

TENNESSEWORKS KNOXVILLE EMPLOYMENT SUMMIT THINK EMPLOYMENT! 2019

This summit is committed
to elevating employment
outcomes for Tennesseans
with disabilities.

www.tennesseeworks.org/summit

Transforming
the Employment
Landscape



WELCOME STATEMENT



Welcome to the Knoxville Think Employment! Summit!

The Think Employment! Summit is your opportunity to learn with educators, service providers, VR staff, families, employers, partners in government, and people with disabilities about best practices and to build community partnerships. We're excited to have a day of innovative breakout sessions focused on improving employment outcomes for Tennesseans with disabilities, with a specific focus on transition-age youth.

This year we are extremely grateful to have been part of an extended partnership comprised of the University of Tennessee Center for Literacy, Education, & Employment, the Knoxville Area Employment Consortium, UTHSC Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities, Vanderbilt University, and the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center.

If you haven't already, be sure to check out the online platform transitiontn.org, a unique online resource designed to equip educators 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.

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



 @TransitionTN
 @tn_transition



CENTER FOR LITERACY,
EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

 @CLEEINFO
 @CLEEINFO



 @VanderbiltKennedyCenter
 @Vanderbilt_KC



BOLING CENTER FOR
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

 @BolingCenterForDevelopmentalDisabilities
 @boling_ut



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



MOLLY RIDGEWAY ANDERSON

Molly Ridgeway Anderson grew up in Florence, Alabama. She attended Maryville College where she graduated in 2018 with a bachelor’s degree in child development. In 2017, Molly co-authored and successfully lobbied for legislation that allowed American Sign Language to be an accepted foreign language in Tennessee high schools. Molly is currently working towards a master’s degree in political management from The George Washington University. Molly works as a Project SEARCH Manager at The Access Program.

CORE SERVICES OF NORTHEAST TENNESSEE

Core Services is a provider agency for adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Across the country shrinking financial resources combined with a nationwide shortage of Direct Support Professionals clearly identifies a need for a more effective service model that is person centered and promotes independence. In 2018 Core Services jumped on an opportunity to partner with the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and technology vendors in an Enabling Technology test project. Through participation in the Tennessee project Nick Filarelli and Susan Arwood have witnessed firsthand and will share their experience regarding the power of technology to promote independence in both the workplace and home. The end result has been self-determined, happy individuals and a model that can be promoted with youth as they transition from high school to the role of working adult.

Susan Arwood, Executive Director of Core Services of Northeast Tennessee, has 35 years of experience supporting persons with disabilities in leading self-directed lives. This includes a thirty -year career with the Tennessee Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Nick Filarelli, Program Director at Core Services of Northeast Tennessee, has spent the past 12 years as a Direct Support Professional, Weekend Coordinator and most recently, Program Director. First entering the field with an agency whose program philosophy was to shelter and protect, Nick has had a front row view of the difference in the quality of life when individuals direct their own lives.



MORNING SESSIONS

The Importance of Work

Research has shown that students who have work experience while in high school are much more likely to be successfully employed after graduation. This session will explore ways educators can develop structured work placements for students while they are in high school.

Target Audience: Educators

Location: 400A

Presenters:

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

Pre-ETS in East Tennessee: A Self-Reflection and Strategy Building Workshop

Join us for an engaging training focused on strengthening Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for students with disabilities in middle and high school in East Tennessee. We will discuss Transition Tennessee's collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Human Services, the Pre-ETS and student Blueprints, and the results from the statewide needs assessment. We will work together to understand the successes and challenges in delivering Pre-ETS in East Tennessee, as well as solutions and next steps. This will be a chance to participate in a self-reflection and strategy building activity, as well as to exchange ideas with other providers of Pre-ETS.

Target Audience: Pre-ETS Providers/VR Staff

Location: 406

Presenters:

- Jessica Awsumb, Vanderbilt University
- Wendi Gearing, Vanderbilt University
- Jena Galster, Vanderbilt University
- Ben Schwartzman, Vanderbilt University

Supported Decision Making And Your Career

Supported decision-making and your career: this session

will cover how young adults can use support from friends, family and professionals to help them make their own decisions about jobs and a future career – and why learning how to make your own decisions is important.

Target Audience: Self-Advocates/Families

Location: 403

Presenters:

- Lauren Percy, Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Self-Advocacy in the Workplace

People with disabilities need to decide whether or not to disclose information about their disability to their employer. This session will discuss laws and issues surrounding workplace disclosure, in addition to ways to teach students to advocate for their needs successfully.

Target Audience: Educators

Location: 400A

Presenters:

- Shimul Gajjar, Vanderbilt University
- Erin Maves, Vanderbilt University
- Ben Robertson, Dobyons-Bennett High School

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The Many Roads to Employment: My Job Search Journey

People with disabilities want to have meaningful employment just like anyone else. And, just like everyone else, there is no magic bullet for finding a job. Each person's employment journey is unique. Join us for a panel discussion of self-advocates and families members as they share their job search journeys and offer tips for others on the road to meaningful employment!

Target Audience: Self-Advocates/Families

Location: 403



TransitionTN Conference

Passport to the Future



in conjunction with Partners in Education (PIE)

Statewide Special Education conference

Nashville, TN

January 27th, 2020