October 2014

**Project 10 Topical Briefs** are published on a monthly basis. Each issue focuses on a specific topic or theme. This month the **Topical Brief** is focused on

**Dropout Prevention**

In a time when graduation rates are showing notable improvement among students of color and students with disabilities, there are still great challenges that remain. The National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities has published a monograph that explores the problem of high school dropout rates among American Indian, African American and Latino males with disabilities and provides an in-
In 2006, PACER founded National Bullying Prevention Month, which is held annually during October. This is a time for communities nationwide to unite and raise awareness of bullying prevention through events, activities and education. For a list of resources related to Bullying Prevention, please visit the Mental Health Transition Topic area of the Project 10 website at http://www.project10.info/DetailPage.php?MainPageID=91&pageCategory=Transition%20Topic%20Areas&pageSubCategory=Mental%20Health

Don't Call Them Dropouts: Understanding the Experiences of Young People who Leave High School Before Graduation

This May 2014 report from America's Promise Alliance and its Center for Promise at Tufts University, adds to the large and growing body of research about why some young people fail to complete high school on the traditional four-year timeline. This report provides a vibrant portrait of young people's experiences gathered and reported in a way that deepens the national conversation about why some young people are still failing to graduate despite historic advances in graduation rates. To read the full report: http://gradnation.org/report/dont-call-them-dropouts

Don't miss the presentation Dropout Prevention: Florida’s Current Status of Students with Disabilities and Strategies for Improvement at the upcoming Student Success Summit!

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month Held annually, National Disability Employment Awareness Month is led by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy, but it's true spirit lies in the many observances held at the grassroots level across the nation every year. For specific ideas about how to support National Disability Employment Awareness Month, visit the ODEP website at www.dol.gov/odep/.

National Health Observances

National Down Syndrome Awareness

Student Success Summit 2014

Combining the Florida AfterSchool Conference & the Educational Strategies and Student Engagement Institute

Prevention: Florida’s Current Status of Students with Disabilities and Strategies for Improvement Monday (10/20) 10:00-11:30 a.m. in Crystal L. Tury Lewis, Region 1 Transition Representative, and Carly Detlefsen, Region 2 Transition Representative This presentation will provide information on Florida dropout and graduation rates, discussion of dropout risk factors, prevention strategies and state and national promising practices. For districts, this training is available in a variety of modalities, including face-to-face, online and blended. Contact your Regional Transition Representative for more information: http://www.
Project 10 Regional Institutes with Team Cadre Meetings

District transition teams will want to save the date for their annual Project 10 Regional Institute. Hear the latest transition updates and report on the progress toward the transition goals your team set at the VISIONS/NSTTAC Planning Institute.

- Region 5: February 2, 2015, in Sunrise
- Regions 3 and 4: February 4, 2015, in the Lakeland/Winter Haven area
- Regions 1 and 2: February 6, 2015, in Tallahassee

National Down Syndrome Society

http://www.ndss.org/About-NDSS/Newsroom/Recent-News/Down-Syndrome-Awareness-Month-2014/

As the national advocate for the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome, National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) plans to highlight and showcase different ways for you to get involved in their organization, interact with talented NDSS staff and support the Down syndrome community through awareness and advocacy.

Spina Bifida Awareness Month

Spina Bifida Association

www.spinabifidaassociation.org

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) now estimates that over 166,000 Americans are affected by Spina Bifida. The Spina Bifida Association (SBA) celebrates October as Spina Bifida National Awareness Month with the goal of highlighting the occurrence of the birth defect, bringing to light the struggles and successes of those who live with it, and offering recommendations to decrease the chances of developing Spina Bifida.

High School Graduation Reporting Systems

The Florida Department of Education issued the following

Upcoming Events

October 16-18, 2014
Hilton Double Tree 60 South Ivanhoe Boulevard,
Orlando, FL 32801
http://www.floridacec.org/
The Annual CEC conference will include presenters from local, state, national and international Special Education organizations. Featured speakers include:

- Dr. Don DeVito and Gertrude Bien Aime. Dr. DeVito is the 2013 University of Florida's International K-12 Teacher of the Year and 2011 National CEC Teacher of the Year (Special Education). Ms. Aime is working with Dr. DeVito to establish inclusive education in Haiti.
- Dr. Monica Verra-Tirado will present an update on DOE action for ESE services. Dr. Verra-Tirado is the Chief of the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services in the Florida Department of Education.
- Dr. Suzanne M. Martin is a professor of Exceptional Education in the Child, Family and Community Sciences Department, College of Education at the University of Central Florida. She will moderate a brunch panel on Saturday October 18th featuring her work accomplished globally and New Leaders taking charge ensuring human rights and people with disabilities have equity globally.

The Student Success Summit: An Expansion of the Annual Educational Strategies and Student Engagement Institute
October 20-24, 2014
Marriott World Center, 8701 World Center Dr, Orlando, FL 32821
http://www.cvent.com/d/rn1MMRtn40GI5PtdUUmn8Q/z73q/P1/1Q
This event is hosted by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), Florida Afterschool Alliance, Children's Forum, Inc., Florida Association of School Social Workers and Florida Association of Alternative School Educators and will be held on October 20-24, 2014. For more information, please visit the website.

Post-secondary Disability Accommodations, Technology and Online Courses, Oh My!
October 23, 2014, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
3100 Technology Parkway, Orlando, FL 32826, Room 208 (2nd Floor) of the Partnership II building located in UCF Research Park
Register: www.fdlrsaction.org. Click on "Especially for Educators" then on "FDLRS Learning Opportunities." During this workshop, key high school to college accommodation differences, how assistive technology is used in the higher education setting and what students can expect with post-secondary online learning will be discussed. A panel of students with disabilities will also be available to share their
experiences. This professional learning opportunity awards 6 inservice credits and supports the new recertification requirement for teaching students with disabilities when appropriately coded ESE in your local Master Inservice Plan.

Upcoming Webinars

AbleNet Inc.: AT for Common Core College and Career Readiness for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities Part 2: Fluency in Reading, Writing and Math  
October 21, 2014  
7:30pm EST  
http://www.ablenetinc.com/AbleNet-University  
Presenter: Tana Donaghy  
Opportunities for learning academic content is essential for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Functional skills can be taught as part of any academic lesson. This workshop will explore instructional and access strategies for literacy, math and science concepts for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Expanding Career and Technical Education Opportunities for Students with Disabilities Webinar  
October 27, 2014  
2:00-3:00pm EST  
To join the webinar, register at:  
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YCZM89H.  
Have you ever wanted to know how Career and Technical Educational Programs can be beneficial to your students with disabilities? Join us for a 60-minute informational webinar detailing access, exit requirements, exemptions and waivers, and support services to help students. Date and Time: October 27, 2014, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EST. For questions, contact Donna Phillips at donnap@fddc.org or Tury Lewis at tlewis@mail.usf.edu. For technical assistance, contact: Rusty Holmes at 850-638-6131, ext. 2240, or holmesr@paec.org.

Institute on Human Development and Disability Webinar: Disability Disclosure  
October 27, 2014  
11:00am to 12:00pm  
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5833442808813786882  
Presenters: Andy Imparato, Executive Director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, David Mank, Director of the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community (UCEDD), Indiana University  
Nowhere is there more debate within supported employment than with the choice to disclose disability or not. It's a personal issue, and an essential consideration for job seekers and their support teams to consider. Join us in the dynamic discussion with two subject matter experts as they illuminate this important topic. This session focuses on a personal story of disclosure, as well as some interesting exploratory research.

Institute on Human Development and Disability Webinar: Career Profiling  
November 10, 2014  
11:00am to 12:00pm  
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7086155988757639170  
Presenter: Doug Crandell, Public Service Faculty at the Institute on Human Development and Disability (UCEDD), University of Georgia  
The career profile is much more than a form to be completed. When used with forethought and planning, it can document the process of understanding a job seeker's strengths, interests, support needs and overall ideal conditions of employment. Join us as we delve deeper into the use of the career profile as a best-practice vocational tool!

Institute on Human Development and Disability Webinar: Mental Health and Vocational Rehabilitation Collaboration  
December 1, 2014  
11:00am to 12:00pm
Presenters: Lee Davis, Rehabilitation Unit Manager, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA), Vernell Jones, Supported Employment Services Coordinator for The Georgia Department of Behavior Health & Development Disabilities (DBHDD)

More than ever its imperative that vocational support systems collaborate surrounding best-practices. The result is a better outcome for everyone involved. This session will highlight how SE programs and their local Vocational Rehabilitation offices can collaborate. In addition, information regarding the larger statewide roll out of IPS-SE between Vocational Rehabilitation and Mental Health will be presented. Ample time for discussions will be provided.

**Institute on Human Development and Disability Webinar: Rural Job Development**
**December 12, 2014**
**11:00am to 12:00pm**

Presenter: Nancy Brooks-Lane, Senior Consultant, Griffin-Hammis Associates, LLC.

Is job development in small towns possible? What are the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities that are required of an Employment Specialist working in areas where by all apparent indicators, there are no jobs? This session will focus on approaching job development with an eye toward social capital, economic development and even self-employment as an option. Please join us as we discuss all things small and rural in supported employment!

---

**Join Our Mailing List**

**About Project 10 Topical Briefs:**

*Project 10 Topical Briefs* provide 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

For back issues of Project 10 Topical Briefs, visit the newsletter page on the Project 10 website at http://www.project10.info/Newsletter.php.

---

**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

www.Project10.info