

Transition Training Institute

FACING THE FUTURE — TOGETHER

JUNE 25-27, 2025



Registration Information

REGISTRATION FEES

If your online registration is received **on or before June 9**, you will receive the early registration rate of \$225. If your online registration is received **after June 9**, your registration rate will be \$275. On-site registration will be \$325. Regular registration will close on June 19. **Any registration received after June 19 will be considered an on-site registration.**

PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES

Payment of fees may be made by credit card, purchase order, or check. A purchase order must be emailed within five business days of receipt of the online registration confirmation to Custom Meeting Planners at tammy@custommeetingplanners.com. If you choose to pay by check, your check must be received within five business days of your confirmed registration. Make checks payable to Custom Meeting Planners. (Purchase orders and checks may not be used as a form of payment after June 16.)

Mailing address:

Custom Meeting Planners
P.O. Box 30785
Columbia, MO 65205

REFUND POLICY

Registration fees, minus a \$25 processing fee, may be refunded **if a request is emailed to Custom Meeting Planners at tammy@custommeetingplanners.com no later than June 10**. If your payment has yet to be received at the time of your refund request, your invoice will be adjusted to reflect the administrative fee due. No refunds will be authorized after this date, but substitutions will be permitted. No cancellations will be accepted after this date, and any subsequent registrations are not eligible for refund. Full payment of fees will be expected from registrants who are unable to attend the conference **but fail to notify Custom Meeting Planners in writing on or by June 10**.

Duplicate registrations that are canceled are also subject to the \$25 processing fee. Please email Custom Meeting Planners at tammy@custommeetingplanners.com to check whether you have already registered for the conference.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

To register, please **go to na.eventscloud.com/25tti**. Please view and/or print the online registration brochure and select the sessions you would like to attend prior to beginning online registration. Confirmation for your registration and session selections will be emailed to you immediately after completion of the online registration.

If you do not receive confirmation or have questions about registration, please contact Tammy Bagley at **573-881-4849** or tammy@custommeetingplanners.com.

LODGING

Wyndham Executive Center
2200 I-70 Drive S.W.
Columbia, MO 65203
573-445-8531

Participants are responsible for making their own room reservations. A block of rooms at the discounted rate of \$104 per night has been reserved for the conference. A tax exemption letter must be provided to the hotel in order to receive this rate. **Based upon availability, this rate is available until May 25.**

To make your reservation, call **573-445-8531** and identify yourself as an attendee of the Transition Training Institute using the code **MO DESE TTI**. You may also make your reservation online by [clicking here](#). Make your reservations early!

Conference Agenda

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Registration**

1:00 - 1:30 p.m. **Welcome**
Mark Wheatley, Assistant Commissioner, OSE,
and Chris Clause, Assistant Commissioner, VR,
DESE

1:30 - 4:00 p.m. **Keynote Speakers**
Dan Habib and Samuel Habib

4:15 - 5:15 p.m. **Regional Networking**

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

6:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. **Registration**

7:00 - 7:55 a.m. **Breakfast**

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. **Action Plan Introduction**

8:45 - 9:45 a.m. **Regional Transition Team Planning With
Consultants: Work on Action Plans**

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. **Breakout Session 1**

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **Breakout Session 2**

12:15 - 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**

1:15 - 2:15 p.m. **Breakout Session 3**

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. **Breakout Session 4**

3:45 - 4:45 p.m. **Breakout Session 5**

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

6:30 - 10:00 a.m. **Registration**

7:00 - 7:55 a.m. **Breakfast**

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. **Breakout Session 6**

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. **Regional Transition Team Planning With
Consultants: Complete Action Plans**

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. **Breakout Session 7**

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Drawings for Prizes**



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The Transition Training Institute provides information and resources from outside speakers whose views are their own and may not always reflect the views of DESE.

Keynote Speakers



DAN HABIB

Dan Habib is the co-director of the Emmy-Award winning New York Times Op-Doc *My Disability Roadmap* and the new feature film *The Ride Ahead*. A major expansion on *My Disability Roadmap*, *The Ride Ahead* was co-directed with his son, Samuel Habib. Dan is also the creator of other award-winning documentary films including *Intelligent Lives*, *Who Cares About Kelsey?*, *Mr. Connolly Has ALS*, *Including Samuel*, and additional short films on disability-related topics. Dan is the inclusive communities project director at the Westchester Institute for Human Development. He has screened and discussed his films hundreds of times in the U.S. and internationally for universities, corporations, national conferences, film festivals, independent theaters for educators, and the general public. His films have been translated into 17 languages for use as teaching tools worldwide.

SAMUEL HABIB

Samuel Habib is a college student and the Emmy-Award winning co-director of the New York Times Op-Doc *My Disability Roadmap* and the new feature film *The Ride Ahead*. He was a story consultant on the nationally broadcast film *Mr. Connolly Has ALS* and has been profiled in Forbes Magazine. He has also worked as a Concord Monitor newspaper columnist; an interviewer of presidential candidates; and a national presenter on disability rights, inclusive education, and his transition to adulthood. Samuel uses a wheelchair for mobility and a communication device (as well as his voice and gestures) to express himself. In addition to exploring his current and future academic and career options, he also navigates significant chronic health challenges due to his underlying GNAO1 neurodevelopmental disorder. He works part time as a multimedia production assistant and presenter at the Westchester Institute for Human Development.



Dan and Samuel Habib will present *The Ride Ahead* virtually during Wednesday's keynote session from 1:30-4:00 p.m. Following the screening, they will engage in a post-film discussion with the audience.

The Ride Ahead follows Samuel, a typical 21-year-old who is itching to move out, start a career, and find love. But, no one tells you how to be an adult, let alone an adult with a disability.

Key for Conference Sessions

USE THE FOLLOWING KEY TO MATCH EACH CONFERENCE SESSION WITH THE AREA(S) OF INTEREST COVERED IN THAT PARTICULAR SESSION.

ASSESSMENTS

A

AGENCY COLLABORATION

AC

COMPLIANCE

C

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

CR

EMPLOYMENT

E

FAMILY SUPPORT

FS

INDEPENDENT LIVING

IL

INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

IP

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

PE

TECHNOLOGY

T

TRANSITION PLANNING

TP

YOUTH SUPPORT

YS

Conference Sessions

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

4:15-5:15 P.M.

Regional Networking

In this informal session, network with your regional team including improvement, compliance, and behavioral consultants from the Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDCs); transition liaisons; and representatives from other agencies. Discuss your Action Plans from 2024 and ask questions on postsecondary transition. Get to know the people who can help guide you through the world of postsecondary transition.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

8:00-8:30 A.M.

Action Plan Introduction

This large group session will introduce educators to the Action Plan tool that will be utilized to support local education agencies (LEAs) throughout the school year to foster improvement in a variety of transitional areas. LEAs will examine their strengths and weaknesses in the areas of student development, interagency collaboration, student-focused planning, program structure, and family involvement. LEAs will then develop action steps to support their own transition teams in reaching specific goals. Transition liaisons and RPDC consultants, along with agencies that support individuals with disabilities, will participate in the following small-group sessions in order to answer any questions.

PRESENTER: Marsha Campe, Assistant Director of Effective Practices, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

8:45-9:45 A.M.

Regional Transition Team Planning With Consultants — Work on Action Plans

During this session, collaborators will meet with transition liaisons, RPDC consultants, and representatives from various agencies to begin

the task of completing the Action Plan tool described in the previous session. Liaisons and consultants will answer questions so that LEAs will get the most benefit from utilizing the Action Plan tool throughout the following school year.

FACILITATORS: Missouri Transition Liaisons and RPDC Consultants

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

10:00-11:00 A.M.

TP

1A: Let's Talk About Relationships — Relationship Safety for Students With Disabilities

This session will provide participants with concrete strategies to teach students how to navigate healthy friendships and personal relationships. We will discuss addressing and developing personal rules, different types of relationships, friendships and dating, consent and relationship safety, phone and social media safety, how to identify abuse, the types of abuse, and what to do if someone is being abused. Participants will practice problem-solving using discussion prompts and various scenarios along with the presenters' expertise and the collective knowledge and experience of the session's participants.

PRESENTERS: Kent Yocum, Special Education Improvement Consultant, and Bailey Tennesen, Special Education Compliance Consultant, Kansas City RPDC

AC CR FS IL TP YS

1B: Transitions for Neurodivergent Teens Including Services for Profound Autism

This session will focus on transitions for neurodivergent teens and those with developmental disabilities as they transition from school to adulthood with day programs, job programs, college, housing, and independent living. Participants will receive resources for individuals with profound autism and strategies for families to advocate and coordinate services for the needs of this population and their caregivers. Participants will also learn about a housing program in

Fulton that empowers individuals to live independently in a community setting.

PRESENTERS: Julia Chaney-Faughn, Attorney, Cruse • Chaney-Faughn, P.C.; and Nancy Baumgartner Hanson, Executive Director, WeBUILT

AC E FS IL PE TP

1C: Pre-Employment Transition Services (and More) for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB) provides Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to students who have a visual impairment. RSB also provides resources and advocacy for students at any grade level. This session will discuss the services provided by RSB and how RSB can be a support for your students, their families, and your school.

PRESENTERS: Kevin Kellerkern, Children's Specialist, and Samantha Rohr, Transition Services Coordinator, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind

E PE

1D: Applying Missouri Connections Resources to Strengthen Career Exploration and Preparation

For educators and students, a deeper understanding of career awareness and planning is essential to utilizing the Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP), investigating and learning about careers, and beginning the process for planning after high school. This session will focus on extending knowledge of Missouri Connections as a viable resource for every student and educator. Participants will have the opportunity to take a deeper dive into Missouri Connections, learning how to access the service along with career-research strategies and important courses that align with careers of interest.

PRESENTERS: Jeff Beiswinger, Career Advisor, Heart of Missouri RPDC; and Jay Webster, Career Advisor, Central RPDC

IL

1E: Empowering Independence — Learning the Skills of Cooking With the Color-Coded Chef

Join this session for an exciting cooking event featuring live demonstrations and hands-on experiences with the Color-Coded Chef.

Participants will learn how to create specific recipes using our color-coded tools and ingredients. This innovative cooking method empowers individuals to develop essential life skills. With easy-to-understand instructions and adaptable techniques, our approach is perfect for diverse audiences and makes cooking accessible to most people. Come experience the impact of the Color-Coded Chef on healthy living.

PRESENTER: Terri Jordan, Owner, The Color-Coded Chef

YS

1F: Unified Champion Schools — Building a Culture of Inclusion

The Unified Champion Schools program promotes social inclusion through intentionally planned and implemented activities affecting systemwide change. With leadership and sports as the foundation, its three-component strategy provides students and staff with tools and training to create school climates of acceptance. These are school climates where students with disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in (and feel a part of) all activities, opportunities, and functions.

PRESENTER: Ben Johnson, Unified Champion Schools Manager, Special Olympics Missouri

YS

1G: We Are the Future Leaders — MyVoice and Youth Leadership Strategies

In this session, youths and young adults will describe MyVoice (Missouri Youth Voices of Independent and Collective Education), which is the youth-leadership council for Missouri Parents Act (MPACT). MyVoice has three purposes: to help members develop leadership and self-advocacy skills, to help Missouri youths develop self-advocacy and leadership skills, and to improve how MPACT addresses youth voice in its programming. MyVoice members develop their skills through leading group meetings, deciding on group actions, and presenting at conferences and summits. In this session, participants will receive examples of youth-leadership practices to use in their own schools and agencies.

PRESENTERS: Madison Ragsdale, MyVoice Member, Lillie Ricketts, Youth Engagement Coordinator, Jeffrey Skwirut, MyVoice Member, Dakota Ragsdale, MyVoice Member, and Zach McCall, Program Director, MPACT

C**1H: Form C: Postsecondary Transition Changes and Updates – Following Jill From School to Career (Repeat of 7G)**

In this session, come learn about the Form C: Postsecondary Transition Plan's anticipated changes through the Office of Special Education's Compliance section. Participants will receive information about the anticipated changes along with how these changes can help teachers document the information necessary for compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Participants will also learn what is considered to be in and out of compliance as related to postsecondary transition plans.

PRESENTERS: Jeanne Rothermel, Special Education Compliance Consultant, EducationPlus/St. Louis RPDC; and Connie Roth, Compliance Supervisor, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

**BREAKOUT SESSION 2
11:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M.****AC IL YS****2A: Transition Can Be Scary – We Can Help**

With all of the preparation needed to transition from the structured setting of school to the next chapter in their lives, students encounter many stressors and barriers to moving forward. Compass Health Network has multiple service lines, not only for students but also for their support systems, in order to help make this transition as smooth as possible. Our crisis services triage what is happening in the moment and help connect members of the school community to needed resources. In this session, come learn how our community and school-based services can become an active part of a student's care team, teaching new skills and building wraparound services to help students and their caregivers resolve stressful situations and events. Compass Health wants to be a resource for students for their mental health concerns so that they can focus on their education.

PRESENTERS: Stephanie Martensen, Senior Director of School-Based Therapy, Madison Huebert, Director of Behavioral Health Liaisons, and Kimberly Farris-Wilson, Senior Director of Youth CPRC, Compass Health Network

E PE TP**2B: Get Students Earning While They Are Learning – Transforming Students' Future Through Registered Youth Apprenticeship Programs**

Come discover how to empower students' career success through hands-on learning with homegrown Registered Youth Apprenticeship (RYA) programs. Explore how your school can bridge education and industry to create transformative career pathways. In this session, participants will learn how RYA sets the gold standard for work-based learning that is aligned with Missouri's vision for student success. Participants will also discover how to adapt curriculum to meet industry needs and apprenticeship standards. Walk away with practical tools, real-world examples, and a framework to align education with workforce demands.

PRESENTERS: Angie Fadness, Youth Apprenticeship Consultant, Heart of Missouri RPDC; and Clara Liles, Youth Apprenticeship Consultant, Kansas City RPDC

AC E**2C: MU Pre-ETS and Vocational Rehabilitation – What Is It All About?**

This session will explore the role of the University of Missouri's Pre-ETS program along with Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services. Participants will learn about the paperwork requirements for each program along with how to get their students involved. Participants will also explore the various services offered and how students with disabilities can benefit from these agencies.

PRESENTERS: Michelle Young, Assistant Director of Youth Services, Kristin Donze, Assistant Director of Youth Services, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation; and Lindsay Hartzler, Assistant Director of Pre-ETS, University of Missouri

IP**2D: Self-Efficacy Within the College and Career Competency Framework**

This session will explore the self-efficacy unit of the College and Career Competency Framework. This curriculum was developed at the University of Kansas and is research-based on effective instructional strategies for supporting soft-skills development for students in grades K-12.

PRESENTER: Jenessa Dodson, Behavior Consultant, Heart of Missouri RPDC

FS IL IP T YS

2E: Best Day Ever! Empowering Youths With Disabilities Through Meal Planning

To foster meaningful independent-living skills, educators must extend learning beyond the traditional classroom. Youths need real-world opportunities to build independence in planning for and accessing their communities. This session will provide educators, families, and agency providers with a toolkit to support self-determination, money management, social skills, healthy eating, and food preparation. Discover how a student-led meal program empowers youths and families to plan for life beyond the transition program by incorporating technology, peer collaboration, and differentiated and explicit instruction.

PRESENTERS: Rachael Blake, Special Education Teacher, and Joy Voss, Special Education Teacher, Special School District of St. Louis County

FS PE TP YS

2F: Empowering Students for Successful Transitions

This session will explore how Charting the LifeCourse tools can empower students with disabilities to successfully transition to postsecondary education, employment, and independent living. Participants will learn how to guide students and families in defining their vision of a good life while leveraging personal strengths, relationships, and community resources. Using real-life examples, this session will highlight the use of practical tools such as the Life Trajectory and Integrated Star to map pathways and overcome barriers. Walk away with actionable strategies to support self-determination, foster meaningful life experiences, and ensure students are prepared for the future.

PRESENTERS: Mandy Nolan, Community Advocacy Liaison, and Chrissy Mehrle, Training Coordinator, Family Advocacy and Community Training

E FS

2G: Transition and Benefits — From High School to Employment

The path to employment out of high school looks different for everybody, and this is also the case for individuals with disabilities. Many federal and state benefits and programs are available to help, but sometimes it can be tough to know where to start. This session will review some of these options in order to assist individuals and their families in making the best-informed decisions for themselves. Come learn about the summer work experience program, Medicaid and waiver options, and services available through Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation.

PRESENTER: Dan Wagner, Director of Benefits Planning, Job One

C A TP

2H: Transition Assessments and Activities for K-12 Students

In this session, participants will learn about various formal and informal transition assessments for students at all grade levels. The session will focus on free options along with complementary activities that can be used individually as well as within a class. Come explore options to help students identify their preferences, interests, needs, and strengths. Receive several resources that are available to teachers and schools along with sample reports and starters to make your life easier.

PRESENTERS: Jana Locke, Transition Coordinator, Marshall School District; and Mary Beth Scherer, Special Education Improvement Consultant, Central RPDC

BREAKOUT SESSION 3 1:15-2:15 P.M.

E PE

3A: Short-Term Employment and Training Options

The Office of Workforce and Community Initiatives (OWCI) administers federal and state employment and training funds to provide workforce preparation to low-income Missourians. In this session, participants will discover the various programs OWCI offers and how they can help Missourians with soft-skill development, employment connections, and training education. This session will review the Jobs for America's Graduates, Jobs League, and SkillUP programs. Come learn how these career programs operate and what their eligibility requirements are.

PRESENTERS: Mandi Oppy, Program Specialist, and Bailey Cooper, Program Specialist, Office of Workforce and Community Initiatives, Missouri Department of Social Services

E FS IL TP YS

3B: Charting the LifeCourse for Supporting Youths and Families in Postsecondary Transition

This interactive session will feature the Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) framework along with tools for postsecondary transition. Youths and families will learn about having a vision for a good life in all of the life domains and will identify supports to help achieve their vision for adult life. Participants will also explore and practice using CtLC tools, including health care transition tools and educational materials, to help

young adults and their families get ready for moving to adult health care and living a healthy adult life.

PRESENTER: Jane St. John, Lead Product Development Specialist, LifeCourse Nexus, UMKC Institute for Human Development

CR E IP

3C: What Is Happening at the Workshop? Everything From Student Internships to Competitive Integrated Employment

SWI Industrial Solutions, known locally as the Springfield Workshop, has long been on the cutting edge of providing employment solutions for clients with significant disabilities. In recent years, the workshop has added more opportunities for individuals to gain competitive integrated employment. The Springfield R-XII School District works hand-in-hand with the workshop to provide transition education for all levels of students. Join this session to discuss our district's program within the workshop, what workshop employment typically looks like for individuals with disabilities, and what it would take to develop a workshop program for students at your own high school.

PRESENTER: Loni LeForce, Special Education Process Coordinator, Springfield R-XII School District

TP YS

3D: My Life, My Meeting — Student-Led IEPs

Student-led IEP meetings empower students to take an active role in their own education by leading discussions about their postsecondary goals, strengths, needs, and preferences. This session will focus on strategies to support students in preparing for and leading their IEP meetings. By building self-awareness and self-advocacy, students can ensure that their voices are heard in shaping their current educational experiences and future plans.

PRESENTER: Berkley Rosenquist, Special Education Improvement Consultant, Southeast RPDC

IP YS

3E: Closing the Gap — Tools and Resources for Educators of At-Risk and System-Involved Youths

This session will equip participants with the knowledge, strategies, and resources needed to effectively support at-risk and system-involved

youths. Participants will learn how to identify the key barriers these students face, implement tailored interventions, and access a variety of tools and resources that can enhance the educational experience for students. This session will also provide practical guidance on how to navigate the unique challenges of these students and empower them on their educational journey.

PRESENTER: Kim Albrecht, Operations Coordinator, MPACT

AC CR E IP

3F: Collaborative School District Partnerships That Promote Employment Readiness in Transition-Age Students

Educational systems have a significant impact on transition-age youths and their probability of entering the workforce upon graduation. This session will feature a collaborative initiative between a local school district and an area service provider whose goal was to increase the district's capacity to engage students with profound disabilities in employment-readiness programming. Come learn about the three levels of this initiative that include community outreach, program design, and implementation. Participants will also discover the collective impact this initiative has had on the student and educational environments.

PRESENTERS: Cassidi Jobe, Executive Director, Lauren Wray, Youth Community Engagement Coordinator, and Brooke De Negri, Community Employment Program Manager, Summit Future Foundation

E IL TP

3G: Centers for Independent Living

This session will highlight successful outcomes achieved through the comprehensive programming provided by the 21 Centers for Independent Living that serve all 114 counties in Missouri. These programs are designed to support individuals with disabilities and have prepared student participants to facilitate postsecondary employment and education and to establish independent-living skills. Come learn how we have facilitated our consumers' active engagement in community activities and have fostered a sense of belonging and inclusion.

PRESENTERS: Patrick Lee, Executive Director, Services for Independent Living; and Susan Roemer, Executive Director, Independent Living Resource Center

C**3H: The Golden Thread in the Special Education Process**

Discover how this Golden Thread is seamlessly integrated throughout the IEP. From the present level and special considerations to the annual goals and Form C, this framework ensures alignment and continuity. Postsecondary transition plays a critical role in identifying students' preferences, interests, and strengths. It also informs the development of annual and postsecondary goals, the services required to support students during high school, and the selection of courses that align with their long-term aspirations.

PRESENTERS: Julia Schmitz, Special Education Compliance Consultant, Northwest RPDC; Kathy Daniel, Director of Special Services, Mid-Buchanan R-V School District; and Paula Chambers, Director, Area Cooperative for Educational Support

BREAKOUT SESSION 4

2:30-3:30 P.M.

T**4A: AI for Reluctant Special Education Teachers and Leaders — A Tool for Efficiency and Engagement**

This session will provide reluctant district and building special education teachers and leaders with an introduction to AI tools that can ease their workload and inspire learning. Participants will discover how to sign up for AI resources along with the best use of various tools. Participants will also witness demonstrations and will have the opportunity for hands-on practice. Come learn how AI tools can be used to enhance student engagement and foster learning.

PRESENTER: Kent Yocum, Special Education Improvement Consultant, Kansas City RPDC

PE TP**4B: Bridging Futures — Middle School Transition Planning for Success**

With the age requirement for Form C shifting to include students as young as 14, middle school teachers are playing a pivotal role in laying the groundwork for successful transitions to high school and beyond. This session will provide practical strategies to integrate meaningful

transition planning into IEP development for younger students. Come explore how to align student strengths, interests, and career goals with postsecondary planning while engaging families and fostering student self-advocacy. This session will also provide high school teachers with insight on supporting middle school educators in providing transition planning to students.

PRESENTER: Sydney Rehm, Special Education Teacher, Buffalo High School, Dallas County R-I School District

E**4C: Facilitating Student Interactions During Community-Based Work Experiences**

Social skills are an integral requirement for competitive integrated employment, and students with disabilities can acquire them during work-based learning experiences. This session will share preliminary findings from five case studies that investigated how students with intellectual disabilities interact with others during community-based work experiences, along with the factors that either facilitate or hinder student interactions. These findings offer practical strategies that teachers and providers can use to implement work experiences that give students the opportunity to interact with others and gain the social skills needed for competitive integrated employment.

PRESENTERS: Magen Rooney-Kron, Assistant Professor, Jaylin Brown, Student Researcher, Wen Zeng, Senior Program/Project Support Coordinator, and Lindsay Athamanah, Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-St. Louis

A AC FS TP**4D: How to Write a Kickin' Transition Plan**

As an educator for ages 18-21, this session's presenter often inherits a multitude of interesting (and sometimes disappointing) transition plans. There are times when a transition plan is the last thing on an educator's mind when writing and discussing an IEP. In this session, participants will share in knowledge learned through experience and will receive a PowerPoint presentation they can take back to their districts to pass along the secrets to writing an amazing transition plan.

PRESENTERS: Vivian McKinney, Special Education Transition Educator, and Madison Slocum, Special Education Transition Educator, Raytown School District

FS**4E: Parent Perspectives on Transition**

In this session, parents will share perspectives on their children's postsecondary transition from high school to adult roles. They will discuss important transition strategies such as connecting with agencies, negotiating relationships with educational professionals, advocating for changes in educational programs, and encouraging student decision-making. They will also discuss the barriers and challenges they encountered along the way. Participants will walk away with strategies for creating stronger partnerships with parents in support of preparing youths for adult life.

PRESENTERS: Zach McCall, Program Director, Carrie Ragsdale, Transition Program Coordinator, and Amanda Linski, Regional Coordinator, MPACT

IP TP**4F: Facilitating Opportunities for Students With Special Needs in Career and Technical Education**

This session will explore best practices for ensuring fair access to career and technical education (CTE) for students with disabilities. Participants will review the High School CTE Admissions Best Practices document developed by DESE in collaboration with the Missouri CTE Special Populations Task Force. This session will also highlight data on the impact of CTE for students covered under IDEA, discuss challenges related to admissions criteria, and explore effective accommodations and modifications in CTE programs.

PRESENTER: Katie Siegel, Director of Workforce Development, Columbia School District

E IL PE TP**4G: Understanding MO ABLE Accounts**

For too long, individuals with disabilities could not save for the future out of fear of losing their needed government benefits. The disability community fought long and hard to change this. Together, we have come up with a solution. A STABLE account through MO ABLE is a way for Missourians with disabilities to save for qualified expenses, invest for future needs, and keep the benefits they rely on every day.

PRESENTER: Yvonne Rydman, Administrative and Constituent Services Coordinator, Missouri State Treasurer's Office

C**4H: Form C: Postsecondary Transition Goals**

Learn how to develop goals that will allow Jill the opportunity to achieve her anticipated career, education, and/or training aspirations. Come explore Jill's need for anticipated independent-living skills that will be addressed through an independent-living goal. Postsecondary goals can have a significant impact on a student's future both professionally and personally. Throughout this session, participants will analyze student-assessment data and will learn how to develop appropriate postsecondary goals that are based on a student's strengths, needs, preferences, and interests.

PRESENTERS: Bailey Tennesen, Special Education Compliance Consultant, Kansas City RPDC; Lynn Lynch, Special Education Compliance Consultant, and Jennifer Statler, Special Education Improvement Consultant, Heart of Missouri RPDC

BREAKOUT SESSION 5

3:45-4:45 P.M.

E PE**5A: Using the Color-Coded Chef Skills Boxes to Lead to Employment Opportunities**

Mastering a variety of skills can pave the way to employment opportunities. Stocking produce enriches daily life with fresh and nutritious options while providing valuable experience in the food industry. Additionally, mastering napkin folding and table settings opens doors to job opportunities at local convention centers and assisted living homes by showcasing essential hospitality skills that are in demand. In this interactive session, come learn about these key skills and how they can benefit transition students. With insights from the IEP goal bank, educators can tailor lessons to individual strengths, paving the way for meaningful employment.

PRESENTERS: Terri Jordan, Owner, The Color-Coded Chef; and Deanna Heuring, Owner, Graceful Transitions

5B: LSR7 Elevate and G.R.E.A.T. — Guiding Students Toward Independence

The LSR7 Elevate and G.R.E.A.T. (Gaining Real-Life Experience and Training) programs are designed to empower students in the district's special services population by providing meaningful postsecondary transition opportunities. These programs support students ages 18-21, equipping them with the skills and experiences necessary for greater independence in adulthood. Aligned with the Form C: Postsecondary Transition Plan, both initiatives focus on career exploration, life skills, and community engagement to ensure that students are prepared for success beyond high school.

PRESENTERS: Aubri Janes, Transition Coordinator, and Christina Taylor, Transition Teacher, Miller Park Center, Lee's Summit R-VII School District

YS**5C: Empowering Self-Advocates — Training Modules for Transition-Age Students With Disabilities**

This session will introduce a newly developed set of four learning modules designed to provide foundational knowledge and practical strategies for self-advocacy and community organizing. Each module includes a PowerPoint presentation, a resource guide, and a self-reflection worksheet — making them flexible, user-friendly tools for educators, families, and students themselves. In this session, participants will explore the content and structure of these modules, which address key areas such as accessing community services, advocating in the workplace, engaging in postsecondary education, and participating in civic activities.

PRESENTERS: Wen Zeng, Senior Program/Project Support Coordinator, April Regester, Associate Professor, University of Missouri-St. Louis; and Leigh Anne Haun, Director of Policy Advocacy, Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council

TP**5D: Employment First**

Employment First means that all people, no matter what their disability is, have the right to work at a job they choose that matches their skills and interests. As a policy position, Employment First states that all

individuals, including those with the most-significant disabilities, are capable of full participation in competitive integrated employment and community life. In this session, learn how the Missouri chapter of the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE-MO) assists individuals and organizations through advocacy, education, and training to implement Employment First in their communities.

PRESENTER: Cassidi Jobe, Board Member, APSE-MO

T**5E: Assistive Technology for Independent Living and Tips for Teaching**

This session will discuss various assistive technology and accessibility features available to help foster independence for individuals who have a visual impairment. Come explore devices that can help individuals become more independent and receive tips on teaching to students. Participants will view a demonstration of accessibility features on a laptop, a Chromebook, and an iPad along with screen readers to showcase some keyboard commands and their uses.

PRESENTERS: DJ Butcher, Blindness Skills Specialist, Anthony Blades, Blindness Skills Specialist, Agency for Teaching, Leading and Learning/Springfield; Jessica Hall, Blindness Skills Specialist, Northeast RPDC; and Becky Romine, Blindness Skills Specialist, Missouri School for the Blind

CR E**5F: Fueling Futures — Empowering Missouri's Professionals to Lead Youths With Disabilities to STEM Success**

Missouri professionals are making great strides in helping youths with disabilities transition from school to career. Building on this foundation, this session will introduce registered apprenticeships — paid, work-based learning programs that combine on-the-job training with classroom instruction. These apprenticeships are powerful, accessible career pathways. The STEM Apprenticeship Project, funded by General Motors through the National Disability Institute, supports these efforts by providing resources, fostering collaboration, and sharing strategies to expand career options.

PRESENTERS: Yvonne Wright, LEAD Center Co-Director, Annie Lorenz, Training and Technical Assistance Manager, National Disability Institute; and Donna Brake, Manager of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning, Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development

E**5G: Career Opportunity Training for Youth**

What is Career Opportunity Training for Youth (COTY)? A federally funded program for Columbia School District students to gain the skills and training needed for career success after graduation, COTY is open to high school students in grades 9-12 with a focus on 11th and 12th graders facing barriers. Join this session and learn more about this pilot program through the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development.

PRESENTERS: Katie Siegel, Director of Workforce Development, Columbia School District; David Johnson, Youth Career Specialist, Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development; and Brandi Chick, Career Consultant, COPIC

C**5H: Form C: Postsecondary Transition Services**

Transition services encompass a coordinated set of activities designed to support Jill in achieving her postsecondary transition goals. This session will outline best practices for structuring these services based on the student's annual and postsecondary goals. Participants will also learn how to effectively incorporate representatives from external agencies (when appropriate) to enhance the postsecondary planning process.

PRESENTERS: Julia Schmitz, Special Education Compliance Consultant, Northwest RPDC; Kathy Daniel, Director of Special Services, Mid-Buchanan R-V School District; and Paula Chambers, Director, Area Cooperative for Educational Support

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

BREAKOUT SESSION 6

8:00-9:00 A.M.

E PE**6A: Preparing for College, Preparing for Success**

Missouri State University's Bear POWER is a five-semester inclusive college program for students with intellectual and developmental

disabilities. This program is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a comprehensive transition program. In this session, come learn how to prepare and enroll students in the Bear POWER program. Participants will also discover which skills and strategies students need to be successful in college and will learn how our program has forged partnerships within campus and throughout the community. When agencies, school personnel, campus staff and faculty, and individuals work together, students achieve positive outcomes.

PRESENTER: April Phillips, Director, Bear POWER, Missouri State University

AC CR FS YS**6B: What Hannibal High School Learned Hosting Its First Community Outreach Expo**

This session will highlight the planning, execution, and impact of the first-ever Community Outreach Expo at Hannibal High School. Come learn how the idea was developed, the steps taken to implement the event, and the organizations and individuals that were invited. This session will also cover the expo's target audience, attendance, materials used, and valuable feedback received from both vendors and participants.

PRESENTERS: Brock Sousa, Off-Campus Coordinator, and Lacy Bennett, A+/Testing Coordinator, Hannibal High School, Hannibal School District

FS IL YS**6C: Accommodating Youths Experiencing Psychosis in the Classroom**

Students experiencing psychosis face unique challenges in school from difficulty concentrating to navigating stigma and accessing support. Educators play a vital role in fostering an environment where these students can succeed, but many teachers lack the necessary resources and guidance. This session will introduce the Early Psychosis Care (EPC) Educator Toolkit, a practical resource developed by young adults with lived experience to help teachers recognize early warning signs, implement effective classroom accommodations, and facilitate stigma-free conversations about psychosis.

PRESENTER: Grace Chapel, Youth and Family Liaison, Early Psychosis Care Center

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6D: Virtual Transition — How to Help Students Prepare for Life From a Virtual Classroom

Launch provides high-quality virtual education opportunities for K-12 Missouri students. Launch's special education services are designed to serve both full-time and per-course students with mild to moderate disabilities who require modifications and accommodations. Students may attend Zoom sessions with their direct service provider for IEP service minutes or attend asynchronous, co-taught classes with options for support in small-group and one-on-one tutoring sessions. Transition classes and services are offered in grades 6-12. Come learn about the services Launch offers and how they can help your own students.

PRESENTERS: Loni LeForce, Special Education Process Coordinator, and Courtney Creed, Launch Process Coordinator and Launch Teacher, Springfield R-XII School District

AC CR

6E: A Regional Transition Network Town Hall

This town hall session will discuss how regional transition to adult life networks (RTNs) operate to increase youths' knowledge of transition, self-advocacy skills, and connections with transition agencies. RTNs are composed of representatives from a variety of local agencies and organizations and engage in three major activities: conducting a resource-mapping process to identify local transition gaps and barriers, developing action plans to address these gaps and barriers, and carrying out actions including putting on transition events (youth summits, resource fairs, transition-skills days, job fairs) for youths, parents, educators, and agency staff.

PRESENTER: Carrie Ragsdale, Transition Program Coordinator, MPACT

PE TP

6F: Tools to Transition to Postsecondary Education

This session will explore effective strategies for utilizing Charting the LifeCourse tools to facilitate a smooth transition to postsecondary education. Participants will learn how these tools can be instrumental in helping students identify their personal and academic desires, unique

needs, strengths, and necessary supports as they move from high school to college. Come discuss how these tools empower students to navigate the challenges of emerging adulthood by providing a structured approach to self-reflection, goal setting, networking, and resource identification. Participants will also gain practical insights on how to implement these strategies to enhance student success and foster resilience.

PRESENTERS: Jonathan Lidgus, Director of the Office of Inclusive Postsecondary Education, and April Regester, Associate Professor, University of Missouri-St. Louis

T

6G: Pathways to Technology Solutions

As assistive technology (AT) and related services play an increasingly vital role, the need to build AT capacity among individuals with disabilities, family members, providers, educators, and others continues to grow. A collaborative initiative through Missouri Assistive Technology and the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) Institute for Human Development, the AT Academy offers a structured framework to help individuals navigate and understand AT within the context of the Charting the LifeCourse Planning Pathways to Technology Solutions.

PRESENTERS: David Baker, Director, Missouri Assistive Technology; and Angelina Albert, Research Assistant, UMKC Institute for Human Development

C

6H: Individual Career and Academic Plan — Course of Study

In this session, learn how to develop a course of study, or ICAP, for Jill that allows for opportunities to explore coursework that supports her postsecondary goals. Discover how the ICAP is a road map to help students develop their awareness, knowledge, attitude, and skills in order to create their own meaningful pathways toward becoming success-ready graduates. The ICAP will assist students in meeting their postsecondary goals as aligned with appropriate transition services.

PRESENTERS: Tonya Grant, Special Education Improvement Consultant, Dawn Lichtenberg, Special Education Compliance Consultant, Northeast RPDC; and Connie Roth, Compliance Supervisor, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

9:15-10:15 A.M.

Regional Transition Team Planning With Consultants — Complete Action Plans

During this session, stakeholders will gather with transition liaisons, RPDC consultants, and representatives from various agencies to ask any final questions regarding their Action Plans. Then, the Action Plans will be finalized and turned in for a chance to earn tickets for prizes. The transition liaisons and RPDC consultants will also be available to help LEAs explore options and services throughout their own regions. Participants will have the opportunity to strategize and network with fellow educators and agency representatives.

FACILITATORS: Missouri Transition Liaisons and RPDC Consultants

BREAKOUT SESSION 7 10:30-11:30 A.M.

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7A: Lifelong Transition

This session will help participants to begin looking at postsecondary transition immediately. No matter an individual's age, small things can be taught to help plan for postsecondary life in relation to independence and employment. Not everyone may end up independent or competitively employed, but there will be something for everyone to take away for their home or school team to put into practice. This session will also highlight the importance of families and school teams working together on these skills for the greater good.

PRESENTER: Deanna Heuring, Owner, Graceful Transitions

FS PE TP YS

7B: Tools for Planning a Successful Transition From Eighth Grade to High School

Preparing students for a successful high school experience starts with comprehensive planning during eighth grade. This session will showcase how Charting the LifeCourse tools can help guide families, educators, and students in developing a personalized transition plan. Participants will explore strategies to leverage informal assessments in reading, writing, and math to identify student strengths and needs, evaluate postsecondary options like the A+ Scholarship Program, and

determine when functional curriculum may be introduced. This session will also address accommodations and modifications for college-bound students, pathways to independent living, and the role of day programs.

PRESENTERS: Mandy Nolan, Community Advocacy Liaison, and Chrissy Mehrle, Training Coordinator, Family Advocacy and Community Training

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7C: Synergize — Working Together to Develop New Opportunities for Transition-Age Individuals

In this session, learn how a synergistic group in the southeast Missouri region has increased collaboration and continues to develop new summer work experiences, improved access to employment services, and improved overall employment outcomes. Collaborative team members include staff from the Cape Girardeau School District, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Disabilities, VR service providers, a regional pet shelter, Employment First Missouri, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, and many more working together to develop new opportunities.

PRESENTERS: Cindy Lange, Developmental Disabilities Employment Coordinator, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri; Leslie Quarles, Training Associate II, Institute for Community Inclusion; and Carrie Patrick, Assistant District Supervisor, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation

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7D: From Classrooms to Careers — A Student's Journey From High School to Vocational Rehabilitation and Beyond

Transitioning from high school to vocational rehabilitation and post-school services requires careful planning, coordination, and support. Early engagement with VR services helps students access career counseling, job training, and workplace-readiness programs. In this session, learn how collaboration among schools, families, VR counselors, and community organizations is essential to ensure a smooth transition. While students are still in school, collaboration happens with community resource providers (CRPs) going out into the community and networking with local businesses to ensure that partnerships are created. CRPs ensure that businesses have employment opportunities while students are in school.

PRESENTERS: Loni LeForce, Special Education Process Coordinator, Springfield R-XII School District; Amy Ellis, VR Counselor, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation; and Lori Dunn, Transition Coordinator, Firefly Services

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7E: Empowering Your Finances — Preserving Your Benefits

This interactive session will provide information on financial-planning tools. Participants will discuss various types of special needs trusts and ABLE accounts and will walk through certain scenarios. These tools make it possible to maintain benefits while planning for the future of individuals with disabilities. Participants will also learn about the Midwest Special Needs Trust's Charitable Grant program.

PRESENTER: Shelley Morse, Director of Trust Services, Midwest Special Needs Trust

FS TP YS

7F: Taking Control — Strategies for Student-Led IEPs From Parents and Youths

Successful postsecondary transition generally requires youths to take more control of their lives as they get closer to leaving high school. Student-led IEPs are a powerful way of taking on more control of the future-planning process. When students lead their own IEP meetings, they increase their knowledge of postsecondary rights and services as well as their self-determination skills. In this session, parents and young adults will share their experiences (both good and bad) of youths taking ownership of their IEPs.

PRESENTERS: Jeffrey Skwirut, MyVoice Member, Dakota Ragsdale, MyVoice Member, and Carrie Ragsdale, Transition Program Coordinator, MPACT

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7G: Postsecondary Panel

During this session, participants will hear from a panel of college

disability offices that support individuals with disabilities at their respective institutions. Panel members will share their experiences so stakeholders can become more aware of the needs, areas for system growth, and ways to improve supporting individuals with disabilities in the postsecondary setting. The panel will also help dispel myths of having students with disabilities in postsecondary education and will provide valuable information to those who want to follow their path into the postsecondary setting.

PANEL PARTICIPANTS: April Regester, Associate Professor, University of Missouri-St. Louis; Jaclyn Benigno, Research Associate, Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment, University of Missouri; Tara Hoffman, SAIL Program Director, North Central Missouri College; Maggie Center, PAWS Project Coordinator, University of Missouri; and April Phillips, Director of Bear POWER, Missouri State University

C

7H: Form C: Postsecondary Transition Changes and Updates — Following Jill From School to Career (Repeat of 1H)

In this session, come learn about the Form C: Postsecondary Transition Plan's anticipated changes through the Office of Special Education's Compliance section. Participants will receive information about the anticipated changes along with how these changes can help teachers document the information necessary for compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Participants will also learn what is considered to be in and out of compliance as related to postsecondary transition plans.

PRESENTERS: Jeanne Rothermel, Special Education Compliance Consultant, EducationPlus/St. Louis RPDC; and Connie Roth, Compliance Supervisor, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transition Training Institute

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