



Post Summit Review: A Great Success - Two Thumbs Up!

by Bonnie Boaz

Thanks to everyone who attended, facilitated, exhibited at, and presented at the 2016 ATS Transition Summit! It was a huge success with 58 teams from 66 districts attending and over 300 people registered. We broke some records for sure and we could not have done it without the participation of everyone involved. Kudos to all facilitators (49), to presenters (50 presenters sharing 34 sessions), to exhibitors (23)! Agency participation on teams was unbelievable with a VR counselor on almost every team and a counselor from Services for the Blind as well as other agencies on most teams. The Summit was packed with people and information; all with the intention of helping students with disabilities reach their future goals.

Our keynote speakers, Kathie Snow and Chris Ulmer were fantastic and were both deemed Ambassadors of our State when presented with the Arkansas Traveler's Certificate. They both spoke about how much they enjoyed their sessions and

visiting with some of you one on one. If you haven't "liked" Special Books by Special Kids (the non-profit started by Chris Ulmer), you should! You will see some of the Arkansas students he interviewed while he was here—great interviews!

We hope you enjoyed the Summit and will follow through on what you learned. Remember we are here to help and ATS Consultants will be following up with you soon (if they haven't already) to offer any assistance and help you stay on track with your team's plan. If you were not able to complete an evaluation or two and would still like to, we can provide an evaluation for you. Just email bonnie.boaz@arkansas.gov and we'll get one to you. We truly value your input and definitely use it to plan future events. Believe it or not, we've already begun planning for our next Summit! We'll share details as they become available, but we hope you will be working on your plan in the meantime. Thanks again for helping make it a great Summit!

Arkansas Transition Services Newsletter

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Collecting Evidence for Student Transition Plans

Student's Portfolio

by Karen Randolph

A great way to help our students in exiting from high school to adult life is with a student portfolio. This folder can help students keep evidence of what they have accomplished in their transition plan, making it easier to find information when completing a college or job application. When you think of all the documentation that is needed, what better way to help our students, than to have everything they need in one place.

Here are some suggestions that you may want to include (or know where to find) in your Student's Portfolio:

Personal/Employment information – Birth Certificate/Social Security Card/Driver's License (not placed in the folder but know where to find), Health records, names of previous employers and references. Make sure to include all jobs, both paid and unpaid. A copy of the IEP, high school transcript and of course the Summary of Performance.

Assessments & Self-Exploration – Transition assessments, as well as college or vocational entrance exams. Assessments give great information on interests, abilities and skills obtain or needed.

Agency information – A list of agencies that student has or will contact with names and phone numbers and how agencies will assist the student. For those attending college, have contact information on the Disability Services contact information.

Resumes – Students complete a resume with a list of job duties, where and when student worked and what skills, experiences and strengths they have to bring to the job.

Interviews – Information on how to prepare for an interview. Questions that may arise during the interview with student's responses. Have students complete a survey, or as a teacher, complete a rubric on how well the student preformed.

Post-School Options and Preparation/Scholarship and Financial Aid – This section contains information on what students need to reach their post-school outcomes. It can also include scholarship and financial aid information for those students pursuing a college degree. Students can also include all the activities they have accomplished on their transition plan from career, education and daily living/community experiences for evidence of practice.

The Portfolio is a great tool for you and your students to use in reaching their post-school outcomes.

If you need assistance in starting a Student Portfolio for your students, please contact your Transition Consultant. We are here to assist you with all your transition needs.

Upcoming Events

Cadre Meeting

February 15-16, 2017

Each newsletter we will alternate putting the spotlight on an exceptional district or an exceptional student in transition. If you would like to submit one of these, please let us know!

Our next newsletter deadline is April 15.

Project SEARCH High School Transition Program

by Maryanne Caldwell, Adam White

Project SEARCH high school transition program is a unique, business led, one-year, school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace.

The goal for each student participant is competitive employment. The program provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help youths with significant disabilities make successful transitions from school to productive adult life. The Project SEARCH model involves an extensive period of training and career exploration, innovative adaptations, long-term job coaching, and continuous feedback from teachers, job coaches, and employers. As a result, at the completion of the training program, students with significant intellectual disabilities are employed in nontraditional, complex and rewarding jobs. The presence of a Project SEARCH High School Transition Program can bring about

long-term changes in business culture that have far-reaching positive effects on attitudes about hiring people with disabilities and the range of jobs in which they can be successful.

Alex Livingston obtained employment with Washington Regional two years ago, through the Fayetteville Project Search program; which is collaborative effort between Fayetteville public school, Lifestyles, and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. Alex is a PC/LAN Tech in the Information Service Department, Alex is known for his technical skills and abilities to solve complex computer issues. Alex has made a big impression on his co-workers: In 2015 Alex was named Employee of the Year through a system wide vote of Washington Regional Employees.

As employee of the year, Alex received \$2,500; a week paid time off; an engraved clock; gift certificates for dinner and movies; as well as a reserved parking spot throughout 2016. He will also be featured on the Leadership Wall in the hospital lobby.



Arkansas DCDT Award Winners!

Congratulations to Victoria Magdefrau of Fayetteville High School, and Kimberly Miller of Texarkana High School, as they received the DCDT Transition Award! These two excellent teachers submitted applications and were selected by the AR Chapter of the Division of Career Development and Transition. October 20, at the 2016 Arkansas Transition Summit, they received a beautiful award and a \$500 check for their innovative work and successful transition programs. Great job Victoria and Kimberly!!!



AR-DCDT President, Paul Johnston, awards Victoria Magdefrau and Kimberly Miller with the DCDT award and check.



Getting to know www.arkansastransition.com

by Carrie Tuttle

Have you taken a moment to investigate what is actually available on the [ARKANSASTRANSITION.COM](http://www.arkansastransition.com) website? Many of you probably have wanted to, but have just not had the time. So, I am going to quickly highlight some of the resources and curricula we make available to you through our website.

Let's start with the section designed just for you: [TEACHER/COUNSELOR TOOLS](#)

In this section of the website you will find a lot of handy materials including:

1. Due Process information
2. Assistive Technology Tools and Assessments: have you ever assessed your students to see if assistive technology is a need?
3. Employment Tools: Including free curricula and videos
4. Arkansas Driver's License study materials: we know the ability to self-transport opens the doors of opportunity in employment.
5. Transition Fair Tools: Are you ready to put on a Transition Fair? We provide you with everything you need to host your first or to make improvements on the ones you already do.
6. Self-Determination Materials: We provide great brochures, assessments and curricula on this vital skill.
7. Preparing for Postsecondary Education: We provide you with tools and resources to better prepare your students for that next step including information on testing accommodations, apprenticeship programs, etc.

In the [AR AGENCIES](#) section, you will find the AITP Resource Guides in both English and Spanish. You will also find Agency Resources lists by County. This section also includes a lot of material designed to assist your students in becoming better self-advocates.

[ASSESSING TOOLS](#): Since all transition planning should start with quality relevant assessment, we provide you with an entire section devoted just to that!! In this section you will find a ton of resources that will make your transition planning easier and more impactful for your students. Sections include: Assessment Timeline, Assessment Tools, Assessments for Parents, Assistive Technology Assessments and Tools, Tools for Students with Visual Impairments, Healthcare Transition, Tools for Students with Severe Disabilities.

Please allow yourself a little bit of time to explore the resources we have made available to you at www.arkansastransition.com. It is guaranteed to be time well spent!

Also, we want to hear if you think something is missing from our site – please don't hesitate to share resources you have found helpful and think we should include.

The Age of Majority Parent Guide & Tip Sheets

by Jennifer Bibel

The age of majority is the age when children are legally considered adults. In Arkansas, the parent's rights will transfer to their child at the age of 18. This can mean new responsibilities for students! To help prepare for this transfer the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center and National Post-School Outcomes Center developed the [Age of Majority Parent Guide & Tip Sheets](#). Since taking on the rights of an adult can be especially challenging for youth with disabilities, this is a great resource to assist in laying the groundwork for becoming a successful adult. It discusses what the transfer of parental rights means for parents, youth with disabilities, and school systems; competency concerns regarding IDEA; guardianship; and provides tips and connections for parents. Be sure to check it out, use it in the classroom with your students and share it with parents!

Promise Grant Worker ~ Austin-Miller Burns

This summer, the Hot Springs Parks & Trails Department was given the opportunity to participate in the Arkansas Promise Grant program by working with 14-year-old Austin Miller-Burns.

The Promise Grant is a 5-year, \$32 million grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education to the University of Arkansas and the Arkansas Department of Education. During the summer months, Promise Grant partnered with the Arkansas Workforce Center and their Youth Employment Services Program (YES) to place eligible youth in paid summer work experiences at various worksites in Hot Springs.

Austin expressed an interest in working outside and was excited to be placed at the city's Parks & Trails Department by YES youth coordinator Amanda Stephanus. During his interview with Parks & Trails Director Jean Wallace and Landscape Superintendent Brian Fisher, Austin said he would not let them down and he did not disappoint. Brian later stated, in a nomination letter regarding Austin, that he "has manners, reasoning ability, and a level of maturity that you don't see even in some adults."

In his 2 months with Parks & Trails, Austin experienced a variety of work with the landscape division; including weeding and planting in the downtown Hot Springs flower beds and medians. The heat of the summer months also provided ample opportunity to water, water, and water the public landscape beds around town.

The desire to work hard and learn from Brian's instruction paid off this summer as Austin was awarded the Outstanding Youth Award and received an iPad mini at the Recognition Ceremony on August 18, 2016.



Austin Miller-Burns, right, receives the Outstanding Youth Award for the 2016 Arkansas Promise Grant program from Youth Employment Services Coordinator Amanda Stephanus at the Recognition Ceremony on August 18, 2016. Austin also received an iPad mini as part of the award.

"PROMISE Grant Worker ~ Austin Miller-Burns." *Parks and Trails* (Oct. 2016)

Ten Minutes of Transition

by Jennifer Bibel

The Ten Minutes of Transition videos are a new series of videos established by the Arkansas Interagency Transition Partnership. Each video spotlights a different agency and their services and programs. They are designed to give parents, teachers, and students tips, advice and guidance on how agencies can assist students in reaching positive post-school outcomes. The videos are all captioned and are less than ten minutes long. You can find these videos on the Arkansas Transition Services website or by clicking [here](#). If you're interested in creating a video to include in our library, please contact Jennifer Bibel at jennifer.bibel@arkansas.gov.

Setting Goals for the New Year - Make working with ATS one of YOUR goals!

by Bonnie Boaz

As we start a new calendar year and look back on the previous one, it's a great time to think about setting goals, whether those goals be personal or professional. We think it's a great time to look at the transition program within your school or district and possibly set some new goals for improvements. If you don't meet or have contact with your transition consultant, we hope that you will consider doing just that. There are so many things we can provide that go beyond making sure your transition plans are compliant. Of course, we do want to make sure your transition plans are compliant so we can report 100% compliance for Indicator 13, but ultimately, we want to make sure you have meaningful plans that help students reach their post-school goals. (if you are wondering what Indicator 13 is, you definitely need to contact your Transition Consultant!) Making improvements in your transition program doesn't just mean planning activities for your students—it's also about educators and IEP teams participating in activities. Though we have lots of ideas on ways to work with your students in transition, most of what we do is work directly with educators and agencies. We want to work more with you!

Consider asking us about just one of these opportunities as we begin the new year:

- Regularly scheduled school visits: We're happy to schedule monthly, quarterly, or whatever, meetings to keep teachers updated, review files, or share the many tools on our website—the possibilities are limitless, and it's a great way to stay connected!
- Assessment overview: An opportunity to review transition assessments and discuss development of a transition assessment timeline.
- Assessment of implementation of predictors of in-school/post-school success: A great opportunity to look at what predictors are currently in place at your school and where there is a need for more!
- Indicator 13 checklist: This can be done as a refresher or for the new teacher, but it breaks down all the components of a compliant transition plan and provides a handy checklist for the teachers. This can also be incorporated into a file review—great to do annually and definitely in preparation of monitoring!
- Goal writing and Activities: Let us show your teachers how to write appropriate measurable goals that have meaningful activities to go along with them!
- Department/LEA meeting attendance: Invite us to regularly attend your school's special education department meetings to highlight a variety of topics throughout the year—we can do the same at area LEA Supervisor meetings!
- Self-Determination overview: ATS can provide an overview specifically of self-determination, as well as tools and resources to provide assessment and implementation of self-determination curriculum.
- Transition Fair planning: Don't let another year go by without holding a transition fair in your district—or holding the same old, same old with poor turnout and hum-drum content! Talk to your transition consultant about some innovative ways to make your transition fair the best it can be!
- Be sure to check out the "Transition Activities Calendar," on our website. Each month has different ideas of how you can make Transition a part of your monthly planning to improve outcomes for students!