



Transition

T E N N E S S E E

Passport to the Future



Conference in conjunction with Partners in Education (PIE)
Statewide Special Education Conference

Nashville, TN
January 27th, 2020

WELCOME TO PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE 2020

Helping students transition well to adulthood is a primary purpose of special education. It is the reason we invest so much in providing students with disabilities an exceptional educational experience. Collective investment across many years of schooling should help students with disabilities transition to meaningful work, enable lifelong learning, and contribute to a good life in their community. There is no limit to what students can accomplish when provided with the right combination of thoughtful planning, good instruction, strong supports, individualized opportunities, and high expectations.

Passport to the Future is your opportunity to learn about best practices in preparing students for life after high school and build community partnerships. We're excited to have a day of innovative speakers and breakout sessions focused on improving post school outcomes for students with disabilities. Our goal is to equip educators, pre-employment transition service providers, and others to provide exceptional transition services and supports for students with disabilities. Sessions are organized around the best of what we know works to promote better outcomes for students after leaving high school, including:

- Conducting age-appropriate transition assessment
- Developing a high-quality transition plan
- Building self-determination skills
- Identifying meaningful early work experiences
- Partnering with Vocational Rehabilitation to deliver Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Preparing students for postsecondary education
- Collaborating with community supports

If you haven't already, be sure to check out our online platform transitiontn.org. We have created a unique online resource designed to equip educators and providers all across our state to provide exceptional transition services and supports for students with disabilities. Transition Tennessee (www.transitiontn.org) is a free professional development portal. Each course contains a rich array of strategies, resources, and ideas to support our state in this very important work. Short, engaging lessons focus on best practices related to each topic. Case studies illustrate how these practices might be implemented with students. Videos demonstrate how these practices are being applied across the state. And downloadable resources provide helpful tools for carrying out this work.

The TennesseeWorks partnership is another great resource for employment and transition-related information. The partnership is a collaboration of agencies and organizations working together to improve employment outcomes for young people with disabilities. Visit tennesseeworks.org to connect with the partnership and find resources for self-advocates, family members, employers, educators, and policymakers.

We hope you enjoy the conference! Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.

-The Transition Tennessee Team



KEYNOTE SESSION

WORKING TOGETHER:

Partnering with families to improve transition outcomes.



ROBYN LAMPLEY

Robyn Lampley lives in Dickson with her husband John and their two children, Megan (16) and James (14). James has Down syndrome and an intellectual disability. Robyn works part-time for the local chapter of The Arc. She is looking forward to James' freshman year in 2020 and beginning the process of preparing him for his transition to post-secondary education and/or full-time employment.



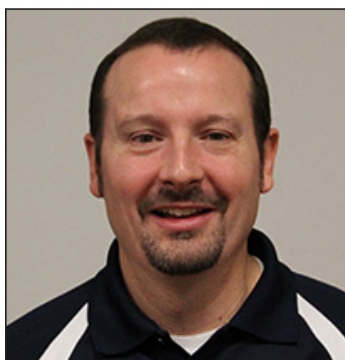
TAMARA TUCKSON

Tamara Tuckson is the mother of a vibrant and active 17-year-old teenager who was diagnosed with Rhett's Syndrome at the age of 2. Since McKenzie's diagnosis, Tamara's purpose has been to be an advocate for her daughter and others with exceptional needs. Tamara is currently a public speaker, inclusion cheer coach for Whites Creek High School, serves as the President of the Family Support Council with the Arc of Davidson County, and is a member of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center council. Tamara and McKenzie's mission is to ensure individuals with exceptional needs are treated as adequate human beings.



ROBBIE PINTER

Robbie Clifton Pinter is mother to Nicholas (26) who has several diagnoses: autism, bipolar, and an IDD. Robbie has been an English professor at Belmont for 36 years, and continues to juggle her profession with her deep desire to ensure Nicholas's transition away from home is sustainable. Nicholas currently works at the YWCA in the Y-Play Center and is taking courses at Nashville State Community College to earn his certificate in Early Childhood.



TOMMY LEE KIDD

Tommy Lee Kidd lives in Lawrenceburg with his wife, Lesa, and their daughter, Abigail (19). Abigail was born with Down syndrome. Tommy and Lesa have a passion for advocating and supporting people with disabilities and their families. They established Abigail's Plan, a non-profit organization that offers people with disabilities the chance to participate in an organized baseball league. Tommy has served on the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities in several capacities. The Kidd family has also advocated for people with disabilities in Washington, DC as part of the Tennessee delegation on multiple occasions.

KEYNOTE SESSION: CONTINUED



ELISE MCMILLAN - MODERATOR

Elise McMillan, JD, is Director of the Vanderbilt Kennedy University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, a Senior Associate in the VUMC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and VKC Director of Public Policy and Community Engagement. She holds leadership positions with TennesseeWorks, Tennessee Disability Pathfinder, Next Steps at Vanderbilt and the Tennessee Alliance for Inclusive Higher Education. She is past president of the board of The Arc US, The Arc Tennessee and The Arc Davidson County. She and her husband have three adult children including a son with Down syndrome.

LUNCH SPEAKERS



MISTY PARSLEY

Misty Vetter Parsley is the Director of Special Education at Lipscomb University and the Faculty Advisor for the IDEAL program, an inclusive postsecondary education program for students with disabilities. Dr. Parsley serves on the Executive Board of the Southeast Postsecondary Education Alliance and is active in the Tennessee Inclusive Higher Education Alliance.



KATE HEMBY

Kate Hemby is a 2018 graduate of the Lipscomb University IDEAL Program. She works at ABLE in the jewelry packaging department. She lives independently with a roommate and enjoys hanging with friends at work and being a part of her Sunday School class which she named the "Best Class Ever." She is involved with Best Buddies and Young Life.



MEREDITH PORTWOOD

Meredith Portwood is Kate's mom and also has two adult sons, one of whom is a behavioral therapist. She is a hospice liaison for Caris hospice and a graduate of Lipscomb University.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

7:00-8:00 a.m.

Registration

Location: 4th Floor Entrance

8:00-9:20 a.m.

Welcome and Keynote Session

Location: Karl Dean Ballroom (4th Floor)

9:20-9:45 a.m.

Break

9:45-10:45 a.m.

Session Block 1

- 101AB: Supports and Partnerships Tour
- 101C: Ready4Life: Services, Tools, and Resources for Transitioning to Adulthood
- 101D: Getting a Head Start with Vocational Rehabilitation
- 101E: Ready for Work, Ready for Life!
- 102A: Amerigroup Project SEARCH: An Equation for Employment Success
- 102B: Transition Activities in 15 Minutes a Day
- 103A: Designing Meaningful Independent Studies for Students with Disabilities: A New Way to Teach Critical Skills and Self-Monitoring Strategies for Postsecondary Life
- 103B: Self-Advocacy, Transition Planning, and Culturally Inclusive Practices: How to Tie the Knots
- 103C: Improving Postsecondary Outcomes Through Collective Impact

10:45 -11:00 a.m.

Break

11:00-12:00 p.m.

Session Block 2

- 101AB: Supports and Partnerships Tour
- 101C: Real World Outcomes Using the Pre-ETS Model
- 101D: Expanding Work-Based Learning
- 101E: Youth Readiness Days: Getting Students Thinking About Life After High School
- 102A: Student Perspectives on Career Preparation Activities
- 102B: LRE and Decision-Making Into the Age of Majority

- 103A: Supporting Students to Plan for Secondary Transition

- 103B: Thinking Outside the Box: Preparing Students with Disabilities for Competitive Employment

- 103C: The Benefits of a Week-long Summer Readiness Camp to Prepare Young Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for Independent Living, College, and Employment

12:00-1:15 p.m.

Lunch

1:15-2:45 p.m.

Session Block 3

- 101D: Campfire Discussion: Effective Transition in Rural Communities
- 101E: Campfire Discussion: Collaboration Between Schools and Providers of Pre-ETS
- 102A: Campfire Discussion: How Administrators Can Support Transition Programs
- 102B: Campfire Discussion: Family Involvement in Transition Planning
- 103A: Campfire Discussion: Developing Job Opportunities for Students

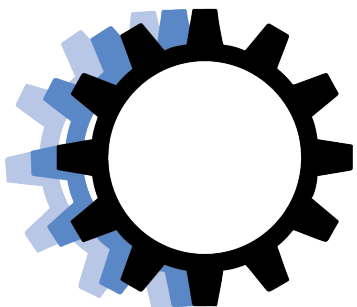
2:45-3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Session Block 4

- 101AB: Supports and Partnerships Tour
- 101C: Community Based Instruction
- 101D: Authentic Compliance with Full Inclusion: Inviting Student- and Family-Led Empathy Training About Disability
- 101E: Preparing for the Future: Connecting the Dots to Services & Supports
- 102A: So What You Are Saying is that College is a POSSIBILITY for My Student with ID?
- 102B: Fostering the Campus Life Community
- 103A: Partnerships to Support Students for Post-Secondary Readiness
- 103B: Planning Your Work and Working Your Plan: A Collaboration to Provide Pre-ETS
- 103C: Yes, Your Student Can Lead Their IEP Team Meetings!



Transition

T E N N E S S E E



EDUCATOR BLUEPRINT



Examples and checklists to support development of strong transition plans



Searchable assessment database to help determine student preferences, interests, strengths, needs, and student present levels



Information on diploma pathways for students, parents, and teachers to assist in the decision-making process

Register online at www.transitiontn.org to gain free access to all available resources.



TransitionTN offers online and in-person resources to prepare transition-age youth with disabilities for life after high school.

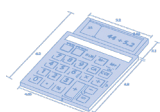
PRE-ETS BLUEPRINT



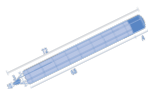
Our website offers professional development tailored to Pre-Employment Transition Services for providers across Tennessee



Current lessons will lead you to a better understanding of why early work experiences matter and provide an in-depth look into Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Pre-Employment Transition Services



Resources and handouts readily available for providers to use with educators, students, families, and employers



Register now for updates on new lessons and supplemental materials coming in 2020

PRE-ETS



**STUDENT
BLUEPRINT
COMING IN
2020**



Supports and Partnerships Tour (101AB)

Connecting students to the services and supports that are available in the community is a crucial part of transitioning your students to life beyond high school. During this session, attendees will get a chance to network with community organizations, agencies, and resources that may help students be successful after high school. Community partners will also share how they can provide support to schools and teachers during the transition process to promote student success.

Presenters:

- Shimul Gajjar, *Vanderbilt University*
- Erin Maves, *Vanderbilt University*

Ready4Life: Services, Tools, and Resources for Transitioning to Adulthood (101C)

This session will be conducted by key personnel from three agencies who work in the area of transition to adulthood. The speakers will provide an overview of the services, tools, and resources they offer, collaboratively, to help youth get Ready4Life.

Presenters:

- Ned Andrew Solomon, *Empower Tennessee*
- Brandon Brown, *Empower Tennessee*
- Karen Harrison, *STEP, Inc.*

Getting a Head Start with Vocational Rehabilitation (101D)

What do students need to know before they apply for Vocational Rehabilitation services? What are their rights in this process? What services are available? Who is eligible? VR helps people get paying, meaningful jobs. Come learn the basics of what your students need to know before they apply for VR Services.

Presenters:

- Susan Bryant, *The Arc Tennessee*
- Loria Hubbard, *The Arc Tennessee*

Ready for Work, Ready for Life! (101E)

As a result of this program, participants will understand the challenges of transitioning from secondary to post-secondary learning program or employment, consider desired elements to ease the successful transition and review options for successful post-secondary transition enabling work and life independence.

Presenters:

- Waneka Johnson, *The Horizons School*

Amerigroup Project SEARCH: An Equation for Employment Success (102A)

Amerigroup Project SEARCH program is an equation for success. The program stacks business-led internships, workplace readiness training and assessments to achieve success in employment for young adults with disabilities. In this session, participants will learn about the program, including how to utilize the Voc Fit Assessment, a valid, reliable and free tool for special educators. This tool can help determine the best fit between a student's abilities and preferences and the job's environmental and occupational demands, creating a perfect job match!

Presenters:

- Stephanie Potter, *Amerigroup*

Transition Activities in 15 Minutes a Day (102B)

Struggling to meet the transition needs of your mainstreamed students? Is the transition page a place of ideals or a working portion of the IEP? Transition Activities in 15 Minutes will reveal how one high school teacher, without aides, teaches transition in her resource room. Learn how to achieve transition goals and create prepared employees, tradesmen, tradeswomen and college students.

Presenters:

- Trish VerMeer, *Ravenna Public Schools*

Designing Meaningful Independent Studies for Students with Disabilities: A New Way to Teach Critical Skills and Self-Monitoring Strategies for Postsecondary Life (103A)

There is evidence to suggest that students with ID have higher employment rates when they are only taught in inclusive settings (Grigal et al., 2019). With the demands educators face, it is challenging to incorporate skill-building curricula that is differentiated and prepares students for postsecondary life. Many educators strive to create natural and novel ways of learning for their students. Educators may ask: How can I help my students prepare for college while in high school within an inclusive setting? Our teaching model shared today focuses on the development of independent studies that are student driven, experiential, and inclusive.

Presenters:

- Lauren Bethune-Dix, *Vanderbilt University*
- Cassandra Hall, *Vanderbilt University*

Self-Advocacy, Transition Planning, and Culturally Inclusive Practices: How to Tie the Knots (103B)



Speaking up for oneself can be daunting in the classroom setting. It can be even more so for students with disabilities who face myriad challenges in school including: cultural biases, stereotype threats, microaggressions, identity crisis, and other barriers. How do we teach students with disabilities to become self-advocates in spite of these challenges? This session will challenge educators to tackle often avoided topics such as equity and bias in the classroom and to empower students with disabilities to better express their needs and to advocate for themselves.

Presenters:

- Melvin Jackson, *UT CLEE*

Improving Postsecondary Outcomes Through Collective Impact (103C)

Transition planning is a critical component of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and serves as means to achieve one of the primary purposes of IDEA...to prepare students for further education, employment, and independent living. Fortunately, schools are not alone in this charge and can partner with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) to improve postsecondary outcomes. This session will provide an overview of how local school districts and VR have aligned measurement outcomes and then briefly discuss how to setup these partnerships.

Presenters:

- Blake Shearer, *Tennessee Department of Human Services*

SESSIONtwo 11:00-12:00

Supports and Partnerships Tour (101AB)

Connecting students to the services and supports that are available in the community is a crucial part of transitioning your students to life beyond high school. During this session, attendees will get a chance to network with community organizations, agencies, and resources that may help students be successful after high school. Community partners will also share how they can provide support to schools and teachers during the transition process to promote student success.

Presenters:

- Shimul Gajjar, *Vanderbilt University*
- Erin Maves, *Vanderbilt University*

Real World Outcomes Using the Pre-ETS Model (101C)

What does transition mean to me in the 'real world'?

We will explore transition services using the Pre-ETS model and provide 'real world' outcomes. Students will discuss how services provided have assisted in their life goals and dreams.

Presenters:

- Ellen Mattingly, *Wilson County Schools*
- Shelley Vanegas, *Sumner County Schools*

Expanding Work-Based Learning (101D)

This session will include how to implement a work-based learning program for students with all abilities to bridge the gap between academics and employment, thus increasing your student's post-secondary success! Discover how to expand your work-based learning sites, work through logistics, as well as how to increase employer engagement with social media. Learn how to use your district's resources to expand your community's knowledge about employing individuals with disabilities.

Presenters:

- Leigh Ellis, *Germantown Municipal School District*
- Rob LeGault, *Germantown Municipal School District*
- Ami Cochran, *Germantown Municipal School District*

Youth Readiness Days: Getting Students Thinking About Life After High School (101E)

This presentation will focus on the skills students need as they transition to adulthood, such as self-advocacy, living more independently, and identifying and communicating about their support needs.

Presenters:

- Ned Andrew Solomon, *Empower Tennessee*

Student Perspectives on Career Preparation Activities (102A)

Next Steps at Vanderbilt is a four-year inclusive higher education program with a post-graduation employment rate of 91%. Vanderbilt students in the Next Steps Class of 2020 will highlight their experiences and perspectives on the career preparation activities and experiences they have completed, while staff connects the students' reflections with tips and ideas for creating similar experiences in high school and transition programs. The students will briefly describe their experiences with job shadowing and industry tours, on-campus internships, employment, and independent studies. Staff will guide the discussion on how to create these meaningful, individualized career preparation activities for a wide range of career interests.

Presenters:

- Megan Vranicar, *Next Steps at Vanderbilt*
- Courtney Nowell, *Next Steps at Vanderbilt*

- Jack Pipkorn, *Next Steps at Vanderbilt*
- Peach Chinratanalab, *Next Steps at Vanderbilt*

LRE and Decision-Making Into the Age of Majority (102B)

IDEA requires an individualized approach to the least restrictive environment for students with disabilities. How do those principles translate in preparing students for further education, employment, and independent living after high school? For many, that transition occurs after the ‘age of majority,’ when the student becomes a legal adult. A recent national report points to a ‘school-to-guardianship pipeline’ as educators and parents navigate this period with incomplete information about the options for helping students make decisions. This session will explore options, resources, and practical tools that extend the individualized, least restrictive approach to supporting students’ decisions as they prepare for life after high school.

Presenters:

- Jolene Sharp, *Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities*
- Emma Shouse Garton, *Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities*
- Carrie Hobbs Guiden, *The Arc Tennessee*
- Robyn Lampley, *Family Member*

Supporting Students to Plan for Secondary Transition (103A)

Supporting students for success in secondary transition is essential to adult outcomes. Including resources to your toolbox on self-determination, self-advocacy, informed choice-making, and planning will help you be prepared to help students prepare for life after school.

Presenters:

- Loria Hubbard, *The Arc Tennessee*
- Susan Bryant, *The Arc Tennessee*

Thinking Outside the Box: Preparing Students with Disabilities for Competitive Employment (103B)

Learn how our district has combined federal grants to create opportunities for students with disabilities to be competitively employed. Within Milan High School’s campus, we have created a fully functional, specialty coffee shop that is managed by our students with special needs. The goal of the Bulldog Cafe was to increase the number of students transitioning from Comprehensive Development Classrooms to positions of paid employment. In partnership with local businesses, community

organizations and state agencies (TSW), we have created personalized career pathways to prepare students with disabilities to be competitive in the local workforce for paid employment.

Presenters:

- Lynn Gonzales, *Milan Special School District*
- Kevin Bryowsky, *Milan Special School District*
- Jonathan Criswell, *Milan Special School District*

The Benefits of a Week-long Summer Readiness Camp to Prepare Young Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for Independent Living, College, and Employment (103C)

The IDEAL program at Lipscomb University developed an annual summer academy for students with ID/DD to experience a week of being on a college campus and to learn and practice skills needed to be successful in inclusive postsecondary education programs. The life skills that the academy focused on have been identified as gap areas for individuals with IDD upon graduating high school and included: career exploration, cooking, social interaction, independent living skills, financial awareness, healthy living skills and community service. Students and parents reported many positive outcomes via pre and post surveys.

Presenters:

- Andrea Pewitt, *Lipscomb University*
- Halle King, *Lipscomb University*

SESSIONthree 1:15-2:45

Campfire Discussion: Effective Transition in Rural Communities (101D)

Focused around a specific topic important to improving transition outcomes for students with disabilities, facilitators will guide a discussion where participants share barriers and brainstorm potential solutions in both large and small groups. This session will focus on effective transition in rural communities.

Facilitators:

- Alison Gauld, *Tennessee Department of Education*

Campfire Discussion: Collaboration Between Schools and Providers of Pre-ETS (101E)

Focused around a specific topic important to improving transition outcomes for students with disabilities, facilitators will guide a discussion where participants share barriers and brainstorm potential



solutions in both large and small groups. This session will focus on collaboration between schools and providers of Pre-ETS.

Facilitators:

- Blake Shearer, *Tennessee Department of Human Services*
- Jessica Awsumb, *Vanderbilt University*

Campfire Discussion: How Administrators Can Support Transition Programs (102A)

Focused around a specific topic important to improving transition outcomes for students with disabilities, facilitators will guide a discussion where participants share barriers and brainstorm potential solutions in both large and small groups. This session will focus on how administrators can support transition programs.

Facilitators:

- Marie Wicks, *Williamson County Schools*

Campfire Discussion: Family Involvement in Transition Planning (102B)

Focused around a specific topic important to improving transition outcomes for students with disabilities, facilitators will guide a discussion where participants share barriers and brainstorm potential solutions in both large and small groups. This session will focus on family involvement in transition planning.

Facilitators:

- Lauren Percy, *Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities*

Campfire Discussion: Developing Job Opportunities for Students with Disabilities (103A)

Focused around a specific topic important to improving transition outcomes for students with disabilities, facilitators will guide a discussion where participants share barriers and brainstorm potential solutions in both large and small groups. This session will focus on developing job opportunities for students with disabilities.

Facilitators:

- Shimul Gajjar, *Vanderbilt University*
- Erin Maves, *Vanderbilt University*

SESSIONfour 3:00-4:00

Supports and Partnerships Tour (101AB)

Connecting students to the services and supports

that are available in the community is a crucial part of transitioning your students to life beyond high school. During this session, attendees will get a chance to network with community organizations, agencies, and resources that may help students be successful after high school. Community partners will also share how they can provide support to schools and teachers during the transition process to promote student success.

Presenters:

- Shimul Gajjar, *Vanderbilt University*
- Erin Maves, *Vanderbilt University*

Community Based Instruction (101C)

Community Based Instruction (CBI) is educational instruction in naturally occurring community environments providing students with real life experiences. The goal is to provide a variety of hands on learning opportunities at all age levels to help students acquire the skills to live in the world today. Dobyms-Bennett High School and Maryville City Schools will show how they incorporate CBI into their daily curriculum with their SLE and WBL students.

Presenters:

- Ben Robertson, *Dobyms-Bennett High School*
- Billy Etter, *Kingsport City Schools*
- Catherine Bledsoe, *Maryville City Schools*

Authentic Compliance with Full Inclusion: Inviting Student- and Family-Led Empathy Training About Disability (101D)

When a student with a disability is part of a school setting, that student may experience isolation even in a general education setting if their peers are uncomfortable about disability. What if those students had a chance to learn about disability from the student who has a disability? In this session, a parent/educator team will talk about their real experience conducting empathy training for the classmates of a 5th grade student who has multiple, complex disabilities and does not communicate with words. After the training, the student felt a higher level of inclusion in that general education classroom.

Presenters:

- Crystal Keel, *Rutherford County Schools*
- Alison Bynum, *Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities*
- Emma Shouse Garton, *Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities*

Preparing for the Future: Connecting the Dots to Services & Supports (101E)

Transitions can be difficult for anyone, but they can be particularly daunting for students with disabilities and their families. Attend this session to learn how Tennessee Disability Pathfinder and Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities assist students, families, and educators in addressing transition needs. Presenters will provide valuable information about finding community resources, navigating to services, seeking educational and employment opportunities, and considering alternatives to conservatorship.

Presenters:

- Megan Hart, *Tennessee Disability Pathfinder*
- Lauren Percy, *Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities*

So What You Are Saying is that College is a POSSIBILITY for My Student with ID? (102A)

Lipscomb University IDEAL program will present a session on the possibilities of college for students with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities. Too often families and teachers don't believe that college is a possibility for their student and therefore do not prepare them appropriately. This session will show that not only is college a possibility but also the ways to prepare students to be successful when they get there.

Presenters:

- Andrea Pewitt, *Lipscomb University*
- Halle King, *Lipscomb University*

Fostering the Campus Life Community (102B)

Research points to peer support interventions as an effective response to promoting ongoing inclusion (Carter et al., 2005) within schools. With the structural, academic, and support demands of middle and high school programs, teachers and administrators encounter challenges creating immediate and broader peer-mediated support networks and communities for students with disabilities. Our campus life model at Next Steps at Vanderbilt seeks to foster peer-to-peer connectivity through a person-centered, naturalistic, and community-based support system that expands student opportunity at a college campus.

Presenters:

- Sean Skillern, *Next Steps at Vanderbilt*
- Eve Moll, *Next Steps at Vanderbilt*
- Andre Carter, *Next Steps at Vanderbilt*

Partnerships to Support Students for Postsecondary Readiness (103A)

TennCare would like to explore partnership

opportunities to support students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including graduation readiness, transitional periods, and post-secondary opportunities. Our desire is to better understand your experiences in serving these students, and we would appreciate your insights, including ways we may explore further dialogue or partnership opportunities. Representatives from TennCare will provide an update on the Employment and Community First CHOICES program followed by a facilitated discussion with educators on opportunities to jointly support these students.

Presenters:

- Stephanie Gibbs, *TennCare*
- Matt Brown, *Employment and Community First CHOICES*
- Shannon Nahus, *Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*

Planning Your Work and Working Your Plan: A Collaboration to Provide Pre-ETS (103B)

Have you heard about Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)? Are you looking for ways to begin and/or improve the Pre-ETS provided in your school district. This session will feature a local school district, a community rehab provider, and a Vocational Rehabilitation team member to provide guidance on how they developed their plan to provide Pre-ETS and the implementation process.

Presenters:

- Gregg Pennington, *Tennessee Department of Human Services*
- Lynise Parisien, *Jobwise*
- Marie Wicks, *Williamson County Schools*

Yes, Your Student Can Lead Their IEP Team Meetings! (103C)

Students across the country have been leading their IEP Team Meetings with evidence-based supports. Come hear a student tell about his experience leading his meeting, learn about a successful pilot project, hear how a teacher is making it happen with his students and learn about the family's role in the process.

Presenters:

- Tyler Lisowski, *Metro Nashville Public Schools*
- Guice Smith, *Metro Nashville Public Schools*
- Loria Hubbard, *The Arc Tennessee*
- Jennifer Aprea, *The Arc Tennessee*

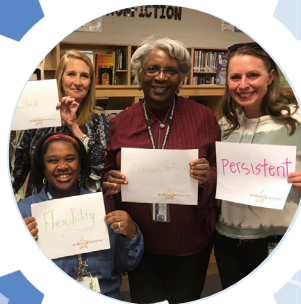


JOIN A LOCAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Learn more about best practices in transition, share ideas, and connect with peers in your district and other districts. Learn practical strategies to streamline the transition process with innovative ideas to improve student outcomes for young people with disabilities in your district. Educators will meet a few times a year for a 90-minute session during or after school.

This year, we are focusing on topics related to self-determination. There is opportunity to earn 1.5 hours of professional development credit per meeting pending district approval.

If you are interested in joining a COP, email Shimul Gajjar at shimul.a.gajjar@vanderbilt.edu to find out if there is one in your area!



THANK YOU TO OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DISTRICTS

We have the opportunity to support sixteen school districts across the state to improve their transition programming. By collecting data from various stakeholders in the schools and communities, and by holding community events, we have been able to target the needs for each of these districts to help them implement best practices to improve outcomes for young people with disabilities. Through this process we have written guides on creating transition advisory boards, implementing parent nights, compiling a community resource map, and more. We have also created a series of tip sheets for parents that are seeking more information on specific topics within transition. Thank you to the following districts for being part of our technical assistance:

- Bedford County School District
- Bristol Tennessee City Schools
- DeKalb County School District
- Germantown Municipal School District
- Greene County Schools
- Hamilton County Schools
- Houston County School District
- Lincoln County Schools
- Macon County Schools
- Maryville City Schools
- Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Rhea County Schools
- Roane County Schools
- Sequatchie County Schools
- Tipton County Schools
- Williamson County Schools

TUNE INTO UPCOMING WEBCASTS

Our monthly webcasts provide additional avenues for educators and other stakeholders to learn how to implement best practices in transition. Each month, we feature an expert speaker sharing their knowledge and expertise in the field of transition. Webcasts can be found at: transitiontn.org/webcasts. Spring and summer topics include:

- The importance of voting and civic engagement for the disability community
- Career technical education (CTE) programs that include students with disabilities
- Transition apps
- Summer Pre-ETS camps
- Dating and relationships
- Inclusive higher education
- Transportation



TENNESSEWORKS EMPLOYMENT SUMMIT

THINK EMPLOYMENT! 2020



Visit www.tennesseeworks.org/summit for more information.

These annual regional summits bring together individuals with disabilities, family members, educators, providers, vocational rehabilitation professionals, and employers with the goal of sharing best practices and building community partnerships to improve employment outcomes for Tennesseans with disabilities.

Our first regional summit was held on December 3 in Knoxville. The Memphis Think Employment! Regional Summit will be held on March 30, 2020 at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center.

These regional summits are a partnership among UT CLEE, the Knoxville Area Employment Consortium, UTHSC Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities, Vanderbilt University, and the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center.

Follow TransitionTN on Social Media



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@tn_transition



@Transition_TN

Share Your Story At Our Photo Booth!

Today, we want to hear from you! During the conference, please stop by our Passport Photo Booth where we would like you to answer one of the questions provided below.

We'll take a professional portrait or film a brief clip of you answering your question. Throughout the year, these photos and videos will be utilized in videos on TransitionTN's website and social media channels.

We want to take this opportunity to recognize everyone for their work and share your insights with others around the state. Please use the cards on your seats to fill out your name and a short answer to one of the following questions.

- **As an educator, PRE-ETS provider or parent, what does success look like for your students? / Can you share a previous success?**
- **What are three words you would use to describe the transition process?**
- **What is your vision for your students to develop into strong self-advocates?**

