Post-Secondary Transition Services in Tennessee
April 24, 2015
Elise McMillan, Co-Director, VKC University Center for Excellence
Tammy Day, Program Director
Next Steps at Vanderbilt
Overview

• What do individuals with disabilities and Tennessee families want
• Key areas of supports and services
• Resources
I’m Thinking College
Our family story
What Matters Most to Tennessee families?

• In 2014, the TennesseeWorks Partnership surveyed more than 2,000 Tennessee parents.
• More than 1,000 were asked about outcomes they wanted for their sons and daughters with intellectual and developmental disabilities after high school.
What Matters Most to Tennessee families?

Job features very important for their son or daughter

- 93 % Important for their son or daughter to have a job that brings personal satisfaction

- 91 % Opportunities to develop friendships and have opportunities to interact with other people

- 69 % Opportunities for advancement

- 47 % High number of working hours per week
What Matters Most to Tennessee families?

Challenges or major concerns expressed by parents

- 87 % Concerned about social and communication skill

- 86 % Concerned about opportunities for on-the-job support

- 61% Concerned about motivation to work

- 55 % Work shifts impacting our family’s schedule
What Matters Most to Tennessee families?

Percentage of parents indicating their son or daughter had participated in each type of career development experience

- 7% Unpaid after-school or weekend job
- 12% Paid afterschool or weekend job
- 6% Unpaid summer job
- 8% Participated in an internship or apprenticeship
What Matters Most to Tennessee families?

Percentage of parents indicating their son or daughter had participated in each type of career development experience

- 85% Helped with chores at home
- 52% Helped manage some of his or her own money
- 29% Talked about future career goals
What Matters Most to Tennessee families?

Attend Some type of Postsecondary Education

- 53% Consider attending a 2-year community college to be important

- 47% Consider attending a 4-year college/university to be important

- 55% Consider attending a vocational or technical school to be important

- 47% Consider attending a postsecondary program for students with IDD to be important
What Matters Most to Tennessee families?

Live in the community

- 27% Consider living in a group home to be important

- 38% Consider living with 1-2 other people to be important

- 62% Consider living independently with supports to be important
What Matters Most to Tennessee families?

Resource topics of interest to prepare their son or daughter for life after graduation

- 74% Supporting strong transition planning
- 87% Teaching skills and attitudes that lead to employment
- 86% Connecting my son or daughter to a job in the community
Why Postsecondary Education?

- Majority of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been either unemployed or underemployed despite their ability and desire to work in the community

- According to the 2013 American Community Survey, the estimated employment rate of working-age (16 and older) people with disabilities in the U.S. was 22.5%; far less than the estimated 65.4% employment rate for working-age people without disabilities
Why Postsecondary Education?

• The only post-high school transition goal that was a predictor of employment for students with intellectual disabilities was having the goal of attending a two or four year college.

• “Youth who participated in postsecondary education earned a 73% higher weekly income than those who did not.”


Postsecondary Education

- Tennessee Alliance for Postsecondary Education Opportunities for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
  - Next Steps at Vanderbilt
  - FUTURE at University of Tennessee, Knoxville
  - TigerLIFE at University of Memphis
  - IDEAL at Lipscomb University
  - EDGE at Union University opening fall 2015
- Anticipating 115 students for 2015-2016 SY
- Think College – national coordinating center
  [www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)
Next Steps at Vanderbilt Postsecondary Education Program

A picture is worth a 1,000 words....

You have already seen our video, “I’m Thinking College, Even with My Disability.”
# Sample Student Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUR</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Tutoring 9:00-10:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Class Functional Academics 4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:35-10:50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daily Planning with Peer Mentor 10:00-11:00</td>
<td>Weekly Meeting 10:30-11:00</td>
<td>Workout with Peer Mentor 10:00-11:00</td>
<td>Hobbs 100A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Lunch with Peer Mentor 11:15-12:15</td>
<td>Lunch with peer mentor 11:15-12:15</td>
<td>Next Chapter Book Club 11:15-12:15</td>
<td>Daily Planning with Peer Mentor 11:00-12:00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Lunch)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Food Foray/Lunch and Learn</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:30-12:45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Internship 12:30-4:00 VU Post Office</td>
<td>Tutoring 12:30-1:30</td>
<td>Lunch with peer mentor 12:30-1:30</td>
<td>Internship 12:30-4:00 VU Post Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Class Self-Awareness 4 1:00-2:00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hobbs 100A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Workout with Peer Mentor 2:00-3:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Science Lab 3:00-4:00</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2/14, 3/14, 4/11</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Mutually Beneficial

**Student/Parent Perspectives**
- “If it were not for Next Steps I would be like a bird stuck in a cage.”
  - NS Alum
- “My daughter now knows her place in the world, and the world seems so much bigger.”
  - Father

**Vanderbilt University**
- Students
  - Service opportunities
  - Career exploration
  - Professional development
- Faculty
  - More inclusive classrooms
  - Becoming even better educators
  - Longitudinal research opportunities
  - Develop best practices in PSE programming
The Big Story-
Next Steps Employment Outcomes

Through thorough discovery activities:
- person-centered planning
- four highly-supported internships
- Career Tech classes
- Volunteer and Service Opportunities in our community

The Next Steps graduates have a current paid employment rate of 86%. It is also important to note the places and types of work the graduates enjoy.
Current Statistics for 16 of the Next Steps Graduates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of Residence (graduate)</th>
<th>Employer (Paid positions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nashville, Tennessee</td>
<td>Tennessee Performing Arts Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nashville, Tennessee</td>
<td>Green Hills YMCA- Office Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville, Tennessee</td>
<td>Susan Gray School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin, Tennessee</td>
<td>Wal-Mart at Franklin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairview, Tennessee</td>
<td>The Kennedy Center - research assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville, Tennessee</td>
<td>Gardner School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brentwood, Tennessee</td>
<td>Best Buy, Cool Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville, Tennessee</td>
<td>Green Hills YMCA and Barnes &amp; Noble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brentwood, Tennessee</td>
<td>VU Dining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brentwood, Tennessee</td>
<td>Michael’s Art Supply Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murfreesboro, Tennessee</td>
<td>Rutherford Co. USDA - volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brentwood, Tennessee</td>
<td>Publix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brentwood, Tennessee</td>
<td>Williamson Co. Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin, Tennessee</td>
<td>Williamson Co. Parks and Recreation, Sonic, WAKM Franklin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville, Tennessee</td>
<td>Music City Convention Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smyrna, Tennessee</td>
<td>Barnes &amp; Noble</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Employment Opportunities in Tennessee for Youth with Disabilities

High School Job Readiness Initiatives
- 16-22 year olds
- School-based enterprises
- Work-Based Learning
- Community Based Transition Classrooms (18-22 yr olds)

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Supports for people with disabilities beginning after high school
- Employment exploration
- Training
- VR also supports: postsecondary education programming
- Project Search
- Workforce Investment Opportunity Act - WIOA
Housing Options

- Independent living opportunities are almost nonexistent
- New grassroots group
Social and Recreational Opportunities

- Encourage finding inclusive opportunities first or “As well”
  - High school extracurricular activities
    - Clubs
    - Sporting Events
    - The Arts
  - Community activities
    - Church
    - Scouts
    - Sports, i.e. Tae Kwon Do, swim teams
    - Music, theater, dance lessons, group activities
  - YMCA
  - Best Buddies
  - Special Olympics
Resources

Association of University Centers on Disability
aucd.org

IDD Toolkit
Iddtoolkit.org

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder
www.familypathfinder.org

TennesseeWorks
Tennesseeworks.org

Think College
Thinkcollege.net

TN Postsecondary Education Opportunities for Individuals with IDD
www.tnpsealliance.org

Nashville IDD Housing Group
www.nashvilleiddhousing.org

Best Buddies TN
www.bestbuddiestn.org

Special Olympics TN
www.specialolympicstn.org
Questions/comments

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