



Pennsylvania Community on Transition Conference

Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow: Possibility, Opportunity, Action

July 24 - 26, 2013

**Penn Stater Conference Center and Hotel
215 Innovation Boulevard, State College, PA 16803**

Conference Overview

The primary purpose of this conference is to expand the capacity of local education agencies and communities, in partnership with youth, young adults and families, in promoting the successful transition of youth/young adults with disabilities to post-school outcomes of employment, post-secondary education and training, community participation and healthy lifestyles. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about effective practices to assist youth/young adults with disabilities to explore possibilities, take advantage of their opportunities, and actively advocate for their future.

The vision of the PA Community on Transition is that all Pennsylvania youth and young adults with disabilities will successfully transition to the role of productive, participating, adult citizens. Youth will be empowered to recognize their talents, strengths and voice and have equal access to resources that promote full participation in the communities of their choice.

The sponsors of the conference are the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education and the PA Training and Technical Assistance Network, in collaboration with members of the PA Community on Transition including:

- Center for Rehabilitation Counseling Research & Education, The George Washington University
- PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- PA Youth Leadership Network
- Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT)
- Transition State Leadership Team including members from:
 - *Advocacy, Systems Change and Capacity Building Organizations (Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and Abilities in Motion [Center for Independent Living])*
 - *Higher Education (Pennsylvania State University and Temple University)*
 - *PA Department of Education (Bureau of Special Education, Bureau of Career and Technical Education)*
 - *PA Department of Health (Bureau of Family Health and Bureau of Community Health Systems)*
 - *PA Department of Labor & Industry (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Bureau of Workforce Development Partnership and Pennsylvania State Workforce Investment Board)*
 - *PA Department of Public Welfare (Office of Developmental Programs, Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, Office of Children, Youth & Families)*
 - *Parent/Advocacy Organizations (Parent Education Network, PA Education & Advocacy Leadership Center, PA Families Inc., Parent Mentoring Project, Hispanos Unidos para Ninos Excepcionales (HUNE); and The Arc of Pennsylvania)*

Targeted Audience

Stakeholders supporting post-school goals for youth/young adults with disabilities, including:

Advocates	Independent Living Staff	School Nurses
Agency Administrators	Juvenile Justice Affiliates	Secondary Educators
Assistive Technology Professionals	Job Coaches	Social Security Benefits Counselors
Business/Employers	Local Government Officials	Social Security Staff
Career & Technology Educators	Local Service Providers	Social Workers
CareerLink Staff	Local Youth Councils	Special Educators
Direct Support Providers	Medical Assistance Program Staff	Speech/Language Therapists
Drug & Alcohol Program Workers	Mental Health Services Workers	Transition Coordinators
Education Administrators	Occupational Therapists	Transportation Affiliates
Family & Caregivers	Office of Developmental Programs Staff	Vocational Evaluators
Family Health Representatives	Paraprofessionals	Vocational Rehabilitation Staff
Foster and Adoptive Parents	Partnerships for Youth Affiliates & Staff	Workforce Investment Board Members
Guidance Counselors	Physical Therapists	Youth & Young Adults
Health Professionals	Psychologists	Youth Served in Foster Care
Higher Education Professionals	Public & Private Child Welfare Workers	

The primary focal points of this year's conference are:

- *Promoting success of all youth and young adults by addressing the transition needs of those who are at-risk and struggling*
- *Empowering families and caregivers with transition knowledge and resources*
- *Supporting successful outcomes for youth and young adults with behavioral health needs*
- *Engaging youth and young adults in social interactions, understanding their potential, and building leadership skills*
- *Building leadership skills of all transition stakeholders to promote successful outcomes of youth and young adults*
- *Using transition and career assessment, universal design, accommodations and supports to build the foundation for self-determination and self-advocacy*
- *Linking transition, health and healthy lifestyles to promote success in adult life by empowerment through self-determination and self-advocacy*
- *Showcasing evidence-based and effective practices with youth outcome data*
- *Building and supporting community partnerships*

The conference will feature:

- *Keynote and feature presentations*
- *Approximately 80 breakout sessions*
- *Sessions and activities designed for youth and young adults by the PA Youth Leadership Network*
- *Family engaging sessions and networking opportunities*
- *Accommodations and Supports Expo, featuring hands-on assistive technology exhibits, vendor displays and resource tables*

Conference Themes:

The following themes have been identified by transition stakeholders from across the state. Each of these themes will be addressed at the 2013 conference. Potential session topics are included under each theme.

✓ A Focus on Youth Development & Youth Leadership

- *Decision-Making Skill Development*
- *Leadership*
- *Mentoring*
- *Relationship Building/Social Skills*
- *Self-Awareness*
- *Self Determination & Self Advocacy*
- *Youth Focused Sessions (career development, volunteerism, job preparation, job readiness, post-secondary education/training preparation, independent living, and healthy lifestyles)*

- ✓ **Aligning Accommodations & Supports**
 - *Aligning Accommodations between High School and Employment*
 - *Aligning Accommodations between High School and Postsecondary Education & Training*
 - *Obtaining Assistive Technology & Training Prior to Graduation to Prepare for Post-School Outcomes*

- ✓ **Building Knowledge, Engagement, and Empowerment of Families/Caregivers**
 - *Family/Caregivers Grassroots Leadership Efforts*
 - *Family/Caregivers Empowerment through Knowledge*
 - *Family Members/Caregivers as Equal Partners in the Transition Process*

- ✓ **Employment**
 - *Business Partnerships*
 - *Discovery/Customized Employment*
 - *Employment First*
 - *Employability Skill Acquisition*
 - *Job Analysis*
 - *Job Coaching*
 - *Job Development*
 - *Job Readiness Training*
 - *Labor Trends*
 - *Collaborative Leadership in Improving Employment Outcomes*
 - *PA Career & Work Standards*
 - *Systematic Career Development Strategies*
 - *University Transition Employment Partnerships*
 - *Work Based Learning*

- ✓ **Expanding Capacity of Teams Through Leadership Development Strategies: Promoting Local Transition Coordinating Councils**
 - *Resource development strategies*
 - *Selling your team and “products” to administration to sustain your efforts*
 - *Strategies to move from information sharing to outcome-oriented project focus*
 - *Shared leadership strategies and operational structures of local teams*

- ✓ **Healthy Lifestyles, Independent Living & Community Participation**
 - *Accessing Adult Systems*
 - *Alcohol and Substance Abuse*
 - *Benefits Planning*
 - *Behavioral Health*
 - *Co-Occurring Disabilities*
 - *Culturally Competent Health Care*
 - *Estate Planning*
 - *Health Care and Service Coordination*
 - *Health Insurance Coverage*
 - *Healthy Relationships*
 - *Housing*
 - *Leadership in Promoting Healthy Lifestyles, Independent Living & Community Participation*
 - *Leisure-Time Physical Activities*
 - *Peer Support*
 - *Person Centered Planning*
 - *Nutrition and Weight Management*
 - *Social Interaction and Connections*
 - *Special Needs Planning*
 - *Supporting Youth with Complex Health Care Needs in the Community*
 - *Transition Planning around Health Care Management*
 - *Transportation*

- *Working with Medical Professionals*

- ✓ **Knowledge Building Topics**
 - Agency Sessions (description of programs and services, incorporating a youth perspective)
 - Career and Technical Education Partnerships
 - Cultural Diversity
 - Ethics
 - Legislative Information

- ✓ **Models For Success**
 - *Growing Effective Practices Through Replication*
 - *Innovative Approaches*
 - *Program Sustainability Strategies*
 - *Showcasing Transition Program Models and Strategies for Replication*

- ✓ **Partnerships**
 - *Developing, Expanding, and Sustaining Business Partnerships*
 - *Effective Communication and Collaboration Strategies*
 - *Engaging Administrators to Support Effective Transition Practices*
 - *Going Beyond the Traditional Partnerships*
 - *Integrating Funding Strategies to Expand Opportunities*
 - *Service Learning Partnerships*

- ✓ **Post-Secondary Education & Training**
 - *Assistive Technology*
 - *Documentation Guidelines for Postsecondary Education & Training*
 - *Leadership in Improving Post-Secondary Education & Training Outcomes*
 - *Post-Secondary Education Planning*
 - *Rights and Responsibilities*
 - *Self-Determination, Self-Advocacy and Self-Efficacy*

- ✓ **Promoting Success of All Youth by Addressing Transition Needs**
 - *Academic Achievement*
 - *Chapter 14 Forms and Formats*
 - *Inclusive Practices*
 - *Indicator 13 (Measurable Goals and Outcomes)*
 - *Indicator 14 (Post School Follow-Up)*
 - *Progress Monitoring*
 - *Standards-Aligned System of Instruction for all Students*
 - *Drop Out Prevention*
 - *High School Redesign*
 - *Outreach to Specific Populations*
 - *Autism Spectrum Disorders*
 - *Behavioral Health*
 - *Blind and Visually Impaired*
 - *Deafblind*
 - *Deaf or Hard of Hearing*
 - *Learning Disabilities*
 - *Specific Health Impairments*
 - *Traumatic Brain Injury*
 - *Youth with Multiple & Complex Disabilities*
 - *Youth Served in Foster Care*
 - *Youth Served in the Juvenile Justice System*
 - *Youth Served under Section 504 (Chapter 15)*

- ✓ **Transition & Career Assessment**
 - *Career Assessment Strategies*
 - *Career Development Models*
 - *Community Based Vocational Assessment*
 - *Developing and Utilizing Portfolios in Planning*
 - *Occupational and Labor Market Resources*
 - *Tools Developed by Local Transition Teams*
 - *Transition & Career Assessment Resources and Tools*
 - *Transition Assessment Practices*
 - *Vocational Evaluation Models*

- ✓ **Unified, Holistic Planning**
 - *Braided and Blended Funding of Programs*
 - *Collaborative and Integrated Program Models*
 - *Coordination of Education and Agency Plans*
 - *Personalized, Holistic Planning*

- ✓ **Universal Design**
 - *Creating environments that support the learning of youth and young adults with diverse abilities, styles, and needs*
 - *Promoting equal access for all youth and young adults*

For Additional Information

To obtain a copy of the *Call for Proposals to Present*, please visit www.pattan.net. If you have questions, please contact:

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Conference Registration

Conference registration will be available online after **May 1, 2013** at <http://www.pattan.net>.

For information regarding registration, please contact Patty Panuccio at PaTTAN-Pittsburgh, 800-446-5607 x6841 or ppanuccio@pattan.net.

Conference Registration Fee:

- ✓ Registration fee is \$125.00 per person.
- ✓ Family and youth who need support in order to attend the conference can apply for a scholarship to cover the registration fee and hotel (one room up to a maximum of 3 nights). Additional information regarding scholarships will be made available at www.pattan.net.
- ✓ The registration fee will be waived for presenters who are only attending the conference for the day of their presentation.
- ✓ **ALL PRESENTERS MUST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE EVEN IF YOU ARE ONLY PRESENTING AT YOUR SESSION TO PROVIDE AN ACCURATE LUNCH COUNT.**