

**2014**  
**Pennsylvania**  
**Community on Transition Conference**

**July 16 - 18, 2014**

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

**Making Transition Happen:**  
**Dream, Believe, Achieve**



## Conference Overview

**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, The Leigh Valley Center for Independent Living and Abilities in Motion-Center for Independent Living)
  - **Higher Education** (The George Washington University, 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, and Office of Children, Youth & Families)
  - **Parent/Advocacy Organizations** (Parent Education Network, PA Education & Advocacy Leadership Center, PA Families Inc., PA Rehabilitation Council, Hispanos Unidos para Ninos Excepcionales (HUNE), and The Arc of Pennsylvania)

### Primary Purpose

The primary purpose of this conference is to expand the capacity of schools, 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.

### Conference Overview

All proposal applicants should review the attached 2014 PA Community on Transition Conference Overview, prior to completing the Call for Proposals to Present. A copy of this document and the overview can be obtained electronically at [www.secondarytransition.org](http://www.secondarytransition.org) and [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net).

### The conference will feature:

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



## 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 and in understanding their potential for post school success
- 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 and local transition coordinating councils

## Conference Registration

Conference registration will be available online after **May 15, 2014** at [www.secondarytransition.org](http://www.secondarytransition.org) and [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net).

For information regarding registration, please contact Patty Panuccio at PaTTAN-Pittsburgh, 800-446-5607 x6841 or [ppanuccio@pattan.net](mailto:ppanuccio@pattan.net).

## Conference Registration Fee:

- ✚ A per person registration fee will be charged for this year's conference
- ✚ A limited number of scholarships will be available to family and youth who need support in order to attend the conference. The scholarship will cover the registration fee and hotel (one room up to a maximum of 3 nights).
- ✚ **ALL PRESENTERS MUST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AND PAY THE REGISTRATION FEE**
- ✚ Additional information regarding scholarships and the conference registration fee will be available online after **May 15, 2014** at [www.secondarytransition.org](http://www.secondarytransition.org) and [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net).

## For Additional Information

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

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## 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	

## Conference Themes:

The following themes have been identified by transition stakeholders from across the state. Each of these themes will be addressed at the 2014 conference. Potential session topics are included with each theme.

<p><b>A Focus on Youth Development &amp; Youth Leadership</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision-Making Skill Development</li> <li>• Leadership</li> <li>• Mentoring</li> <li>• Relationship Building/Social Skills</li> <li>• Self-Awareness</li> <li>• Self Determination &amp; Self Advocacy</li> <li>• Youth Focused Sessions (career development, volunteerism, job preparation, job readiness, post-secondary education/training preparation, independent living, and healthy lifestyles)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Aligning Accommodations &amp; Supports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligning Accommodations between High School and Employment</li> <li>• Aligning Accommodations between High School and Postsecondary Education &amp; Training</li> <li>• Obtaining Assistive Technology &amp; Training Prior to Graduation to Prepare for Post-School Outcomes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Building Knowledge, Engagement, and Empowerment of Families/Caregivers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family/Caregivers Grassroots Leadership Efforts</li> <li>• Family/Caregivers Empowerment through Knowledge</li> <li>• Family Members/Caregivers as Equal Partners in the Transition Process</li> </ul>
<p><b>Employment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Partnerships</li> <li>• Discovery/Customized Employment</li> <li>• Employment First</li> <li>• Employability Skill Acquisition</li> <li>• Job Analysis</li> <li>• Job Coaching</li> <li>• Job Development</li> <li>• Job Readiness Training</li> <li>• Labor Trends</li> <li>• Collaborative Leadership in Improving Employment Outcomes</li> <li>• PA Career &amp; Work Standards</li> <li>• Systematic Career Development Strategies</li> <li>• University Transition Employment Partnerships</li> <li>• Work Based Learning</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expanding Capacity of Teams Through Leadership Development Strategies: Promoting Local Transition Coordinating Councils</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource Development Strategies</li> <li>• Selling Your Team and “Products” to Administration to Sustain Your Efforts</li> <li>• Strategies to Move from Information Sharing to Outcome-Oriented Project Focus</li> <li>• Shared Leadership Strategies and Operational Structures of Local Teams</li> </ul>
<p><b>Healthy Lifestyles, Independent Living &amp; Community Participation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessing Adult Systems</li> <li>• Alcohol and Substance Abuse</li> <li>• Benefits Planning</li> <li>• Behavioral Health</li> <li>• Co-Occurring Disabilities</li> <li>• Culturally Competent Health Care</li> <li>• Estate Planning</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health Care and Service Coordination</li> <li>▪ Health Insurance Coverage</li> <li>▪ Healthy Relationships</li> <li>▪ Housing</li> <li>• Leadership in Promoting Healthy Lifestyles, Independent Living &amp; Community Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Leisure-Time Physical Activities</li> <li>▪ Peer Support</li> <li>▪ Person Centered Planning</li> <li>▪ Nutrition and Weight Management</li> <li>▪ Social Interaction and Connections</li> <li>▪ Special Needs Planning</li> <li>▪ Supporting Youth with Complex Health Care Needs in the Community</li> <li>▪ Transition Planning around Health Care Management</li> <li>▪ Transportation</li> <li>▪ Working with Medical Professionals</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge Building Topics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agency Sessions (description of programs and services, incorporating a youth perspective)</li> <li>• Career and Technical Education Partnerships</li> <li>• Cultural Diversity</li> <li>• Ethics</li> <li>• Legislative Information</li> </ul>
<b>Models For Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing Effective Practices Through Replication</li> <li>• Innovative Approaches</li> <li>• Program Sustainability Strategies</li> <li>• Showcasing Transition Program Models and Strategies for Replication</li> </ul>
<b>Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing, Expanding, and Sustaining Business Partnerships</li> <li>• Effective Communication and Collaboration Strategies</li> <li>• Engaging Administrators to Support Effective Transition Practices</li> <li>• Going Beyond the Traditional Partnerships</li> <li>• Integrating Funding Strategies to Expand Opportunities</li> <li>• Service Learning Partnerships</li> </ul>
<b>Post-Secondary Education &amp; Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistive Technology</li> <li>• Documentation Guidelines for Postsecondary Education &amp; Training</li> <li>• Leadership in Improving Post-Secondary Education &amp; Training Outcomes</li> <li>• Post-Secondary Education Planning</li> <li>• Rights and Responsibilities</li> <li>• Self-Determination, Self-Advocacy, and Self-Efficacy</li> </ul>
<b>Promoting Success of All Youth by Addressing Transition Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inclusive Practices</li> <li>▪ Indicator 13 (Measurable Goals and Outcomes)</li> <li>▪ Indicator 14 (Post School Follow-Up)</li> <li>▪ Progress Monitoring</li> <li>▪ Standards-Aligned System of Instruction for all Students</li> <li>▪ Effective Practices in Secondary Transition for all Students</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Drop Out Prevention</li> <li>• High School Redesign</li> <li>• Alignment of State Standards and Secondary Transition</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Outreach to Specific Populations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Autism Spectrum Disorders</li> <li>▪ Behavioral Health</li> <li>▪ Blind and Visually Impaired</li> <li>▪ Deafblind</li> <li>▪ Deaf or Hard of Hearing</li> <li>▪ Learning Disabilities</li> <li>▪ Other Health Impairments</li> <li>▪ Traumatic Brain Injury</li> <li>▪ Youth with Multiple &amp; Complex Disabilities</li> <li>▪ Youth Served in Foster Care</li> <li>▪ Youth Served in the Juvenile Justice System</li> <li>▪ Youth Served under Section 504 (Chapter 15)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Transition &amp; Career Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Career Assessment Strategies</li> <li>● Career Development Models</li> <li>● Community-Based Vocational Assessment</li> <li>● Developing and Utilizing Portfolios in Planning</li> <li>● Occupational and Labor Market Resources</li> <li>● Tools Developed by Local Transition Teams</li> <li>● Transition &amp; Career Assessment Resources and Tools</li> <li>● Transition Assessment Practices</li> <li>● Vocational Evaluation Models</li> </ul>
<b>Unified, Holistic Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Braided and Blended Funding of Programs</li> <li>● Collaborative and Integrated Program Models</li> <li>● Coordination of Education and Agency Plans</li> <li>● Personalized, Holistic Planning</li> </ul>
<b>Universal Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Creating Environments that Support the Learning of Youth and Young Adults with Diverse Abilities, Styles, and Needs</li> <li>● Promoting Equal Access for All Youth and Young Adults</li> </ul>