

# NCPSEA News



Accessibility ID: Community College professionals pictured in front of a SOTA sign.

## Hello, North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance (NCPSEA)!

We are thrilled to update you with North Carolina-specific content, including Inclusive Post-Secondary Education programs (IPSE), collaborative efforts, and tools that can help disabled individuals with their transition to adulthood. We appreciate your dedication to fostering inclusive spaces for all students, both with and without disabilities. Please join us for our quarterly meeting on January 15th at 3:30pm!

In this November 2024 newsletter, we will be covering important community news, sharing updates from Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance (SEPSEA), a form for our yearly contact list update, current action planning tools, and introducing new programs in North Carolina. We hope that this information will empower current IPSE's, inspire new initiatives, and equip young adults with disabilities with the resources they need for their transition to adulthood.

Thank you for your continuous support and contributions. Enjoy the newsletter!  
-Anna Ward, CIDD & Isabella Russo, MSW Intern-

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# Community News

Last month, the **SOTA Conference** sponsored by Syracuse University Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education, held in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was yet another success! First, on October 28th, 37 colleges were represented at the inclusive college fair. The community college scene in particular has significantly grown, and their presence was felt. On October 29th and 30th, we had over 400 conference attendees from across the United States, and even people from around the world. Conference speakers included faculty and staff from postsecondary education initiatives, parents, self-advocates, and other experts-sharing effective practices and leading group discussions. There was also a parallel **Student Leadership Conference** (SLC) that brought current and prospective college students into the conversation with opportunities to learn useful tools for the transition to college life, expand their skills as student advocates and leaders, and meet peers from across the country. Together, through both conferences, we raised \$2500 for schools affected by Hurricane Helene in Western Carolina. Thank you to everyone who joined us for SOTA or SLC! The 2025 SOTA location has been announced: **Syracuse, New York. Tues and Wed Oct 21-22, 2025**. Hope you can join us next year!



Accessibility ID: WCU's Up Program table at the Inclusive college fair.



Accessibility ID: Student pane at the SLC.

## Yearly Contact List update:

To increase stakeholder awareness and accessibility of programs, we conduct a yearly contact list update. If you are the contact person for an inclusive program, please fill out the form below if you have not already done so!



<https://forms.gle/Keg9TbRqbixvHTx37>

## WTNC Action Planning Tools

Work Together NC (WTNC) has created accessible action planning tools to aid in planning for the transition to adulthood. The goal is for these tools to be utilized collaboratively by persons with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD), family members, IEP team members, and/or an adult service providers. The first category is about what opportunities are available after high school. This includes action plans on employment, postsecondary education, and community living. The second category includes topics that address transitioning smoothly to adulthood.

This includes action plans on healthcare, adult services, financial well-being, transportation, and IEP. The final category includes action plans on topics like self advocacy and supported decision making/guardianship.

Search available opportunities for  
people with intellectual and  
developmental disabilities in NC



**Work Together NC**

*Possibility to Opportunity*

Visit [worktogethernc.com](https://worktogethernc.com)

Your one-stop resource hub for navigating the  
transition to adulthood

## SEPSEA Updates:

The annual **SEPSEA** conference will be in Asheville on **May 21st-23rd, 2025**. SEPSEA is supporting Asheville with their conference as they continue to recover from Hurricane Helene. This conference will include topics such as **accessibility**, **IPSE programming**, **campus & community life**, **transition across the lifespan**, and **much more**. The deadline to submit proposals is **12/15** (use the qr code below).



<https://go.unc.edu/i6J9D>



## Access to Achievement

Access to Achievement is an inclusive post-secondary initiative within the NC Community College System that creates accessible educational pathways for individuals with IDD across the state. These opportunities create a pathway to education and economic mobility for students with IDD in the community college setting that empowers them to achieve independence, gain workforce skills, and participate fully in their communities. The Access to Achievement program was implemented this past year at 15 community colleges across the state and has provided services to over 325 students, with 150 students receiving ongoing services through person-centered planning and advising. If you would like more information about Access to Achievement or would like to know which community colleges have implemented the program, please contact the System Office staff at [access@NCcommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:access@NCcommunitycolleges.edu).



## Inclusive Program Deadlines:

**UNC Chapel Hill - HEELS UP** (new program!)

- Fall 2025 applications due on **1/6/25**

**UNC Wilmington - IFP** (new program!)

- Fall 2025 applications due on **3/1/25**

**App State - SDAP**

- Fall 2025 applications will start being reviewed **12/1/2024** and continue until slots are filled

**NC State - Elevate** ((new program!)

- Fall 2025 applications will open in **early 2025**

**WCU - UP**

- Fall 2025 applications due on **12/1/24**

**UNC Greensboro - ICS**

- Fall 2025 applications due on **12/1/2024**

**Wingate - Julia's Learning**

- Fall 2025 applications due on **12/20/24**

## NCDCDT Spring Conference:

Registration link



<https://forms.gle/gv9zyWG3JWpvGU9eA>

Call for Presentations Link



<https://forms.gle/FgJtJy77McZYM9bo9>

Reservations



[Embassy Suites](#)

**Want more information or to be included in the next edition of the newsletter?**

Email [ncpsea@cidd.unc.edu](mailto:ncpsea@cidd.unc.edu)