

Transition Voice

The Council for Exceptional Children Virginia Division
on Career Development and Transition



Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Updates

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President's Corner

By Marianne Moore

The Virginia Division on Career Development and Transition recognized two outstanding leaders in Secondary Transition. Tori Saylor received our youth award. Many of you have heard Tori present at a Youth Summit, a Transition Forum, and perhaps to VDOE's Aspiring Leaders. Those nominating Tori describe her:

Tori "owns" and lives with her disability, rather than allowing her disability to in any way limit her life. As a highly successful young adult, Tori embodies the ongoing challenges and successes inherent to the transition to adult life for many youth with disabilities. With the continuing support of her parents, Tori has continued to navigate a sometimes rocky road from high school to adulthood,

learning from and using challenges as stepping stones to her goals and dreams for the future. Tori has set and reached numerous goals for herself in the areas of employment, education, training and independent living. She earned an Associate's degree from Blue Ridge Community College and is currently employed as Lead Veterinary Assistant at a vet clinic. Tori has also completed training in equissage. Tori is a passionate, skillful and dedicated Youth Leader and role model for other youth with disabilities.

What I personally remember most is hearing Tori tell others that she used to be a victim of her disability, but that is no longer the case. She knows that her disability is only one part of what

makes her Tori. She is a good friend, kind person, compassionate caretaker of animals, loyal employee, loving daughter and sister, thankful student, wonderful public speaker, and a self-determined person.

The Transition Leader Award went to Mr. John McNaught, Coordinator of I'm Determined. While in a school division, John not only embraced the idea of student led IEPs, he made this concept a reality. Additionally, he demonstrated a commitment to full community inclusion. As a job placement teacher he insured that students were in competitive employment throughout the community. Below is a statement from his nomination:

John provides exemplary support

to transition providers, families, and students resulting in significant success for youth with disabilities. Through his work and this organization John has become nationally recognized for his leadership and work with the I'm Determined project. John has been and continues to be committed to providing exemplary support to transition providers, families, and youth through professional development

and other activities, increasing his knowledge of evidence-based and best-based practices in transition, and being a leader at the local, state, and national level.

People want to work with John for many reasons, but one of the most visible is that he highlights the skills and abilities of team members. John provides opportunities for people to present, plan, and organize. He is the first to thank people publicly

for their work. He gives individuals credit for the work that they do. These things make John more than a teacher, coordinator, and leader. These attributes make him a great colleague and leader!

Please take the time to look at your associates, your students, employers in the community and nominate someone for a Virginia Division on Career Development and Transition Award in 2013.

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Updates:

By Marianne Moore

The Division of Special Education and Student Services (SESS) has made some organizational changes in order to best serve schools and students. Under the reorganization, SESS has added a new unit, Special Education Program Improvement. The unit will work collaboratively with Federal Program Monitoring and Student Services to improve student outcomes. Samantha Hollins has been selected to serve as director. Secondary Transition, Special Education Data, coordination and writing of the SPP/APR, and coordinating non Title I schools needing improvement due to students with IEPs not meeting their subgroup's Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) will all fall in this new unit.

There will be some diploma changes beginning with first time ninth graders beginning SY 2013-2014.

- A student must earn a board-approved career and technical education credential to graduate with a Standard Diploma, **beginning with students**

entering ninth grade for the first time in 2013-2014.

- A student must successfully complete one virtual course, which may be non-credit bearing, to graduate with either a Standard or Advanced Studies diploma, **beginning with students entering ninth grade for the first time in 2013-2014.**
- The Modified Standard Diploma is folded into the Standard Diploma and **applies to students entering ninth grade for the first time in the 2013-2014 school year.** Credit accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities. Guidelines for credit accommodations will be issued by the Board of Education.
- As of July 1, 2012, the Standard Technical and Advanced Technical Diploma are eliminated.
- "Credit accommodations" means adjustments to meet the standard and verified credit requirements

for earning a Standard Diploma for students with disabilities. The Board of Education will establish, through guidelines, credit accommodations for students with disabilities.

- A student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan will specify any applicable credit accommodations.

Additionally, implementation of the Academic and Career Plan, which is required for all students beginning in middle school, will begin in the 2013-2104 school year.

This information can be found at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/accreditation/index.shtml>

On December 12, 2012, the Division of Special Education and Student Services held a meeting to review data and improvement activities that will become part of the February 1, 2013 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report submission to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Included in this report are

the Secondary Indicators, graduation, dropout, IEP Content Compliance, and Postsecondary Outcomes. Invitees included, but not limited to, school personnel, adult service agencies, parents, and Higher Education. Watch for the report to be posted on the VDOE website after February 1, 2013.

Through a grant from VDOE the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center will again offer courses free of

charge to school personnel. Courses will cover a variety of topics on employment. Additionally, they will also offer webcasts and webinars.

The Virginia Transition Forum will be in Richmond this year and VDOE is offering scholarships to cover registration. Contact your Special Education Director if you are interested in attending. VDOE's TTACs will also provide support to

school teams and interested people should contact their closest Transition TTAC. VA-DCDT continues to help support this annual transition event that pulls together state agencies, adult service providers, parents, students, and school personnel.

Scholarships

By Judy Averill

In an effort to support members' involvement in professional development activities, VADCDT is offering scholarships to be used to participate in transition-related events or programming. Scholarship amounts vary based on need, typically not exceeding \$150 per request. Transition events or activities within the contiguous U.S. could include conferences, workshops, site visits, or other networking opportunities. Scholarship monies could cover any related expense including:

1. Registration
2. Travel Expense - including per diem and lodging
3. Other

Who is eligible to apply?

- ✓ Current members of VADCDT willing to share knowledge gained through presentations, articles, products or other venues upon return
- ✓ Current members of VADCDT who are able to obtain matching source of monies

What is the application process?

Complete an on-line application at http://vadcdt.org/index.php?/members/entries/members_only

VADCDDT 2012 Summer Institute

By Ben Bowman

The VADCDDT 2012 Summer Institute, themed “We Make the Difference,” was held August 1 and 2 at the Roslyn Center in Richmond. It attracted 30 participants this year. Attendees were treated to a smorgasbord of quality transition practices and services from around

the state. Starting with a session entitled, “Utilizing Rehabilitation Engineering in the Classroom,” interactive sessions continued, featuring the “Best of Virginia” and a “Learning Marketplace.” The Institute wrapped up with a “Youth Speaks” panel with students sharing experiences of what worked and did not work for them.

The Institute provided quality “hands on” professional development and valuable networking. Since the VADCDDT chapter is hosting the International DCDT conference in November 2013, the Summer Institute will not be held again until 2014.

Starting a school-based enterprise in a small school system

By Bridget Parker

Goochland High School has a small population of students with Intellectual Disabilities, but the need for practical job skills is still big. In an effort to provide these much needed skills, Goochland High School has decided to join other high schools around the state and open a coffee shop to faculty and staff. We are in the beginning phase but have learned quite a bit since October. We had wanted to have things underway to start in January, however we are still planning. Here are some things we did:

1. Start with the building principal to gain support and direction
2. Talk with the appropriate central office staff to gain support
3. Talk to the individuals who monitor school finances

4. Price out items needed, remembering to start small
5. Build student and teacher support and interest

In the next newsletter we hope to have an update on our process, so stay tuned!

VA DCDT Treasurer Report

Starting Balance	\$10,960.39
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Income TOTAL:	\$5,550.00
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Expenses TOTAL:	\$960.11
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Ending Balance	\$15,550.28
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 17th DCDT International Conference is returning to Virginia and we are hosting it.

**LEADERS FOR
LIFE - NO
LIMITS.... NO
BOUNDARIES**

November 14 – 16, 2013
(Preconference November 13)

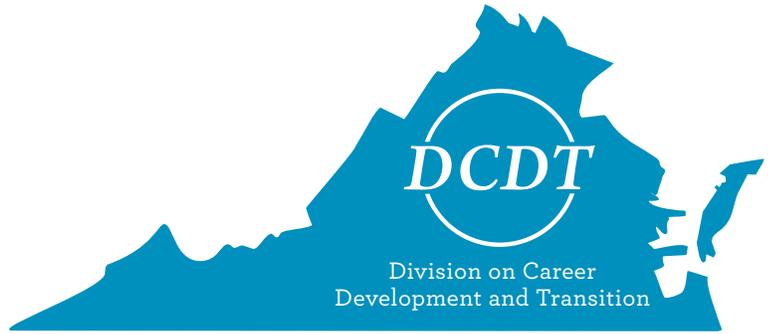
Williamsburg, Virginia

If you are interested in helping please contact Sally Chappel at chappesl@jmu.edu.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of October 31st we have 106 members. Thank you for being a part of this fantastic professional organization. If you are interested in serving on a committee please let one of the committee chairs know or contact Sally Chappel at chappesl@jmu.edu.

**Remember to renew your membership
and invite a colleague to join.**



VA DCDT Executive Board Members

President:	Marianne Moore	Program Chair:	Sandra W-Jones & J. Hall
Vice President:	Lisa Holland	Scholarship Chair:	Judy Averill
Past President:	L. MacArthur Fox	Publicity Chair:	Patricia Aldridge
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