

## Welcome to Project 10 E-News!

Welcome to inaugural issue of *Project 10 E-News*, a monthly e-newsletter that 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](mailto:project10@stpete.usf.edu), and we'll take it from there!

## News from Around the State

Do you know someone who has contributed greatly to the field of secondary transition? Would you like to formally recognize him or her as a leader in the state? Well, now you can through "Who's Who in Florida Transition," a collaborative project between the Florida Chapter of the Council of Exceptional Children's Division on Career Development and Transition (FL-DCDT), and Metamorphosis, a School-Based Enterprise run by students of the Atlantic Technical Center Career Placement Service. Individuals who are nominated will receive a formal award certificate, and their accomplishments will be posted on the FL-DCDT website. An electronic copy of the nomination form and the nomination list are available at <http://www.coe.fau.edu/CentersAndPrograms/fldcdt/>. For more information, please contact Debra Oistacher, [debra.oistacher@browardschools.com](mailto:debra.oistacher@browardschools.com), or Lori Garcia, [lorigarcia@mail.usf.edu](mailto:lorigarcia@mail.usf.edu).

**SAVE THE DATE:** The annual VISIONS Conference sponsored by the Florida Division on Career Development and Transition will be held **May 2, 3, & 4, 2012**. Location and additional information will be available soon at <http://www.project10.info/WhatsNew.php> and in later editions of *Project 10 E-News*.

## Consortium News

The Florida Consortium on Postsecondary Education and Intellectual Disabilities hosted students, parents, university faculty, educators, administrators, and mentors from over 15 postsecondary education sites in Florida at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hartwick Symposium on Postsecondary Education and Intellectual Disabilities December 14-16 in St. Petersburg. The symposium, named after Dr. Patrick Hartwick of Lynn University, a champion of special education who died tragically in the Haitian earthquake in 2008, provides a venue for postsecondary sites to share and gain information on postsecondary options for students with intellectual disabilities. Dr. Thomas Serwatka, UNF Vice President, and Dr. Margaret Sullivan, USFSP Regional Chancellor, were among the keynote speakers. A student panel shared candid reports of their college experiences with the audience.

The symposium theme, The Future Is Now!, was apparent in both the conference kick-off, featuring a Star Wars battle scene, and the progress that existing postsecondary sites have made in the last year. Also impressive is the number of new sites that are appearing at colleges and universities all over the state of Florida.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** Is it necessary to convene or reconvene an IEP meeting to develop or complete a Summary of Performance?

**Answer:** Districts are required to develop and provide a SOP for students exiting with a standard diploma or exceeding the age of eligibility for exceptional student education. Federal laws and regulations and state statutes and rules do not require that the SOP be completed at an IEP team meeting or with student input. However, this is a recommended practice both nationally and in Florida.

## Project 10 Website Updates

The **Promising Practices** section is being revised. **School Based Enterprises** have been moved from Promising Practices to a new SBE section listed on the main menu. Promising Practices will be organized by region and school district and may be accessed from the main menu and from District Resources.

Information on the upcoming Winter Institutes for regions 1, 4, and 5 is available in **What's New**—as well as in the Regional News section of this issue. Presentations and handouts from the Region 2 Fall Institute held on November 15th in Gainesville and the Region 3 Winter Institute held on January 17th in Rockledge are available on the **Conference Presentations** page.

Other additions to **What's New** include a new resource for involving families in dropout prevention and a December 2011 memo from the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services on the dual enrollment of TPSID students.

Information and a link to the new online module on the Florida Summary of Performance has been added to **Online Training** and **What's New**.

A direct link to the **Florida Consortium on Postsecondary Education and Intellectual Disabilities** has been added to the main menu just below the link to the **STING RAY** section where you can check out a cool new video featuring STING RAY students.

A new item on the Harvard Family Resource Project was added to the **A-Z Library**. In addition, the entry for the Governor's Commission on Disabilities was replaced with a new item on the Governor's Commission on Jobs for Floridians with Disabilities.

Several new resources were added to the **Postsecondary Education** section including 1) a new *Transitional Guide to College* written by a college student to help other students with disabilities prepare for college, 2) a "Dear Colleague" letter from the Office of Civil Rights on the legal rights and responsibilities of students before and after they apply to college, and 3) a side-by-side comparison of key legal, family, and instructional differences between college and high school.

**FYI: NSTTAC**, the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center, made major revisions to its website over the holidays that resulted in changes to many of its web links. NSTTAC links (and there are a lot of them!) on the Project 10 website are being updated. If you find a bad link or outdated information—of any kind—on the Project 10 website, please report it to [project10@stpete.usf.edu](mailto:project10@stpete.usf.edu).

## Regional News

### Northwest Region 1

**Dr. Lori Garcia**, [lorigarcia@mail.usf.edu](mailto:lorigarcia@mail.usf.edu)

- The Region 1 Winter Institute will feature Jane Silveria, Program Supervisor with Career and Adult Education, who will provide the most current information on Career and Technical Education. There is no registration fee, but space is limited, so all meeting attendees must submit a completed [registration form](#) as soon as possible. Attendees may select one of two meetings: 1) **Thursday, February 16, 2012**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm EST at FDLRS Miccosukee, Aquilina Howell Instructional Center in Tallahassee or 2) **Tuesday, February 28, 2012**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm CST at FDLRS/PAEC in Chipley.

- The University of West Florida *Newsroom* features an article on a Project SEARCH program that places transitioning ESE students in internships at UWF and local businesses; read the article at <http://news.uwf.edu/index.php/2011/12/local-high-school-students-on-the-job-training-uwf>.

### Northeast Region 2

**Patrick Mulvihill**, [pmulvihill@mail.usf.edu](mailto:pmulvihill@mail.usf.edu)

- The Region 2 Fall Institute was held on November 15 at Santa Fe College in Gainesville and was attended by over 80 participants. To view presentations and handouts from the Fall Institute, go to <http://www.project10.info/ConferencePresentations.php>.

- Three schools, Palm Avenue, Alden Road, and Mt. Herman, in Duval County are participating in a joint Project 10/Florida Developmental Disabilities Council project to introduce the Discovery Process as a form of transition assessment leading to customized employment.

- FDLRS HRD Transition Contacts, SEDNET Project Managers, and the Project 10 RTR have been meeting with targeted districts to assist in developing plans for districts to improve their graduation rate and decrease their dropout rate for students with disabilities.

- A Region 2 *Standing Up for Me* "Train the Trainer" workshop is scheduled for February 1, 2012. One person from each school district in Region 2 has been invited to attend along with FDLRS HRD Transition Contacts and SEDNET Project Managers. Contact Patrick Mulvihill at [PMulvihill@mail.usf.edu](mailto:PMulvihill@mail.usf.edu) to determine your district's trainer.

### East Central Region 3

**Heather Mack**, [hmack1@mail.usf.edu](mailto:hmack1@mail.usf.edu)

- Region 3 continues to move forward with 18-22 programs. Five Project SEARCH sites are operating in Brevard, Martin and Orange school districts. Seminole and Osceola are moving in that direction. Polk, Orange and St. Lucie operate high school transition sites on postsecondary campuses. Brevard, Seminole, Martin, and Highlands are developing programs.

- The DISCOVERY process is underway in Martin and St. Lucie counties and is being piloted in Orange County. Polk and Brevard are also interested in implementing the process.

- The Region 3 Winter Institute was held on January 17, 2012, at the Brevard County School Board Offices. Speakers discussed Indicator 14 and postsecondary options. Presentations and handouts have been added to the Conference Presentations page of the Project 10 website.

- *Standing Up For Me* training is scheduled for February 15, 2012, at the Polk County School Board Office in Bartow.

### West Central Region 4

**Federico Valadez**, [fvaladez@mail.usf.edu](mailto:fvaladez@mail.usf.edu)

- The Region 4 Winter Institute is scheduled for February 21, 2012 from 9:30 am - 3:30 p.m. at Aparicio-Levy Technical Center in Tampa. There is no registration fee, but space is limited, and registration is required. The topic will be Indicator 14: Improving Postsecondary Outcomes for Youth. Contact Federico Valadez for more information.

- Several districts in Region 4 have lowered their dropout rates through strategic methods developed in joint meetings of staff from Project 10, school district MIS and transition departments, SEDNET, FIN, and FDLRS. In addition, Orange County provided technical assistance to Project 10 staff and Pinellas County School District ESE Personnel on using a graduation milestone monitoring tool to help increase their graduation rate.

- The Hernando SEDNET Program Manager and Project 10 have developed a dropout prevention program called "The Graduation Project" that is currently under review and may be piloted at a Hernando County high school.

- Manatee County recognized Option 2 Coordinator Stu Bergmann for his 20 years of dedicated service by establishing a scholarship program for students with disabilities in his honor.

- Pasco County recognized ESE Supervisor Liz Cooper for her 35 years of dedicated service. Liz's statewide contributions include co-authoring the *Standing Up for Me* curriculum.

### South Region 5

**Lisa Friedman-Chavez**, [lfchavez@mail.usf.edu](mailto:lfchavez@mail.usf.edu)

- The Project 10 Region 5 Winter Institute will be held on February 7, 2012, at the Broward County School District's South Area Office in Sunrise. The focus will be on accessing postsecondary options. There is no cost to attend this all day event, however, [registration](#) is required.

- The Broward County School District is working with Project 10, Martin County Project Discover, and the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council to pilot the Discovery process in one of the technical centers.

- Lee County School District was selected as one of two districts in the state to receive technical assistance and support from USF Tampa's Project CODIE (Collaborative on Discovery & Innovation in Employment), which is funded through the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council.

- The Miami-Dade County School District's Clinical Art Therapy Department is collaborating with Project 10 to pilot Project 10 ArtThread and collect data. Student artwork, created through Project 10 ArtThread, will be on display at the FIU Frost Museum in late February.

### Department of Juvenile Justice

**Dr. Rick Casey**, [nsbrec@aol.com](mailto:nsbrec@aol.com)

- Dennis Miller of Riverside Academy in Hillsborough County was named the 2011 Department of Juvenile Justice Teacher of the Year. Mr. Miller draws on 25 years of business and management experience to teach a personal career skills course. His teaching philosophy is "respect is a two-way street; if you want to get it, you've got to give it."

- The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) sponsors the Juvenile Justice Teacher of the Year program to honor outstanding teachers in DJJ education programs. Teachers are nominated by their peers and their students. Representatives from FDOE, DJJ, school districts, community members, and other stakeholders evaluate the nominee applications and select the winner.

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](mailto:project10@stpete.usf.edu)

Want to add or remove a name from the mailing list? Contact your Regional Representative.

[www.project10.info](http://www.project10.info)