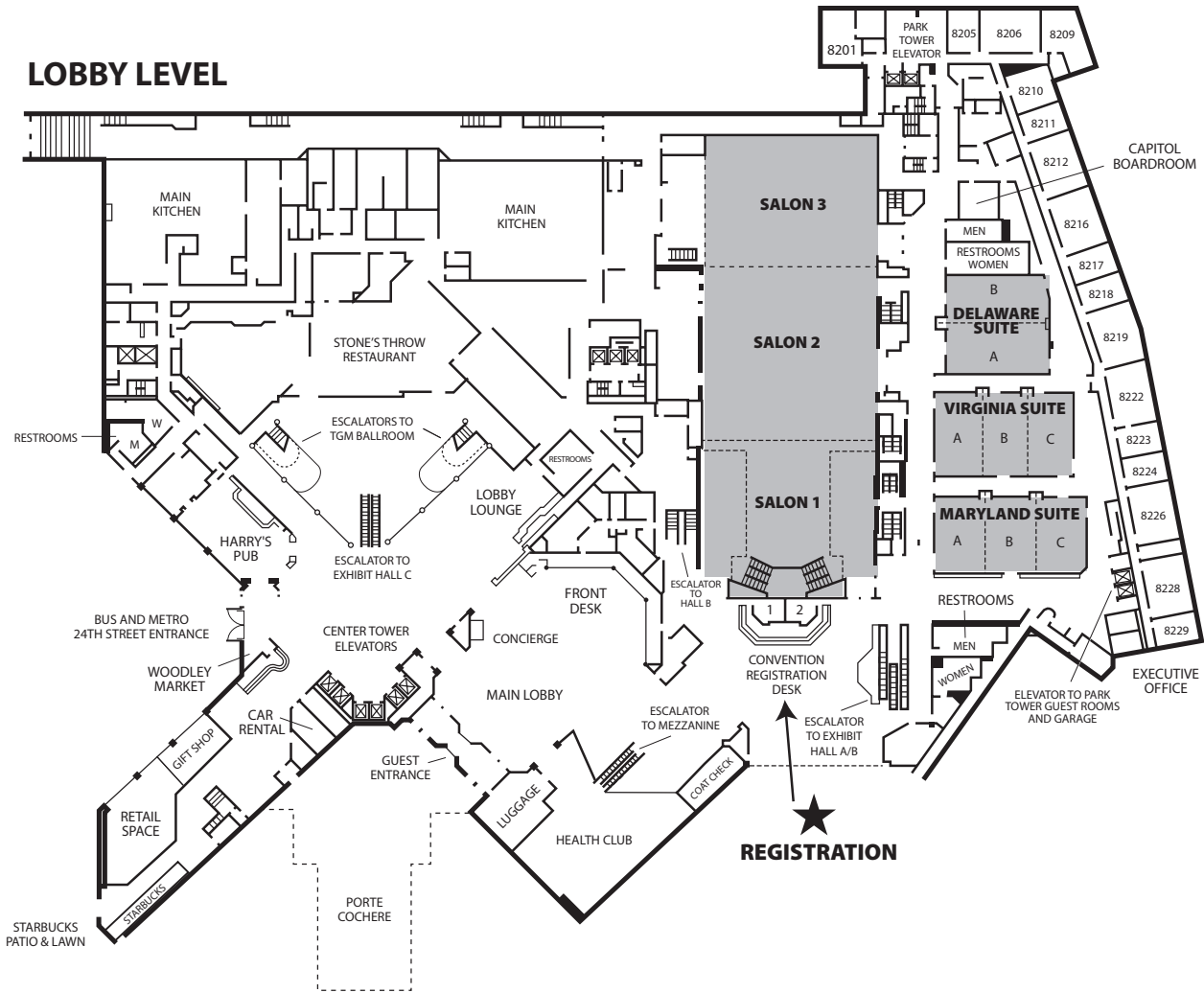
Woodley Café, 2619 Connecticut Avenue, (202) 332-5773

Proudly serving American cuisine in a relaxed dinner-house environment. Something for everyone: including superb steaks, salad, seafood and the best ribs in the area. Lunch and dinner. Also open for breakfast on weekdays and brunch on weekends.

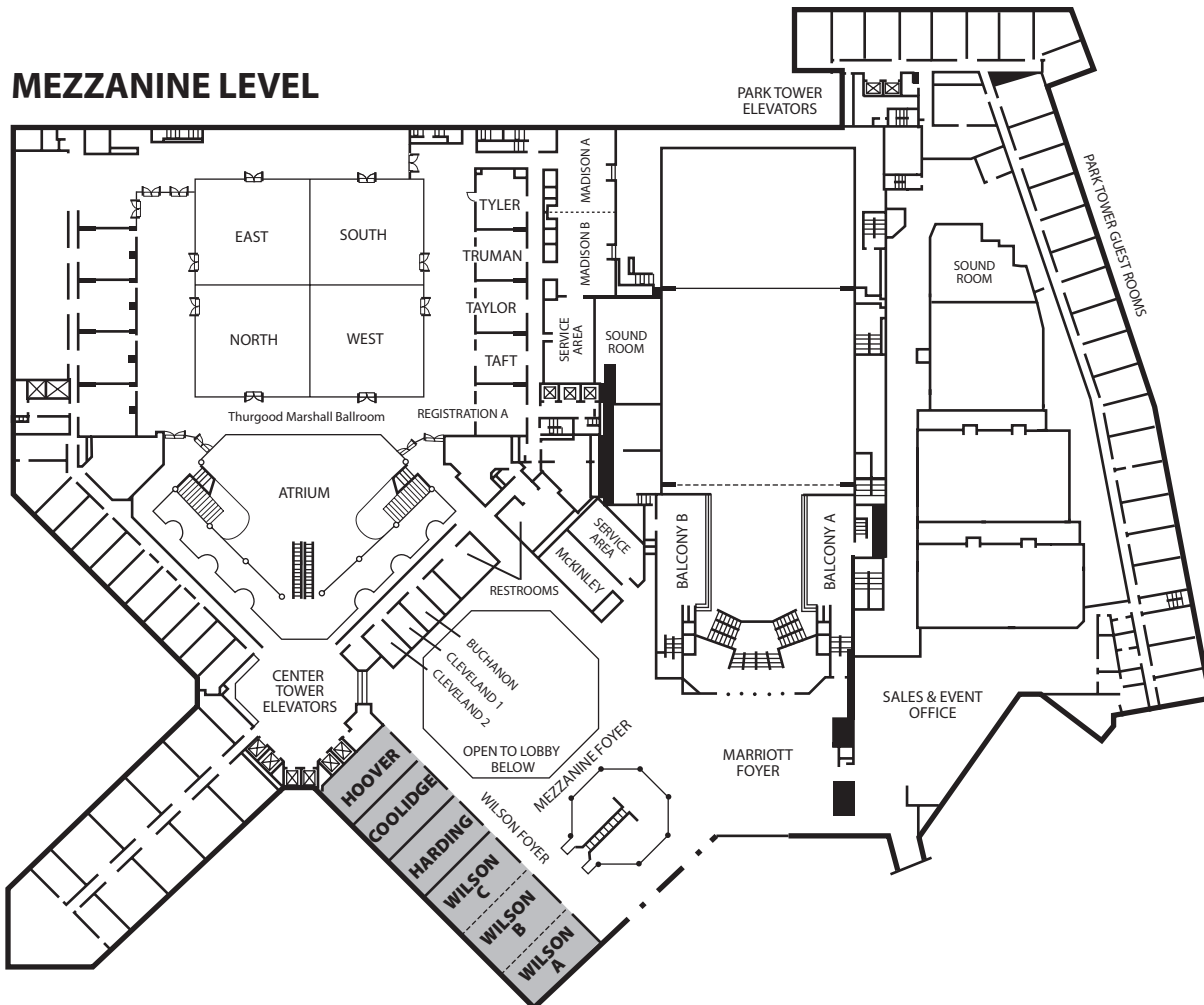
Neighborhood Map



LOBBY LEVEL



MEZZANINE LEVEL





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