



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

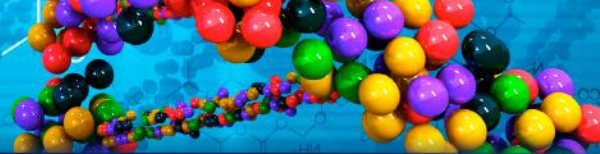


I'm Thinking College



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.



tennesseeworks



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

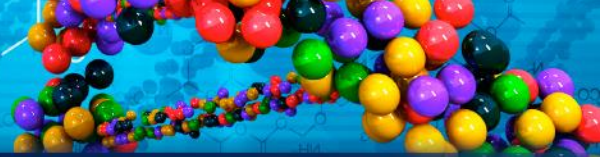
- 27% Consider living in a group home to be important
- 38% Consider living with 1-2 other people to be important
- 62% Consider living independently with supports to be important



What Matters Most to Tennessee families?

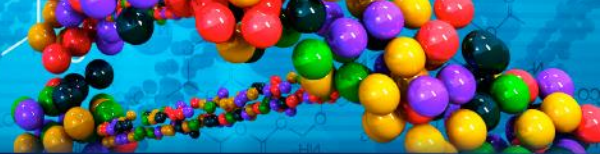
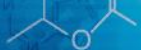
Resource topics of interest to prepare their son or daughter for life after graduation

- 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?

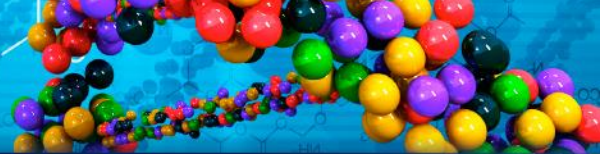
- Majority of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been either unemployed or underemployed despite their ability and desire to work in the community
- According to the 2013 American Community Survey, the estimated employment rate of working-age (16 and older) people with disabilities 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.”²

- ¹Newman, Wagner, Knokey, Marder, et al, (2011). *The post-high school outcomes of young adults with disabilities up to 8 years after high school: A report from the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS@) (NCSE 2011-3005)*. Menlo Park, CA: SRI International
- ²Migliore, A., Butterworth, J., & Hart, D., 2009. *Postsecondary Education and Employment Outcomes for Youth with Intellectual Disabilities*. Fast Facts Series, No. 1, Boston, MA: Institute for Community Inclusion.



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



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

HOUR	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 AM					
9:00 AM	Tutoring 9:00-10:00			Class Functional Academics 4 9:35-10:50 Hobbs 100A	
10:00 AM	Daily Planning with Peer Mentor 10:00-11:00	Weekly Meeting 10:30-11:00	Workout with Peer Mentor 10:00-11:00		
11:00 AM	Lunch with Peer Mentor 11:15-12:15	Lunch with peer mentor 11:15-12:15	Next Chapter Book Club 11:15-12:15	Daily Planning with Peer Mentor 11:00-12:00 (Lunch)	Food Foray/ Lunch and Learn 11:30-12:45
12:00 PM					
1:00 PM	Internship 12:30-4:00 VU Post Office	Tutoring 12:30-1:30	Lunch with peer mentor 12:30-1:30	Internship 12:30-4:00 VU Post Office	Class Self-Awareness 4 1:00-2:00 Hobbs 100A
2:00 PM		Workout with Peer Mentor 1:30-2:30	Vanderbilt Class Vampires, Werewolves, and Zombies 2:00-4:00		Workout with Peer Mentor 2:00-3:00
3:00 PM		Class Career Tech 4 2:35-3:35 Peabody Lab			Science Lab 3:00-4:00 2/14, 3/14,4/11



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:

City of Residence (graduate)	Employer (Paid positions)
Nashville, Tennessee	Tennessee Performing Arts Center
Nashville, Tennessee	Green Hills YMCA- Office Assistant
Nashville, Tennessee	Susan Gray School
Franklin, Tennessee	Wal-Mart at Franklin
Fairview, Tennessee	The Kennedy Center- research assistant
Nashville, Tennessee	Gardner School
Brentwood, Tennessee	Best Buy, Cool Springs
Nashville, Tennessee	Green Hills YMCA and Barnes & Noble
Brentwood, Tennessee	VU Dining
Brentwood, Tennessee	Michael's Art Supply Store
Murfreesboro, Tennessee	Rutherford Co. USDA - volunteer
Brentwood, Tennessee	Publix
Brentwood, Tennessee	Williamson Co. Schools
Franklin, Tennessee	Williamson Co. Parks and Recreation, Sonic, WAKM Franklin
Nashville, Tennessee	Music City Convention Center
Smyrna, Tennessee	Barnes & Noble



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

Elise McMillan

Elise.mcmillan@vanderbilt.edu

(615) 343-2540

Room 236, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center

Tammy Day

Tammy.Day@Vanderbilt.Edu

(615)343-0822

Hobbs 407