

About Project 10 E-News

Project 10 E-News provides short information summaries and resource links related to secondary transition. Have a question? Want to find or recommend a resource? Have some great news to share? Send us an email at project10@stpete.usf.edu, and we'll take it from there!

News from Around the State

VISIONS XIX is Underway!

Over 200 people have registered for VISIONS XIX, "212 Degrees: Making the Difference in Transition," beginning May 2, 2012, at the Renaissance International Plaza Hotel in Tampa. Registration includes opening and closing sessions, upgraded continental breakfasts, the Florida DCDT Awards Luncheon and the President's Reception. A preconference session for Project 10 CONNECT site coordinators is also offered.

Parent Information Resource Centers (PIRCs)

Parent Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs) help implement successful and effective parental involvement policies, programs, and activities that lead to improvements in student academic achievement and that strengthen partnerships among parents, teachers, principals, administrators, and other school personnel in meeting the education needs of children. Section 5563 of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA) requires the recipients of PIRC grants to serve both rural and urban areas; use at least half their funds to serve areas with high concentrations of low-income children; and use at least 30 percent of the funds they receive for early childhood parent programs.

(The above information was excerpted from the National PIRC Coordination Center's website at <http://www.nationalpirc.org/pircs/index.html>.)

There are two PIRCs serving the state of Florida:

- Florida PIRC at the University of South Florida (USF), <http://www.floridapartnership.usf.edu/>; and
- Florida PIRC of the Family Network on Disabilities (FND), <http://www.fndusa.org/>

Regional News

Northwest Region 1

Dr. Lori Garcia, lorigarcia@mail.usf.edu

- This month's focus is the Standing Up For Me (SUFM) curriculum. The first regional train-the-trainer session was held at FDLRS Miccosukee on March 14, 2012. There were 16 people in attendance with representation from eight districts and all three of the FDLRS locations serving Region 1 (FDLRS Miccosukee in Tallahassee, FDLRS/PAEC in Chipley, and FDLRS/Westgate in Pensacola).
- Region 1 was most fortunate to have Elizabeth Cooper, one of the original authors of the SUFM curriculum serve as co-trainer. Her time and vast knowledge were deeply appreciated in developing self-determination skills for our students! Many thanks to those who attended and especially to FDLRS Miccosukee including Catie McRae, Director, and Beth Williams, Transition Contact/Parent Services for their great facilities and hospitality.
- Finally, Project 10 is working closely with Rusty Holmes, FDLRS/PAEC, to provide a local train-the-trainer session in Chipley. So **"Save the Date" for a local SUFM Train-the-Trainer on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 at FDLRS/PAEC.** Each participant will receive a Train-the-Trainer Manual and Curriculum. More information on how to register will be forthcoming.

Northeast Region 2

Patrick Mulvihill, pmulvihill@mail.usf.edu

- The Disability Resource Center at the University of North Florida is pleased to announce its third annual **Transition to College Seminar** on June 22, 2012. The seminar will provide helpful information to high school students with disabilities who graduate with a Standard Diploma and plan to enroll in a degree-seeking program at a college or university. Additional information will be provided at the end of the seminar to students with ASD and their families about the new THRIVE program available at UNF. Seminar information and a link to the reservation form can be found at <http://www.unf.edu/drc/rsvp>. **RSVP deadline is Monday, June 18, 2012.**
- Congratulations to the Volusia County Transition Team for hosting their most successful Transition Fair yet! Over 270 attendees attended the event at Atlantic High School in Port Orange. Activities included informational sessions, displays from many community agencies, and several school-based enterprises promoting their products.
- Warmest regards to Jan McLain and Linda Davidson who will retire at the end of this school year. Jan is currently the Program Administrator for FDLRS/NEFEC and has been very supportive of transition activities in the region. Linda Davidson, FDLRS/East, is

News from Around the State—continued

Both PIRCs offer a number of programs and services including workshops, parent information networks, secondary transition mini-conferences, and more. Please check out their websites and get to know your PIRCs! In addition to the two statewide PIRCs, there are two regional parent centers:

- Central Florida Parent Center serving Central and Northeast Florida, <http://www.cflparents.org/>
- Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc., serving Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, <http://www.ptopmiami.org/>

Quality Individual Educational Plan (QIEP) Train the Trainer

QIEP train-the-trainer sessions will be taking place across the state, five in total, during the month of May 2012. These events will provide an opportunity to update current QIEP trainers with the latest information, while enabling districts and Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Centers the chance to secure additional trainers. The trainings will be conducted by Dr. Marty Beech with the Accommodations and Modifications for Students with Disabilities Project, in collaboration with FDLRS. Delivering QIEP training remains a FDLRS Associate Center priority.

Professional Development Portal for Exceptional Student Educators

A Professional Development (PD) Portal for Exceptional Student Educators has been created by the Florida Center for Interactive Media (FCIM) at Florida State University (FSU) to help make professional development more accessible to Florida's educators, thus enhancing the education of students with disabilities in Florida. The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS) discretionary projects that provide training or facilitate training events have posted their state and regional training events on the portal. The portal includes a description and contact information for each state or regional training event. Access the PD Portal at <http://pdportal.florida-ese.org>. (Excerpted from the 4/20/12 *BEESS Weekly Memo*)

BEESS Weekly Memo

Are you receiving your weekly dose of "The Buzz" from the Florida Department of Education Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS)? *The Buzz*, also known as the *BEESS Weekly Memo* is an informational email sent each Friday by Monica Verra-Tirado, Ed.D., the BEESS Bureau Chief. If you would like to be added to the *BEESS Weekly* email list, please contact Tanya Baumgartner at tanya.baumgartner@fldoe.org.

Northeast Region 2 - continued

Patrick Mulvihill, pmulvihill@mail.usf.edu

their transition contact and site coordinator for the Project 10 *CONNECT* Interagency Council serving Volusia County. Best wishes also to Darrell Cooper from Duval County who retired earlier this year. Darrell served as Duval's Transition Specialist and was instrumental in the formation of their Project 10 *CONNECT* Interagency Council, JAX 10 *CONNECT*.

- The Flagler County Transition Team will be holding its annual Transition/Agency Fair in conjunction with ACCESS Flagler, a monthly event sponsored by the Flagler County Chamber of Commerce. The joint event will be held on June 1, 2012 at the Flagler County Fair Grounds. Contact Kim Halliday (hallidayk@flaglerschools.com) or Diane Bixler (bixlerd@flaglerschools.com) for more information.

East Central Region 3

Heather Mack, hmack1@mail.usf.edu

- St. Lucie County will present at VISIONS XIX to share the crosswalk for its Career Preparation Course, School Based Enterprise, and Access Points. Participants will also learn how to develop their own document. The presenters are Lesa Kitzmiller of St. Lucie County, Bennett Buckles of Project ACCESS and Heather Mack of Project 10.
- Project DISCOVER and Martin County are producing a video showcasing a home visit and the gathering of pertinent information for the Discovery process. They are working with On-Line Video Design, Inc. to provide a professional product that will be shared throughout the state. Willa Tyler is the contract manager of the Discovery project.
- Seminole County continues to work diligently to begin implementation of Project SEARCH. They anticipate an opening date of either September 2012 or January 2013. Many thanks to Mary Ann Kaesberg for all of her efforts.
- Orange County is working to develop more off-site High School Transition Sites. Cannon Cameron is leading that charge.
- Many districts are beginning to train their personnel on the *Standing up For Me* curriculum. Polk County will train teachers on May 16, 2012. It will also host *Quality IEP* training May 15 for FDLRS trainers.
- Four districts in Region 3 are in the process of developing an Interagency Council Consortium. St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee and Indian River share many of the same agency personnel and are trying to streamline the processes for all four districts. Lesa Kitzmiller of St. Lucie County is leading the effort.

West Central Region 4

Federico Valadez, fvaladez@mail.usf.edu

- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) and the Family Care Council (FCC) will host a Forum from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, May 12, 2012, in the Wildwood Community Center. Mike Hansen, the APD State Director will speak, as will a 'team' from the iBudget committee. APD Area 13 includes five counties (Citrus, Hernando, Sumter, Marion and Lake). Several other agencies that provide services to students and adults with disabilities will participate.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) Update

The “In the Spotlight” section of the APD website at <http://www.apd.myflorida.com/> contains a number of interesting links including radio and video discussions of the agency’s programs and future plans, iBudgetFlorida, an overview of the 2012 legislative session by APD Director Mike Hansen, and information on APD’s recently implemented residential fee collection as a cost containment initiative

Consortium News

The Florida Consortium on Postsecondary Education and Intellectual Disabilities has been busy updating its website with valuable resources for existing TPSID programs and developing Postsecondary Transition Programs throughout Florida. The Consortium’s goal is to have as many useful resources on the website as possible for its program partners. Educators, students, and parents can go to www.fltpsid.info and click on Shared Resources to find federal and state guidelines, insight and suggestions from other programs, Memoranda of Understanding from government agencies, and a variety of helpful tips and suggestions. The website also includes support for career and employment skills, community engagement, curriculum and technology needs, financial aid guidelines, and independent living strategies. Additional resources offer suggestions for building strong mentoring programs and establishing solid program partners. The goal of the website is to provide as much information as possible to plan, implement, and evaluate programs in Florida. Check back often. The Consortium is adding new information to the website every day.

Department of Juvenile Justice News

Dr. Rick Casey, nsbrec@aol.com

AMIkids Last Chance Ranch in Glades County has been awarded a Carl Perkins grant to fund a new Solar Energy Technology Career and Technical Education program. The curriculum focuses on alternative energy, solar power, and weatherization. Students are learning construction and energy technology skills in the rapidly expanding sustainable energy field. Course activities include mounting and wiring solar panels, designing a wind power generation system, and installing a windmill power turbine. The goal of the CTE program is to improve the academic level of students in technical education and provide them opportunities for “green collar” careers.

West Central Region 4—continued

- Students with Diabetes is an organization for college age students, 18-30, living with Type I Diabetes. The organization is sponsoring a National Conference at USF Tampa, June 1-3, 2012. For more information regarding the conference, please go to the following websites: www.StudentsWithDiabetes.com; www.facebook.com/BringingScienceHome.
- Diane Roberts, a pioneering educator in the arena of transition, is retiring in June 2012 after over 30 years of dedicated service in several school districts across the State of Florida. Diane served in several capacities on the Florida Division of Career Development and Transition (FL-DCDT) Board and has been part of FDLRS Suncoast as the HRD Specialist and the Manatee County School District Transition Specialist for many years.

South Region 5

Lisa Friedman-Chavez, lfchavez@mail.usf.edu

- Over the past 32 years Monroe County School District has been blessed with the dedication and expertise of Marty Jacquette. Prior to her role as Transition Contact and Parent Liaison for the School District, Marty also worked as an ESE Teacher, Staffing Specialist, and Transition Specialist. In addition, Marty helped develop and served as the Chairperson for the county’s inter-agency transition team, **Conch Connect**. Best wishes to Marty who will retire this June and will be greatly missed.
- Best wishes also to Joann Hulet, who retired in January. Joann was the Transition Contact for Charlotte County School District and the Chairperson of the Charlotte Interagency Council.
- Plans are under way to implement Postsecondary Transition Programs, in collaboration with the Florida Consortium on Postsecondary Education and Intellectual Disabilities (FCPEID), at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) in Fort Myers and Florida Keys Community College (FKCC) in Key West. Students in the T.I.E.S. (Transition to Independence, Employment and Success) Program are currently on the FKCC campus every Thursday for their “College Day”, where they participate in work experience, a ceramics class, and other campus activities accessed with their FKCC student I.D. badges.
- Monroe and Broward Counties have developed tri-fold brochures which provide easy to understand information regarding graduation requirements, diploma options, and possible implications for post-school outcomes.
- Promising Pathways, an annual conference for families, educators, and health care professionals addressing autism spectrum disorders, was held on April 14, 2012 at FGCU. Temple Grandin and Tristram Smith were the keynote speakers. Approximately 2,200 people registered—a record number for Promising Pathways.

Project 10: Transition Education Network assists Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes.

Project 10: Transition Education Network University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Questions or comments? Email us at project10@stpete.usf.edu