

WINTER  
2020



QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

North Carolina  
Post Secondary Education Alliance

## Panel on UNC Summer Skills Camp

The HEELS Summer Intensive program at UNC-Chapel Hill is an innovative, interdisciplinary, transition skills camp for youths with ID. The week-long program includes skill-building for self-management, community safety, career exploration, and independent living skills. Next summer the program will be known as HEELS Prep. Panel presenters described the program:

**Dara Chan**, Assistant Professor, Division of Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, Dept of Allied Health Sciences, reported on strategies to help participants make career decisions and engage in career exploration by completing various picture-based career interest inventories to help them discover interests. Participants were encouraged to compare their dream job with current skills, and map out mini-goals and action steps. They worked on building a resume, designed a LinkedIn profile, and practiced discussing their experiences.

**Glenna Osborne**, Director of Transition Services at TEACCH, and **McCafferty S. Kerman**, CIDD Advocacy Faculty, discussed adapted tools from the TEACCH School Transition to Employment and Postsecondary Education (T-STEP) program, which focuses on how to organize, be safe, set goals, think about the future, and build independence. T-STEP offers skills important for "adulting" and are taught through scenarios, role-plays, and interactive discussion.

**Susan Lombardo**, Transition Consultant, and **Anna Colman**, IPSE graduate and former LEND Trainee in Advocacy, provided a demonstration of Full Power Tools For Personal Safety. Kid Power, Teen Power, and Full Power are programs that offer information and skill-building to help stop bullying, to empower individuals, and to teach healthy boundaries for physical and emotional safety. The goal is to teach individuals of all ages, beliefs, and abilities to take charge of their safety. One example of skill-building includes the Boundary Principles for All Ages poster, which can be downloaded free [www.kidpower.org/boundary-and-consent-posters](http://www.kidpower.org/boundary-and-consent-posters).

**Jennifer Diliberto**, Clinical Associate Professor of Special Education at UNC, reported that feedback from Summer Skills Camp participants and families indicated they would like overnight experiences as part of the program, which will be piloted this summer as HEELS Prep. Program outcomes will continue to be assessed through participant, staff, and family surveys and a focus group. HEELS Prep will admit 10 students for summer 2020; applications are due April 17.



Anna Colman, McCafferty S. Kerman, and Susan Lombardo

Applications will be available at [wwwheels2transition.cidd.unc.edu/](http://wwwheels2transition.cidd.unc.edu/)

# Free Virtual NC College Fair

March 31, 2020, at 11am

Start your college search with this informational panel  
about Inclusive College Opportunities!

Appalachian State  
University

Western Carolina  
University

*Are you a student with an IEP, a special educator,  
transition facilitator, or a parent?*

There is a place for students with  
an IEP in colleges across the state.

UNC Greensboro

Guilford Technical  
Community College

Cleveland  
Community College

Contact Daniel Earixson ([eari0001@ad.unc.edu](mailto:eari0001@ad.unc.edu)) to register for the link to  
attend this FREE virtual College Fair and please include "College Fair" in the  
subject line. Please register by March 24, 2020.

Wake Technical  
Community College

Alamance  
Community College

*If you are unavailable to attend, a recording of the  
college fair will be available afterwards, please register to receive the link.*



Dan Earixson and Angelia Lightfoot announced a new event to disseminate information about IPSE opportunities: The first NC Virtual College Fair (VCF) will be filmed live on Tuesday, March 31 at 11am, just prior to the Spring IPSEA meeting. The VCF will be archived on the NC PSEA website for later viewing, too. A brief follow-up survey after the VCF will gather input from viewers.

**Please share VCF emails with your networks!**

# Team Report: IPSE Visibility in NC

**Angelia Lightfoot**, IDD Consultant with the NC DHHS Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services; **Lisa Pluff**, Director of Beyond Academics at UNCG; **Dan Earixson**, Doctoral Student and LEND Transition Trainee; and **Deb Zuver**, CIDD Education Consultant and IPSE Alliance facilitator, have been working on a strategic plan to increase IPSE visibility in NC:

**Angelia Lightfoot** reviewed input provided by Fall IPSEA meeting participants regarding disseminating information to stakeholders, sharing testimonials from former students about their experiences, and gathering and sharing data on program completion and employment outcomes. Angelia has plans for an interactive poll to gather additional input for the Visibility Plan.

**Dan Earixson** previewed the new NC PSEA website ([www.cidd.unc.edu/psea](http://www.cidd.unc.edu/psea)) with an updated program information grid. The team welcomes input on the updated webpage. **See Page 2** for info regarding a very exciting event, the first NC **Virtual College Fair (VCF)**.

IPSEA attendees brainstormed strategies for disseminating information about the NC Virtual College Fair. If you have contacts and/or networks for those listed below, please forward VCF info emails to them. Your endorsement makes a difference!

## Your strategies for spreading this information include:

- ⇒ Reach Exceptional Children directors, high-school/middle-schools guidance counselors, Vocational Rehab counselors
- ⇒ NC-Division of Career Development and Transition
- ⇒ Local news/newsletter listings
- ⇒ NC Council on DD website, social media feed, newsletter
- ⇒ Invite school systems to view this activity as a “Lunch and Learn” activity in high school; LEAs and parent listservs
- ⇒ Forward to key organizations (the Arc, ECAC, Easter Seals, First in Families)
- ⇒ Share with Allied Health Care Professionals who see transition-age youth; LME-MCOs
- ⇒ Think College local listservs
- ⇒ Community settings: post flyers to reach target audience: Chapel Hill Special Treats store; grocery stores, coffee shops, other businesses employing people with disabilities)

And - if everyone is willing to share some contacts, IPSEA can gather information for a future listserv, too.

**Lisa Pluff**, director of Beyond Academics at UNCG, shared tips for showcasing IPSE programs and identifying what makes each program unique. Suggestions include using Think College resource, *Conducting A College Search: Questions to Ask College Programs* to consider specific program features that are important to highlight. This will help students determine if your program is the right fit for them (e.g., program length, academics, program size, costs, housing, program specifics, inclusivity, what supports look like, student expectations after graduation, outcome info).[https://thinkcollege.net/sites/default/files/files/resources/Conducting\\_College\\_Search\\_HTC1v2.pdf](https://thinkcollege.net/sites/default/files/files/resources/Conducting_College_Search_HTC1v2.pdf)

**Deb Zuver** offered a reminder that the IPSEA represents many networks and state-wide communities with a common agenda of increasing IPSE across NC. This “collective impact” approach is a powerful tool for awareness and visibility. She emphasized our multiple opportunities for reaching students, teachers, transition facilitators, families, employers, agencies, organizations, and community colleges. Reaching those who will want to view our FIRST annual VCF means a big step to increase VISIBILITY for IPSE in NC! **Please forward the flyer and info WIDELY.**



**Angelia Lightfoot**

# Updates and Developments Across NC

**Anna Ward**, Director of the Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program (SDAP) at Appalachian State University, reported that she and SDAP student **Clay Medlock** were selected by Think College to attend the Disability Policy Seminar as advocates for IPSE. Additionally, SDAP conversations regarding dual enrollment have commenced with Watauga County Schools.

**Kenneth Kelty**, Former LEND Trainee and WCU UP Program Graduate, reported he will travel to Washington, DC for the Disability Policy Seminar in March. He will also travel to Ireland to visit Trinity College and to Salzburg to present at an international IPSE conference.

**Robyn Dorton**, Self-Advocate Trainer at the CIDD, announced that the NC Empowerment Network, a state-level self-advocacy group, is working on creating a membership booklet to share information regarding their organization.



**Jennifer Diliberto and Dara Chan**

opportunities to students with disabilities to help them gain employment after high school. Intern rotations include food service, material management, and patient transport. Students can apply through Novant Health. Additionally, the NCCC System office is working with Cansler Collaborative Resources to conduct focus groups across the state with community college directors to identify gaps in services for students with ID. Results will be compiled and work groups will assess programs currently offered and determine how services can be delivered more efficiently across programs. **Jannai Johnson**, Best Practice Analyst with the Career and College Readiness Office, will work closely on this effort.

**Natasha Ford**, Lead Instructor, Guilford Technical Community College Power Pathways Program announced the third year offering the Food Service Pathway. Graduates of the program have successfully passed food service exams and secured employment in restaurants and other settings. Future Pathways Programs include horticulture and hospitality.

**Ruth Thomson**, Resource and Referral Specialist at the UNC TEACCH Program, received a request from **Noah Long**, photojournalism student at UNC at Chapel Hill who is autistic. He is looking for 2-3 individuals on the spectrum who are willing to be photographed and share information regarding challenges and successes they face. Contact Noah at [noahcarl@live.unc.edu](mailto:noahcarl@live.unc.edu).

**McCafferty S. Kermon**, LEND Advocacy Faculty at the CIDD, announced that LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) is recruiting a trainee in Advocacy for 2020-2021. Other trainees include family advocates and UNC students interested in a profession working with individuals with disabilities. The ideal candidate is a strong self-advocate interested in increasing their leadership skills and experience. For info, contact McCafferty at [mccafferty@cidd.unc.edu](mailto:mccafferty@cidd.unc.edu)

**Trudie Hughes**, with the NC Community College System Office, reported that Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center, Brunswick CC, and Brunswick County Schools are partnering to offer internship

# Updates and Developments Across NC

**Mara Lewis**, LEND Advocacy Trainee and graduate of the SDAP program, shared that she visited UNCG to speak to students and conduct activities in their advocacy course. Surveys were administered to the students and results indicated the vast majority of students enjoyed learning about speaking up for themselves, rights and responsibilities, and participating in group activities. Students were invited to provide input on ideas for future presentations.

**The Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance (SEPSEA) Capacity Building Institute** takes place May 21-22, 2020 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Early-bird registration is now available through [www.sepsea.org](http://www.sepsea.org). The NC PSEA Visibility team has applied to present.

**The 2020 NC Division on Career Development and Transition (NC-DCDT) Transition Conference** is coming up April 22-24 in Greensboro, NC with the theme, *25 Years of Climbing to the Top: Reaching Transition Goals One Peak at a Time*. For information and to register visit <http://necdct.org/>

**Deb Zuver**, NC IPSE Alliance facilitator, will move on from UNC when she retires at the end of this semester. A part-time position for the Inclusion and Advocacy portion of Deb's role will be posted soon. Deb will work with the new recruit for a smooth transition. Please refer candidates who may have interest and experience in this field.



A HEELS UP summer session pilot at UNC at Chapel Hill with 2 to 4 participants is expected to move forward this summer.

**Please save the date for our Spring Quarterly PSEA Meeting:**

**Tuesday, March 31, 12-3pm.**

The meeting will be held at the CIDD and a light lunch will be provided.

**Come Early for the NC Virtual College Fair taking place at the CIDD at 11am!**

**See flyer Page 2 and share with networks**

