

# Transition Training Institute

**FACING THE FUTURE — TOGETHER**

**JUNE 26-28, 2024**



# Registration Information

## FEES AND ONLINE REGISTRATION

If your online registration is received on or before June 10, you will receive the early registration rate of \$150. If your online registration is received after June 10, your registration fee will be \$200. Registration will close June 21. All registrations received after this date will be considered on-site, and the registration fee will be \$250 per person.

Please register early. To register, please complete the online registration process located at [na.eventscloud.com/2024tti](https://na.eventscloud.com/2024tti). 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 Tammy Bagley at [tammy@custommeetingplanners.com](mailto:tammy@custommeetingplanners.com). If you prefer to pay by check, your check must be received within five business days of your confirmed online registration. **Make checks payable to Custom Meeting Planners.**

### Mailing address:

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** A confirmation email for your registration and session assignments will be sent to you immediately after completion of the online registration. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact Tammy Bagley at **573-881-4849** or [tammy@custommeetingplanners.com](mailto:tammy@custommeetingplanners.com).

## REFUND POLICY

Registration fees, minus a \$25 administrative fee, may be refunded

if a request is emailed to Custom Meeting Planners at [tammy@custommeetingplanners.com](mailto: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.**

## LODGING

Lodging is open, and conference participants are responsible for making their own reservations. A block of rooms has been reserved for the Transition Training Institute at the discounted rate of \$103.00 per night. A tax-exemption letter must be provided to the hotel in order to receive this rate. This rate is available until May 26 based on availability. **Please reserve your room early as the hotel will sell out quickly.**

### Conference Hotel:

Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia  
2200 I-70 Drive S.W.  
Columbia, MO 65203

**Click here** to reserve a room. The nightly group rate is available after you enter your check-in and check-out dates (click *Change Search* to modify your arrival/departure dates, click *Search*, and then select your preferred room type at the hotel). To reserve a room by phone, call **573-445-8531**. Identify yourself as an attendee of the Transition Training Institute by using code **TTI**.



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*The Transition Training Institute provides information and resources from outside speakers. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) personnel review presentation materials in advance, but views expressed by outside speakers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of DESE.*

# Conference Agenda

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

- 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Registration**
- 1:00 - 1:45 p.m. **Welcome**  
Mark Wheatley, Assistant Commissioner, OSE,  
and Chris Clause, Assistant Commissioner, VR,  
DESE
- 1:45 - 2:45 p.m. **Keynote Speaker**  
Sam Glenn
- 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. **Breakout Session 1**

## THURSDAY, JUNE 27

- 7:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. **Registration**
- 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. **Introductions**
- 8:45 - 9:15 a.m. **Action Plan Introduction**
- 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. **Regional Transition Team Planning**

- 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. **Breakout Session 2**
- 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Lunch With Agency Showcase**
- 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 28

- 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. **Registration**
- 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. **Breakout Session 6**
- 9:45 - 10:00 a.m. **Action Plan Completion and Drawings for Prizes**
- 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Regional Transition Team Planning**
- 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. **Breakout Session 7**
- 11:45 a.m. **Conference Adjourns**



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**SAM GLENN** has been giving inspirational and artistic speeches that have impacted audiences of all sizes (some as large as 75,000 at stadium events) for nearly three decades. He believes that attitude is the driver of everything and knows exactly how to recharge and rekindle that positive spark that empowers leaders to give, do, and be their best. At one time, he was homeless, depressed, defeated, and negative. But, a chance encounter with the legendary Zig Ziglar led to a friendship between the two and got Sam's life pointed in a better direction. Today, his award-winning speeches set a positive and energetic tone that engages with audiences and gets them ready to learn, grow, and have fun.

# Conference Sessions

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26 BREAKOUT SESSION 1 3:00-4:00 P.M.

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT

#### 1A: Building a Path to a Better Life – 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:** Lindsey Thomas, Program Specialist, and Katie Strobel, Program Coordinator, Office of Workforce and Community Initiatives, Missouri Department of Social Services

### HEALTHY LIVING

#### 1B: Empower Your Transition – Mastering Daily Living With the Color-Coded Chef

Join this session for an exciting cooking event featuring a live demonstration and hands-on experience with the Color-Coded Chef. Participants will learn how to create an easy fruit salad using color-coded tools and ingredients. The Color-Coded Chef's innovative cooking method empowers individuals to develop essential life skills and independence. With easy-to-understand instructions and adaptable techniques, this approach is perfect for diverse audiences and for making cooking accessible to most people. Discover how this system can integrate seamlessly into postsecondary transition planning, empowering individuals to replicate these skills in various settings.

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

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT

#### 1C: Community Partnerships, Work Experience, and More!

This session will outline how Farmington High School has grown its

transition program. Participants will receive information on establishing and maintaining positive partnerships with community businesses, on providing routines and structure within the workplace, on promoting student independence and self-advocacy, and on promoting connections with Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) in order to produce lasting success for students as they prepare for future employment.

**PRESENTER:** Kayla Pratte, Special Services Teacher/Transition Coordinator, Farmington High School, Farmington R-VII School District

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

#### 1D: Empower Adults Through Self-Advocacy for Decision-Making, Housing, Work, and Safety

This session will cover topics for young adults as they transition into adulthood including supported decision-making, guardianships, reporting abuse, Social Security, VR, and housing. Participants will receive resources on college programs, housing, and work programs. Participants also will have time to ask questions and share ideas. Become empowered with a better understanding of disability law and knowledge on how to protect yourself and on how to report abuse.

**PRESENTER:** Julia Chaney-Faughn, Cruse • Chaney-Faughn, P.C.

### TRANSITION PLANNING

#### 1E: Transitioning From School to Adult Life – If We Don't Know Where We Are Going, Any Road Will Lead Us There

The transition from child to teenager to adult is one that is difficult, rocky, and complex for everyone involved. For individuals with special needs, these transitions can be especially complicated. This session will focus on issues that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities face when they move from school to adult life – including how to utilize transition services and support from the school setting, how to explore the service and support options that become available to individuals and families when they leave the educational system, the role of assistive technology when moving from school to adult life, and much more.

**PRESENTER:** Wayne Crawford, Executive Director, Missouri Inclusive Housing

## DAILY LIFE AND EMPLOYMENT

### 1F: Customized Employment Partnerships

The North Kansas City School District, VR, the Center for Human Services, and Preferred Family Healthcare have worked together to bring customized employment opportunities to high school seniors for the past year and a half. In this session, a panel representing each organization will discuss their processes, successes, and lessons learned along the way. If you are curious about stable, competitive employment opportunities for students with low-incidence disabilities, then this is the session for you!

**PRESENTERS:** Dana Flournoy McGaw, Secondary Special Education Coordinator, North Kansas City School District; Melissa Flournoy McGaw, Regional Director of Employment Services, Preferred Family Healthcare; Christi Carlson, Supervisor of the Clay County Service Coordination Team, Center for Human Services; and Linda Pangborn, VR Counselor IV, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

## ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

### 1G: Supported Decision-Making as a Path to Self-Determination and Advocacy

This session will introduce educators, parents, and family members to supported decision-making and other alternative decision-making supports. Participants will learn practical ways to support decision-making in all of life's stages from young age through the transition to adulthood. Educators will discover ideas for incorporating decision-making skills and experiences into their curriculum, lesson plans, and transition planning. Come learn about the Charting the LifeCourse toolkit and hear real-life examples of supported decision-making.

**PRESENTER:** Jane St. John, Senior Research Assistant, LifeCourse Nexus, UMKC Institute for Human Development

## COMPLIANCE

### 1H: Form C – The Evolution of Drew From School to Career (Repeat of 7H)

Form C: Postsecondary Transition Plan was recently updated by the Office of Special Education's compliance department. In this session, come learn about the changes and discover how these changes can

help teachers document information needed for compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Participants also will learn about what is considered in- and out-of-compliance related to postsecondary transition plans.

**PRESENTERS:** Stacie Holt, Special Education Compliance Supervisor, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; and Dana Welch, Education Program Manager, Division of Youth Services, Missouri Department of Social Services

## THURSDAY, JUNE 27 8:45-9:15 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

## 9:30-10:30 A.M.

### Regional Transition Team Planning

During this session, stakeholders 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 2**

### **10:45 A.M.-11:45 A.M.**

#### **CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

##### **2A: Facilitating Opportunities for Students With Special Needs in Career and Technical Education**

One of the most-common areas in which we observe discriminatory practices is in admissions criteria for entrance into career and technical education (CTE) programs or courses. High school CTE should have an enrollment process that is consistent for all students and that does not create unnecessary barriers or burdens for students from special populations. The Missouri CTE Special Populations Task Force has developed a guide for CTE admissions criteria and program prerequisites. Come preview the guide and learn what your CTE-placement process should look like.

**PRESENTER:** Amy Herrman, Career Education and Special Needs Planner, South Central RPDC

#### **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

##### **2B: Beyond Guardianship – Innovative Pathways for Transition-Age Youths**

This session is tailored specifically for educators who work with youths with intellectual and developmental disabilities or behavioral health support needs. As these students transition from adolescence to adulthood, they encounter unique challenges that necessitate empowering and individualized approaches. In this session, participants will learn about alternative models to traditional guardianship that focus on autonomy, self-determination, and community inclusion. A key focus will be on supported decision-making, an alternative to guardianship that allows individuals to make decisions about their lives with support from trusted advisors.

**PRESENTER:** Jennifer Hulme, Executive Director, Hulme Resources Inc.

#### **CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

##### **2C: Missouri Connections – Junior Version**

Missouri Connections has recently updated its online career education program, which the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides free to all schools. Your students have many

interests, hobbies, and experiences – this program can help them learn about career options they will enjoy. Come discover how to use Missouri Connections in middle school to help students learn more about themselves and to plan for high school activities, high school classes, and their lives beyond school.

**PRESENTERS:** Jackie Marling, Career Consultant, South Central RPDC; and Polly Matteson, Career Consultant, Northeast RPDC

#### **DAILY LIFE AND EMPLOYMENT**

##### **2D: Employment First – A Pathway to Competitive Integrated Employment**

Employment First means that all people, no matter what disability they have, 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) supports individuals and organizations through advocacy, education, and training.

**PRESENTER:** Anne Hochstein, Board Member, APSE Missouri

#### **ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY**

##### **2E: Self-Advocacy Training for Youths and Young Adults in Transition – Insights From Missouri’s Community of Practices**

Self-advocacy, identified as a crucial component of self-determination, has proven to be an effective predictor and evidence-based practice for successful transitions and post-school outcomes. The need for self-advocacy training is particularly pronounced in supporting students with intellectual and developmental disabilities as they transition into adulthood. With the support of the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council, we have developed and implemented an online training series aimed at promoting self-advocacy and community organization. In this session, participants will learn about the implementation of this training, insights gained, feedback received, and an outline of its next steps.

**PRESENTERS:** Wen Zeng, Senior Program/Project Support Coordinator, April Regester, Associate Professor of Inclusive Education, Christopher Worth, Ph.D. Student, University of Missouri-St. Louis; and Leigh Anne Haun, Public Policy Coordinator, Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council

## HEALTHY LIVING

### 2F: Charting the LifeCourse to Healthy Adult Living

Planning for and looking after your health and wellness is an important factor in living the kind of life you want. Making sure you get proper medical care, paying attention to nutrition and fitness, and looking after your mental health are all a part of healthy living. Students with disabilities plan for and prepare to make the transition from school to adult life. However, planning the move to healthy adult living might not be as intentional in their transition plans. There are many things to consider including which medications to take, what kinds of health care providers to see, legal rights in health care, and much more. This session will introduce participants to the Charting the LifeCourse toolkit along with reference materials to help individuals learn about and plan for healthy adult living.

**PRESENTER:** Jane St. John, Senior Research Assistant, LifeCourse Nexus, UMKC Institute for Human Development

## COMMUNITY LIVING

### 2G: The Rules of the Road – Achieving Independence by Preparing for and Passing the State's Written Driver Test (Repeat of 7D)

Obtaining a driver's permit and eventually a driver's license opens the gateway to postsecondary education, employment, and (more importantly) independence. After seeing many of his former students and consumers fail the state's written test on multiple occasions, the presenter was prompted to create a study guide and arranged for the purchase of two driving simulators. A grant paid for the simulators and enabled the creation of The Rules of the Road, a program that began at Grace Works Academy in October 2023. Come learn about this newly developed program that prepares participants for the state's written driver test in a safe and effective environment.

**PRESENTERS:** Darin Stageberg, Director of Employment Services, and Sam Duer, CEO, Grace Reliant Health Services

## COMPLIANCE

### 2H: Student Involvement – The Evolution of Drew the Student

In student-centered transition planning, students are actively involved in planning, communicating, and evaluating the progress toward meeting their postsecondary goals. Students advocate for themselves and share information about their disability and which accommodations they find useful. Students who are able to identify their strengths and

weaknesses are more effective in achieving their transition goals. In this session, come learn about student-led business, a wonderful method of getting students involved in transition planning by allowing them to be actively engaged in working toward their future.

**PRESENTERS:** Kathy Daniel, Director of Special Services, Mid-Buchanan R-V School District; Julia Schmitz, Special Education Compliance Consultant, Northwest RPDC; and Katie McCullough, All Students Achieve Program Supervisor, St. Joseph School District

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

### PANEL

#### 3A: Youth Disability Panel

During this session, participants will hear the experiences, opinions, and thoughts from a panel of individuals with disabilities between the ages of 18-25. They will share their experiences as a benefit to all stakeholders to become more aware of their needs, potential areas for system growth, and ways to improve supporting individuals with disabilities in the school setting while they prepare for the transition to work, postsecondary education, and life outside of school.

**PANEL PARTICIPANTS:** Denise Boucher, Shawn Stevenson, and Parker Wrobbel

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT

#### 3B: Striving for Tomorrow – Transition to Employment for Students With Autism

Postsecondary outcomes for individuals with autism are worse than their peers and other individuals with disabilities. It is essential that professionals address the transition needs of students with autism. This session will discuss programming recommendations and current data from a postsecondary employment-preparation program for young adults with autism. Participants will discover the numerous barriers individuals with autism face related to successful postsecondary outcomes, the components of effective programming that addresses employment and advocacy skills, and much more.

**PRESENTERS:** Cortney Fish, Training Core Manager, and Jaclyn Benigno, Research Associate, Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment, University of Missouri

## TRANSITION PLANNING

### 3C: Transition Planning Made Easy – Using Missouri Connections for Assessment and Services

Missouri Connections is a comprehensive online career-development and planning program provided free of charge to all Missouri citizens. Funded by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, this program supports the career-development efforts of schools, community organizations, and adult job-seeker programs. Missouri Connections offers a variety of tools to discover interests, values, preferences, and skills that are all important when considering career options for transition students. In this session, come learn how Missouri Connections can be your go-to transition-planning instrument that provides resources to help with writing compliant transition plans.

**PRESENTERS:** Samantha Cole, Missouri Connections State Trainer, and Julia Schmitz, Special Education Compliance Consultant, Northwest RPDC

## DAILY LIFE AND EMPLOYMENT

### 3D: Training Adolescents in Relevant, Goal-Oriented Educational Transitions and Skills (TARGETS)

In this session, participants will receive an overview of the Training Adolescents in Relevant, Goal-Oriented Educational Transitions and Skills (TARGETS) program. This program is designed specifically for students with intellectual disabilities and focuses on developing practical skills that are essential for future success. Our life-skills program comprises job boxes that are designed to develop work-related skills along with daily living tasks that are broken down into smaller steps for easier learning. Additionally, the program offers independent-living skills training to empower students to take care of themselves and to gain independence.

**PRESENTERS:** Michelle Shirley, Special Education Teacher, Kara Berry, Special Education Teacher, and Sarah Stapleton, Process Consultant, Lafayette High School, St. Joseph School District

## ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

### 3E: Transition? It's a Family Tradition

For more than 30 years, Missouri Parents Act (MPACT) has been supporting families and youths as they prepare for life after high

school. In this session, participants will learn about the workshops and strategies MPACT uses to support families in their youths' transition experiences. MPACT has a range of transition-focused workshops on topics such as preparing for employment, developing measurable postsecondary goals, and disability disclosure. These workshops help families build their knowledge of transition. In addition, MPACT staff work one-on-one with families to provide support that is tailored to their individual circumstances.

**PRESENTER:** Zach McCall, Mentor Program Consultant, MPACT

## ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

### 3F: Benefits and Work Made Simple – SSI

Come learn how individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can work and still maintain needed benefits such as Medicaid. In this session, participants will be introduced to the eligibility criteria for SSI, how SSI is impacted by work income, and the work incentives that are available to SSI beneficiaries. Objectives include recognizing basic SSI and Medicaid eligibility and work rules, responding to concerns and myths about benefits and work, and referring to a benefits specialist when needed. (Please note that this is part one of a two-part session. Session 5F will address SSDI.)

**PRESENTER:** Sandy Keyser, Employment First Specialist, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Missouri Department of Mental Health

## COMPLIANCE

### 3G: Transition Assessments and Activities – The Evolution of Drew From Student to Career

In this session, participants will learn about various available transition assessments with a focus on informal options and on complementary activities. Come explore methods to help your students identify their preferences, interests, needs, and strengths. Receive several free resources that are available to teachers and districts along with sample reports and write-ups to make your life easier.

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



## TRANSITION PLANNING

### 3H: Pre-Employment Transition Services for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB) provides Pre-ETS to students who have a visual impairment. In this session, participants will discuss the services provided by RSB and will discover how RSB can be a support for students, their families, and their schools. RSB's services help blind or visually impaired individuals reach both personal and employment success. Our belief is that with the right training and resources, all blind or visually impaired people will be able to achieve their goals.

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

## BREAKOUT SESSION 4 2:30-3:30 P.M.

### PANEL

#### 4A: Employer Panel

During this session, participants will hear the experiences, opinions, and thoughts from a panel of employers who have hired individuals with disabilities. These employers will share their experiences as a benefit for all stakeholders to become more aware of the needs, areas for system growth, and ways to improve supporting those with disabilities within the work setting. They also will share their experiences in dispelling the myths of having individuals with disabilities in the workplace along with the fears, challenges, and benefits as seen from the employer's perspective.

**PANEL PARTICIPANTS:** Dave Patton, President, PEPCO Inc., and Ashley Williams, Culver's of Columbia

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### 4B: Community Engagement at L.I.F.E. University – What We Learned in Our Second Year

Learning in Future Environments (L.I.F.E.) University is the vocational program for students ages 18-21 within the Raytown School District. In the program's second year, we have created and opened a business park in which we practice vocational skills that are linked with our community. The business park houses exploration zones in the areas of medical work, pharmacy, special projects, construction, small engine

and metal shop, grocery, fast food, household work, custodial work, and office/clerical work. While challenging, building community ties is critical to a vocational program. Join this session to learn about our successes and difficulties and to brainstorm on how to make this a stronger component for future programs.

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

## HEALTHY LIVING

### 4C: Why Did Johnny Steal the Chicken?: Strategies for Challenging the School-to-Prison Pipeline

This session will describe prevention strategies for breaking the chains of the school-to-prison pipeline. Participants will learn techniques for identifying students in need of interventions, defining different types of interventions, and implementing interventions. Participants also will learn about the effectiveness of prevention strategies and how they correlate with reducing the number of youths in the school-to-prison pipeline.

**PRESENTER:** Kim Albrecht, Operations Coordinator, MPACT

## DAILY LIFE AND EMPLOYMENT

### 4D: Customize a Meaningful Day

Job One has been a leader in providing customized employment services in Jackson County since 2014. A needs survey conducted in 2021 confirmed what we had been hearing anecdotally – transition-age youths want to work but also want to connect with their community through volunteering, socializing with their peers, and trying new things. In this session, come learn how Job One is using an individualized approach to braid employment and community-based day services together to create meaningful days for the people we serve.

**PRESENTERS:** Jeff Carpenter, Director of Community Employment, and Chelsi Stonecipher-Flores, Director of Community-Based Day Services, Job One

## ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

### 4E: Autism Spectrum Disorders and the Transition to College or the Workplace – A Parental Perspective

This session is designed for the parents and caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorders who are approaching the significant transition from high school to college or to the workplace. It will provide

practical guidance, share experiences, and offer resources to support children and those who care for them in navigating this pivotal time. Our discussion will be rooted in understanding the spectrum of autism and the diverse needs of individuals as they step into adulthood. Participants will leave with actionable strategies for both caregivers and children and a deeper understanding of how to support the journey toward independence and success.

**PRESENTER:** Wendy Boring-Bray, Doctor of Behavioral Health

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### 4F: Learning by Doing – A Showcase of Successful Apprenticeship Models in Education

Come discover the transformative potential of Missouri State University's apprenticeship programs – Explore Registered Youth Apprenticeships, which bridges high schools with industry, and the Pathways for Paras program, which empowers special education paraprofessionals to become certified teachers. In this session, uncover how your school district can benefit from these initiatives and can unlock pathways to career advancement. Through interactive discussions and an informative presentation, participants will gain valuable insights and actionable strategies for career progression.

**PRESENTERS:** Marci Dowdy, Coordinator for Pathways for Paras, Kaleigh Pickett, Instructor, Betty Glasgow, Professional Developer for the Missouri Registered Youth Apprenticeship Program, and Reesha Adamson, Associate Dean in the School of Special Education, Leadership and Professional Studies, Missouri State University

## COMPLIANCE

### 4G: The Impact of Postsecondary Goals – The Evolution of Drew's Dreams to Reality

Postsecondary goals can have a significant impact on our students both professionally and personally. Goals provide the IEP with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in a student's chosen field while also helping the student develop the confidence necessary to reach full potential. Throughout this session, participants will analyze a high school student's high-quality transition-assessment data and will learn how to develop appropriate postsecondary goals that are based on the 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

## ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

### 4H: Ticket to Work – How Earned Income Impacts SSI

This session will discuss the difference between SSI and SSDI. The presenter will explain work incentives and will share information on earned-income calculations and their formulas and on typical communication from the Social Security Administration. Participants also will be given the opportunity to ask questions.

**PRESENTER:** John Scalise, Director of Rehabilitation Services, Job Point

## BREAKOUT SESSION 5 3:45-4:45 P.M.

### PANEL

#### 5A: Postsecondary Transition – College Panel

During this session, participants will hear from a panel of college disability offices who support individuals with disabilities at their respective institutions. Members of the panel 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 within the postsecondary setting. The panel also will help dispel the 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:** Michael Brunkhorst, THRIVE Director, University of Central Missouri; April Regester, Associate Professor of Inclusive Education, University of Missouri-St. Louis; Kristin Johnson, Director of the HOWL Transition Program, Arkansas State University; Angela Branson, Disability Center Assistant Director of Accommodations, University of Missouri; and Mikala King, ASCEND Director, Missouri State University-West Plains

### TRANSITION PLANNING

#### 5B: Student Success – A Story of Partnership

This session will explore how building strong partnerships among schools, parents, VR, and Pre-ETS at the University of Missouri has led

to student success. Participants will learn how we are able to engage with schools, students, parents, and the community throughout the year through various programming. Discover how this has benefited students through the perspectives of schools, students, and parents and see how this approach can translate to other areas of the state.

**PRESENTERS:** Anna Bryant, VR Counselor, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Anna Berkbuegler, Pre-ETS Specialist, University of Missouri; and Casey Burch, Special Services Teacher, Farmington R-VII School District

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### 5C: Essential Components of Community-Based Work Experiences for Students With Intellectual Disabilities

Community-based work experiences (CBWEs) are one of the strongest predictors of post-school employment for students with disabilities. Yet, there is minimal research-based guidance on how to implement high-quality CBWEs that facilitate student success. This session will share the findings from interviews with 20 teachers and transition coordinators about the essential components of CBWEs for students with intellectual disabilities. Participants will learn strategies to implement high-quality CBWEs that help students with disabilities learn how to navigate the world of work and prepare for post-school employment.

**PRESENTER:** Magen Rooney-Kron, Assistant Professor of Inclusive Education, University of Missouri-St. Louis

## DAILY LIFE AND EMPLOYMENT

### 5D: Unleash Your Potential – Learn How Using the Color-Coded Chef Can 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.

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

## ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

### 5E: Can You Hear Me? It's My IEP!

Engaging students to participate in their IEP meetings has been shown to develop students' skills in self-advocacy and self-determination. This presentation will provide youths, families, and educators with strategies to help students prepare for and lead their own IEP meetings. In addition, participants in this session will learn from self-advocates about their own experiences in giving presentations to help train other youths to take control of their lives.

**PRESENTER:** Carrie Ragsdale, Transition Program Coordinator, MPACT

## ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

### 5F: Benefits and Work Made Simple – SSDI

Come learn how individuals receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) can work and maintain needed benefits such as Medicare and Medicaid. In this session, participants will be introduced to the eligibility criteria for SSDI, how SSDI is impacted by work income, and the work incentives available to SSDI beneficiaries. Objectives include recognizing basic SSDI and Medicare eligibility and work rules, responding to concerns and myths about benefits and work, and referring to a benefits specialist when needed. Participants will leave with resources and strategies they can use when helping youths navigate work and benefit decisions. (Please note that this is part two of a two-part session. Session 3F will address SSI.)

**PRESENTER:** Sandy Keyser, Employment First Specialist, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Missouri Department of Mental Health

## COMPLIANCE

### 5G: Annual Goals in Relation to Postsecondary Transition – The Evolution of Drew (Who, What, When, Where, and How Will She Achieve Her Dream Career?)

The transition-planning section of the IEP describes the coordinated set of activities that need to occur for students to attain their postsecondary goals. This session will address the annual goals of the IEP. Postsecondary transition must ensure that the annual goals address transition needs in the areas of employment, independent-living skills, or postsecondary education based on the present level of academic achievement and functional performance. At least one annual goal must

relate to the student's transition-service needs. Finally, if appropriate, evidence must be shown that a representative of a participating agency was invited to the IEP meeting to provide additional support for student growth and success.

**PRESENTERS:** Kathy Daniel, Director of Special Services, Mid-Buchanan R-V School District; Julia Schmitz, Special Education Compliance Consultant, and Pam Madison, Effective Practices Improvement Consultant, Northwest RPDC

## HEALTHY LIVING

### 5H: How Assistive Technology Can Help With Transitioning in All Aspects of Life

This session will discuss how assistive technology can help in achieving goals and milestones with regard to education, job skills, independent living, and community safety.

**PRESENTER:** Aaron Milligan, Co-Owner, Gray Matters Alliance

## FRIDAY, JUNE 28 BREAKOUT SESSION 6 8:30-9:30 A.M.

## TRANSITION PLANNING

### 6A: A Regional Transition Network Town Hall

Regional transition networks (RTNs) provide parents, teachers, and service providers with a structure that connects youths with disabilities to community resources and guides them in becoming empowered self-advocates with the necessary skills to achieve their goals. These localized networks collaboratively plan and facilitate events where youths identify their needs, strategies, and needed resources. This town hall discussion will share the various ways that RTNs support participants' transition to postsecondary education, employment, and independent living based on the individual needs of each student.

**PRESENTER:** Carrie Ragsdale, Transition Program Coordinator, MPACT

## DAILY LIFE AND EMPLOYMENT

### 6B: Bridge to Success

St. Charles Bridge to Success is a school-led collaborative internship program for students with disabilities who are eligible for Missouri Department of Mental Health services. Targeted toward students whose

goal is to gain competitive employment, the program currently takes place at Embassy Suites and Fresh Thyme Market. At these sites, total immersion into the workplace facilitates the teaching and learning process along with the acquisition of employability and marketable job skills. Come learn about this exciting program that helps students as they seek employment and transition to the next stage of their lives.

**PRESENTERS:** Peggy Shelton, Transition Program Coordinator, St. Charles R-VI School District; and Angie Albert, Transition Coordinator, Fort Zumwalt School District

## HEALTHY LIVING

### 6C: Why Gratitude?

What if you could implement something in your classroom that is simple, yet so powerful that it has the ability to rewire brains away from focusing on the negative to seeing the world through a positive lens? What if this practice could not only benefit the mind but also is proven to help the physical body? In this session, participants will learn the power of gratitude. Come discover how to embed gratitude as a daily practice within your classroom to increase health and well-being as well as to create a solid classroom culture and community.

**PRESENTER:** Lisa Toebben, Special Education Mentor/Instructional Coach, Troy R-III School District

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### 6D: Work-Ready Behavior Framework

The Work-Ready Behavior Framework is a set of 12 domains developed by the Horizons Team from the University of Missouri's Pre-ETS program. Each domain contains a list of skills that students need in order to become more independent and, ultimately, more employable. The framework was designed to provide educators with concrete guidance and can be used as a working document with each student. It also was designed to give hope to parents and to offer choice and independence to our students.

**PRESENTER:** Elizabeth Merideth, Pre-ETS Specialist, University of Missouri

## SOCIAL

### 6E: Unified Champion Schools Make a More-Inclusive Future

Special Olympics Missouri's Unified Champion Schools strategy supports K-12 students with and without intellectual and developmental

disabilities in order to build friendships and develop social and leadership skills. Growth and development in these areas prepare students for transition and bridge to continued competition in sports through community agencies after high school. In this session, participants will receive free resources and relevant examples from Missouri schools so they will be able to implement the research-based Unified Champion Schools strategy.

**PRESENTER:** Emma Thomas, Unified Champion Schools Senior Manager, Ben Johnson, Unified Champion Schools Manager, and Larry Linthacum, President and CEO, Special Olympics Missouri

## ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

### 6F: Listen Up! Youth Voice Strategies

This session will describe strategies that professionals and organizations can use for inviting and listening to the voices of youths and young adults with disabilities. Participants will learn how these voices compare and contrast with self-determination and will develop an understanding of the three primary purposes for youth voice. The session also will address strategies MPACT has engaged in to develop youth voice-focused programming including providing professional development to build staff knowledge and skills around youth voice; incorporating youth voice into existing workshops and materials; and starting a youth-focused, youth-led initiative to support and steer these efforts.

**PRESENTER:** Zach McCall, Program Director, MPACT

## COMPLIANCE

### 6G: Individual Career and Academic Plan – The Evolution of Drew (Did She Create and Follow a Good Map?)

This session will focus on the Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) as a blueprint of study to guide students through the coursework and activities needed for achieving personal career goals, formulating postsecondary planning, and providing individual pathway options. An ICAP is a road map to help students develop the awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to create their own meaningful pathways to become success-ready graduates. Throughout this session, participants will analyze a high school student's high-quality transition-assessment data and will use the student's strengths, needs, preferences, and interests to develop an appropriate ICAP. The ICAP will then assist the student in meeting the student's postsecondary goals as aligned with appropriate transition services.

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

## HEALTHY LIVING

### 6H: Food and Gardening as Enrichment

Gardening and cooking are rewarding activities that can improve lives. The Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA) operates food- and garden-based programs that serve different audiences. Our programs work to improve food security, academic achievement, physical and mental health, and job skills. Many individuals in our programs have physical or mental disabilities that are accommodated in a variety of ways. In this session, participants will learn how CCUA's services work to improve people's daily lives along with strategies to incorporate food and gardening into different environments.

**PRESENTER:** Billy Polansky, Executive Director, Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture

## 9:45-10:00 A.M.

### Action Plan Completion and Drawings for Prizes

During this large group session, stakeholders will gather to ask any final questions regarding the Action Plan. Then, the Action Plans will be finalized and turned in for a chance to win prizes.

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

## 10:00-10:30 A.M.

### Regional Transition Team Planning

The transition liaisons and RPDC consultants will 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**

### **10:45-11:45 A.M.**

#### **CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

##### **7A: What Accommodations and Modifications Look Like in CTE**

The United States is experiencing a skilled-labor shortage, and individuals with disabilities are twice as likely to be unemployed as those without a disability. The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act emphasizes developing the employability skills of all students through CTE programs including special populations (such as individuals with disabilities). Come learn what CTE is, what accommodations and modifications look like in CTE, and how CTE can expand opportunities for success.

**PRESENTER:** Amy Herrman, Career Education and Special Needs Planner, South Central RPDC

#### **ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY**

##### **7B: Social-Emotional Learning Overview**

This session will provide participants with a basic understanding of the competencies of self-efficacy, self-regulation and assertiveness, and conflict management. Come learn the importance of why we need to embed social-emotional learning into the curriculum, where to find information about the various competencies, and how to obtain additional training.

**PRESENTERS:** Tonya Grant, Special Education Improvement Consultant, Kelly O’Laughlin, Behavior Consultant, Northeast RPDC; Berkley Rosenquist, Special Education Improvement Consultant, and Jessica Jordan, Behavior Consultant, Southeast RPDC

#### **TRANSITION PLANNING**

##### **7C: The Question Concerning Technology and Transition**

Too often, students graduate without the assistive technology, accessible educational materials, and related skills they need to smooth their transition to adult life. As students prepare to leave high school, it is essential that they, their families, and their educational teams consider students' current technology usage and accessibility requirements, identify their needs after high school, and establish goals and objectives to help accomplish a smooth and successful transition.

**PRESENTER:** David Baker, Director, Missouri Assistive Technology

#### **COMMUNITY LIVING**

##### **7D: The Rules of the Road – Achieving Independence by Preparing for and Passing the State's Written Driver Test (Repeat of 2G)**

Obtaining a driver’s permit and eventually a driver’s license opens the gateway to postsecondary education, employment, and (more importantly) independence. After seeing many of his former students and consumers fail the state's written test on multiple occasions, the presenter was prompted to create a study guide and arranged for the purchase of two driving simulators. A grant paid for the simulators and enabled the creation of The Rules of the Road, a program that began at Grace Works Academy in October 2023. Come learn about this newly developed program that prepares participants for the state's written driver test in a safe and effective environment.

**PRESENTERS:** Darin Stageberg, Director of Employment Services, and Sam Duer, CEO, Grace Reliant Health Services

#### **HEALTHY LIVING**

##### **7E: Missouri’s Hidden Transition Resource – Connecting With Centers for Independent Living as a Resource for Students**

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are nonprofit organizations created to help people with disabilities remain in the communities of their choice. Missouri has 22 CILs covering all of its 114 counties. Core services required to be performed by CILs include “facilitating transition of youth to postsecondary life.” CILs allow youths to connect with other required core services such as individual and systems advocacy, peer counseling and support, information and referral, and independent-living skills training. CILs are required to have at least 51 percent of staff and 51 percent of members of their boards of directors to have a disability. This allows teenagers to connect with others who have experience in dealing with disabilities in daily life.

**PRESENTER:** Karen Gridley, Executive Director, Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council

#### **COMPLIANCE**

##### **7F: Indicator 14 – Where Are They Now and Why Do You Need to Know? (The Evolution of Drew – Where Is She Now?)**

Throughout the day, you have had a chance to follow one student through the journey of transition. Now, it is time to see if this preparation was successful. Indicator 14 discusses the post-graduation

follow-up. In this session, participants will discuss what information is needed, especially for students with IEPs. Come discover what the data represent, how you can use data to improve student outcomes, and ideas on best data-collection practices.

**PRESENTERS:** Tori Chance, Special Education Data Research Analyst, and James Bouslaugh, Director of Effective Practices, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

### **CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

#### **7G: Building Partnerships to Improve Employment, Continuing Education, and Social Opportunities for Students**

This session will provide information and data on how better communication and collaboration have helped to improve the opportunities for transition-age students in employment, continuing education, and social events in Cape Girardeau County. Participants will learn about the partnerships among the Department of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Disabilities, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, VR, MERS Missouri Goodwill, Pre-ETS, the Cape Girardeau County Board for Developmental Disabilities, area businesses, and

other local organizations.

**PRESENTERS:** Cindy Lange, Developmental Disabilities Employment Coordinator, and Jeremy Rowland, Chief Regional Officer – Eastern, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

### **COMPLIANCE**

#### **7H: Form C – The Evolution of Drew From School to Career (Repeat of 1H)**

Form C: Postsecondary Transition Plan was recently updated by the Office of Special Education's compliance department. In this session, come learn about the changes and discover how these changes can help teachers document information needed for compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Participants also will learn about what is considered in- and out-of-compliance related to postsecondary transition plans.

**PRESENTERS:** Stacie Holt, Special Education Compliance Supervisor, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; and Dana Welch, Education Program Manager, Division of Youth Services, Missouri Department of Social Services

# Transition Training Institute

**FACING THE FUTURE – TOGETHER**