

Date	Time	Title	Session Description	Classification
2/28/24	8:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Empowering Futures: Discover the Beacons of Excellence	This presentation delves into the Texas Beacons of Excellence, a grant-funded initiative dedicated to facilitating the diversion of individuals with disabilities from sub-minimum wage employment to competitive integrated employment. The project aims to establish a replicable model adaptable for businesses, school districts, and organizations with 14c certificates. The primary goal is to empower individuals with disabilities, especially those engaged in or considering sub-minimum wage employment, by expanding opportunities for competitive integrated work. Join us as we explore how the Texas Beacons of Excellence strives to leave a lasting impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities, fostering a more inclusive and supportive community.	Interagency Collaboration
2/28/24	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Keynote	Learning Curve: Listening IS Work	Teaching future employees with diverse needs, how to be a better listener, will improve their job performance and soft skills. Let's teach listening explicitly, one stage at a time to ourselves and our students. As we walk through each stage of listening throughout our day, we will observe an increase in focusing, true joint attention, on the job communication, task efficiency, and positive interpersonal relationships with co-workers.	Student Development

2/28/24	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Creating a Community that Supports Families so that all Members of it can have a Purposeful Life, as Defined by the Student.	It takes a community or village to raise a child, especially one with disabilities, but how can you create this community and make it available to families? Learn about how the Bryan/College Station community created a program called Purposeful Life and how you can replicate its positive impact in your community.	Family Involvement
2/28/24	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Creating Sustainable, Integrated School-Based Enterprises: Lessons Learned from A&M's Work-Based Learning	Over the past two years, Texas A&M and Texas Workforce Solutions have funded, trained, and supported 50 work-based learning projects in schools across the state. An additional 30 projects will be funded for the 2023-24 school year. Whether you're considering applying for the project or working to sustain or expand an existing school-based enterprise, this session will provide insight into how to avoid pitfalls, build partnerships, and create sustainable, meaningful work experiences for students with disabilities.	Student Development
2/28/24	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Beyond the Admissions Criteria: Determining Readiness for Postsecondary Education Programs	This session will review the importance, significance, and benefits of PSE programs while exploring the prerequisite skills necessary for successful transition. This session will detail skills needed to maintain independence, self-advocacy, and self-determination while developing academic, social, and career skills in PSE programs.	Student-Focused Planning

2/28/24	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	The In's and Out's of Functional Vocational Evaluation	Participants will develop a better understanding of what a Functional Vocational Evaluation (FVE) is and potential tools that can be used during the assessment process. We will discuss when an FVE should be completed and by whom, where it might go, and what information should be considered and if applicable, included in the FVE.	Student Development
2/29/24	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Keynote	Transition Assessment: What Do We Know? What Do We Need to Know? How Will We Assess It?	<p>This presentation delves into the Transition Assessment Planning Form and Transition IEP Mapping tool, adapted from OCALI and Cornell University's TAP for Transition. These fillable templates guide users in an ongoing cycle of gathering information, discussing postsecondary goals, and summarizing transition assessments supporting the development of robust transition-focused IEPs for students with disabilities.</p> <p>Participants will be guided through Creating and Using a Transition Assessment Toolbox. This tool equips users to establish a repository of high-quality transition assessments, guide staff in age-appropriate assessments, interpret results, and integrate findings into the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Fostering an ongoing cycle, it promotes gathering and utilizing diverse assessments, ensuring a comprehensive transition plan.</p>	Student-Focused Planning

2/29/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	88th Legislative Session and Post-School Transition	The 88th Legislature Regular Session began in January, 2023 and ran through the end of May, 2023. State lawmakers considered several topics that are important to students with disabilities. Learn which special education bills passed, including those related to post-school transition.	Program Structure
2/29/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Explore Apprenticeship: An In-Depth Career Exploration Program	Join us to learn about an exciting new initiative from TWS-Vocational Rehabilitation Services called Explore Apprenticeship. Participants will receive industry-specific instruction, participate in worksite visits, live demonstrations, and hands-on activities! This initiative encourages students to begin considering Apprenticeship as a possible career path and is completely sponsored by VR. This program has already piloted in Dallas and Houston and is set to begin expansion throughout Texas. Come learn how to partner with VR to bring this program to your area!	Interagency Collaboration

2/29/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Innovative Course: Transition English IV	Leander ISD's innovative Resource English IV course (named Transition English IV) provides modified students the experience of learning the Senior English curriculum with a strong focus on Transition and Self-Determination. Aligned to the TEKS, lessons are based on research-identified skills students need to obtain employment and further their education/training after high school. In this session, participants will explore Leander ISD's specially designed curriculum's Units of Study, Year-at-a-Glance Guide, and Sample Learning Activities. Through this innovative course, students are empowered with knowledge and skills to live fulfilled, self-determined lives.	Student Development
2/29/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Make it Sustainable! Giving Families and Caregivers the Tools for Life After School	Educators work hard to give their students the skills they need for the future, but who helps prepare families? What skills do parents and caregivers need to assist their young adults as they pursue life after school, and where do they get those skills? Come learn about one school's mission to provide a variety of training for families to build their competence so they can confidently support their loved ones as adults.	Family Involvement
2/29/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	McKinney ISD Transition Services: Shifting From a Program Based Model to a Service Based Model	This is a Google Slides presentation that chronicles McKinney ISD's changes in the way we provided transition services over the years, and how we worked with transition expert Debbie Wilkes to create a model of services that follows new TEA guidelines for transition.	Program Structure

2/29/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Post-Secondary Educational and Vocational Resources for Students with Special Needs	<p>This presentation will provide information to assist students in transitioning to life after high school. We will review pre-employment transitional services (PreETS); occupational exploration, career counseling and guidance, work-based learning, self-advocacy, and knowledge of post-secondary training opportunities, will assist in formulating realistic goals for students in career planning.</p> <p>We will discuss successful strategies used by vocational rehabilitation counselors and work force solutions employment specialist to assist students with developing skills that help with informed decision making and how it can impact their ability to formulate viable future career plans.</p>	Student Development
2/29/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	The Effective IEP and Student-Centered Transition Planning	<p>This presentation will equip educators with the knowledge and skills to support students with disabilities in transitioning from school to post-school life. Key components of the IEP will be discussed, including student-centered planning steps, collaboration with students, families, and community stakeholders, and assessing student preferences, interests, strengths, and needs.</p>	Student-Focused Planning

2/29/24	12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Keynote	Time Marches On: Building Skills Across the School Years for Postsecondary Success	Specific skill sets for postsecondary education and employment can be identified early and developed through transition planning and a coordinated set of activities. Individuals attending this keynote session will learn about skill sets that are often seen as lacking at postsecondary level. Participants will hear from a panel of educators, parents, and students speaking about their experiences and how these experiences will or have helped them to meet their postsecondary goals for employment or postsecondary education.	Student-Focused Planning
2/29/24	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Empowering Future Transition Stakeholders: Supporting Siblings of Our Students with Disabilities	This session will outline how developing a sibling support program is one way to provide support to siblings (and subsequently to families), help them deal with the uncertainty about the future, and better equip them to be a possible future caregiver and/or guardian of the individual with special needs. A review of current research regarding siblings, common concerns/issues siblings may experience, considerations when developing a sibling support program, as well as the specific Sibshop program will be discussed.	Family Involvement

2/29/24	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	How NextUp Transition Curriculum Can Enhance Your District's Transition Program and Services	Join us to learn how NextUp Transition Curriculum helps schools provide quality transition services to students and prepare them for success after high school. In this session, you will be introduced to NextUp's curriculum and resources, and you will receive some free transition planning materials you can take back to your classroom. NextUp Transition Curriculum provides educators with comprehensive transition lessons, materials, platforms, and resources to help create student-centered transition plans for students with disabilities, promoting successful post-secondary outcomes.	Student Development
2/29/24	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Project SEARCH – A Collaborative Transition to Work Model with Proven Results	Project SEARCH is a collaborative, business-led, school-to-work international model that features partnerships among businesses, local Independent School Districts, Employment Service Providers, Local IDD Authorities and other entities that serve students with disabilities. In this presentation, you will learn about 1) the history of Project SEARCH; 2) steps required to establish a new Project SEARCH site in your area; and 3) the unique role of the Project SEARCH Instructor and how their responsibilities are different than if they worked in a typical classroom.	Interagency Collaboration

2/29/24	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Transition Assessment: Time to Fill Your Toolbox	<p>This presentation offers a structured exploration of transition assessments. Participants will gain insights into transition assessments for education, training, employment, and independent living to add to their toolkit. Additionally, a list of assessments geared toward students with intellectual and developmental disabilities will be provided. Educators will leave with practical tools and knowledge to integrate effective transition assessments into their practice, fostering improved outcomes for students with disabilities focusing on the lives they want after high school.</p>	Student Development
2/29/24	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Understanding the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security Program (PABSS)	<p>PABSS is funded by the Social Security Administration (SSA), PABSS helps beneficiaries with disabilities obtain the services they need to secure, gain, or return to gainful employment.</p> <p>Session focus includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Overview of SSI/SSDI programs and related health benefits •Basic information on how work can impact benefits •Obtain, retain and maintain employment □ •Advance or be promoted on the job •Access Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services or services of an Employment Network (EN) or other employment provider •Improve employability •Challenge discrimination •Receive information and gain knowledge about employment rights 	Student-Focused Planning

2/29/24	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	We Live Inclusion!: A Post-Secondary Education Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities at a Hispanic Serving Institution	Post-secondary education (PSE) is a recognized pathway to a meaningful career, financial independence, and overall improved quality of life for students with intellectual disabilities. However, creating effective PSE programs is a multifaceted process that requires dedicated leaders and careful planning. This session will provide an overview of a comprehensive PSE program housed at an ethnically and linguistically diverse Hispanic Serving Institution. Provided implementation guidelines will allow for adaptations based on unique institutional characteristics and needs. While the session is aimed at serving students with intellectual disabilities, shared principles and elements can be used with PSE students with other disabilities.	Program Structure
2/29/24	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Zarrow Institute on Transition & Self-Determination: Assessments, Curriculum, Bell Ringers, and More	At the Zarrow Institute on Transition & Self-Determination at the University of Oklahoma, we strive to promote successful transition outcomes for all by implementing innovative research, putting findings into practice, and disseminating knowledge through high-quality products and professional development. Through the presentation, the team from ZI plans to provide tangible resources that are built on current research and best-practices in the field.	Student-Focused Planning

2/29/24	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Creating a Successful Path: Transition Planning for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students	<p>Postsecondary outcomes for students with disabilities are most effective when families are involved in the transition planning. Therefore, the objective of this session is to provide educators with information and strategies to facilitate transition planning for the culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) student that bridges school and home expectations. Building this bridge requires educators to understand language acquisition, to consider the background of CLD students and their families, and to recognize family expectations. This session will conclude with a hands-on activity on how to weave these ideas into the requirements of transition services.</p>	Family Involvement
2/29/24	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Finding Your Way: A Guide through the Texas SPED Support Website	<p>Sometimes change is hard, and we want to help you with the change from Texas Transition to Texas SPED Support. Participants will go home feeling less frustrated and more equipped to navigate the new website. ESC Consultants from across the state will discuss how they utilize the site and share some of our favorite resources.</p>	Program Structure

2/29/24	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Partnership for Hope	<p>Visual transition planning tools have been a staple in transition planning for Leander ISD students for over 24 years. These visual tools allow the student's voice and choice to be the center focus. While honoring the student's vision and goals, these tools allow collaboration with the families, staff, and other community resources. Action plans are created with the student to help them meet their desired outcomes. Come learn the vast array of visual transition meetings we offer and what triggers the need for them.</p>	Student-Focused Planning
2/29/24	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Roadmap of Assessments: Putting Students in the Driver's Seat	<p>This presentation will examine one district's overall assessment process for determining student's strengths, preferences and interests in order to develop appropriate post-secondary goals. All assessments for each grade level are provided to teachers and transition staff in an easy to access electronic document. Participants will leave with access to this Roadmap as well as an understanding of how to use it.</p>	Student Development

2/29/24	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Small towns, Big Changes: Empowering Rural Students with Engaging Transition Curriculum Programming	Learn how small and rural school districts in Texas are partnering with the NextUp Transition Curriculum Program to provide training on Pre-ETS skills to youth in rural areas through the iGROW Project. The leadership from iGROW and NextUp will share how they have worked together to align the curriculum to student's specific pre-employment skill need, state standards, and the Project model to provide the best learning experience for students, teachers, and families. Teacher and student perspectives and outcomes will be shared as well.	Interagency Collaboration
2/29/24	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	THINKing COLLEGE – The Who, When, Where, Why, and How of College for Students with Intellectual Disability	Did you know there are now 320+ higher education options for students with intellectual disabilities (ID) in 49 U.S. states, including 16 in Texas? With this expansion of programs, there's a growing need for awareness and access. In our presentation, we will review inclusive higher education options and equip educators, students, and families with essential resources to prepare for and support college access. Students with ID are frequently overlooked in college discussions. This session helps rectify this by furnishing the necessary information to foster awareness and create meaningful access opportunities. Join us in bridging this gap in education.	Student-Focused Planning

2/29/24	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Tools for Teaching Disability Disclosure	<p>The decision to disclose disability is a personal one. Some people choose to disclose their disability because they know they will need an accommodation for a job interview, or to train for the job. Others may choose not to disclose for fear an interview may never be offered, or their disability will become the focus of the interview instead of their abilities. This session will focus on the factors to consider when making the determination to disclose; and will provide participants with tools to use for teaching students about disability disclosure.</p>	Student Development
03/01/24	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Keynote	The Power of Risk	<p>Dignity of risk is essential to developing self-determination skills and improving the postschool outcomes of young people with disabilities across employment, continued education, and community participation. In this session, we present a model for assessing dignity of risk in transition programming, share the importance of dignity of risk in the transition process (from the perspective of an individual with lived experience), and identify practical strategies to begin discussing risk with families, young adults, and other stakeholders.</p>	Student-Focused Planning

03/01/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	A Gap in Transition Planning: Focusing on Disaster Preparedness	Presenters will share information on the extent to which disaster or emergency preparedness is addressed in the transition planning literature for adolescents with disabilities, as well as explore the factors influencing disaster or emergency preparedness transition outcomes. Additionally, the current gaps existing in the published literature regarding the intersection of disaster preparedness and transition planning will be highlighted. Finally, presenters will delve into practice suggestions within the literature that could lead to more positive outcomes for transitioning adolescents with disabilities.	Student Development
03/01/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Implementing Culturally Responsive Practices to Increase IPSE Participants From Marginalized Communities Through Community Engagement and VR Partnerships	Following culturally responsive frameworks by Gloria Ladson-Billings (1992) and Geneva Gay (2014, 2018), the UNT ELEVAR program continues to engage in community partnerships and participation to increase the number of IPSE participants from marginalized communities. It is our mission to address the underrepresentation of marginalized students in IPSE programs by using culturally responsive practices in our recruitment, community engagement, person-centered planning, and all program supports and activities. The implementation of these activities has resulted in an expansion of engagement with marginalized communities across Texas and has increased in accessibility and appropriate supports for students from marginalized communities in our program.	Family Involvement

03/01/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Power of Hope	<p>Hope, combined with a supportive environment, can significantly enhance the quality of life for individuals on the autism spectrum. While hope can be a powerful motivator, support systems, understanding, and access to appropriate resources are equally essential for adults with autism. At nonParei, technical training, work-readiness preparation, and social engagement play crucial roles in fostering a sense of hope and empowerment for adults with autism. We are thrilled to showcase several inspiring success stories of hope for nonPareil students.</p>	Student-Focused Planning
3/01/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Promoting the Mental Well-being of Transition Age Youth with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (IDD)	<p>People with IDD experience mental health concerns at higher rates than the general population. However, misconceptions and biases often lead to false assumptions that they don't experience mental health challenges or won't benefit from existing mental health treatments. Over the last 18 months, the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute completed extensive research and hosted two convenings in Austin focused on this topic. In this session we will share findings from this work and provide recommendations to improve how systems and individuals can better understand and address the mental health needs of transition age youth with IDD.</p>	Interagency Collaboration

03/01/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Providing Structure and Resources to Develop and Maintain Evidence-Based 18+ Programs	<p>Texas state law mandates that students be served in age-appropriate instructional environments. The questions for many administrators and educators in special education are:</p> <p>What are age-appropriate instructional environments for students 18-21?</p> <p>What is the curriculum?</p> <p>How can small and rural districts meet the needs of students in 18+ programs?</p> <p>What are the differences between 18+ SERVICES and an 18+ PROGRAM? Participants will learn the answers to these questions and more.</p>	Student Development
03/01/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Texas Youth Ambassadors: Understanding Alternatives to Guardianship	<p>In July 2023, the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities partnered with Texas Advocates to join the Center for Youth Voices, Youth Choices Youth Ambassadors program. We recruited four ambassadors, ages 14 to 26, to participate in training about guardianship, supported decision-making, and self-determination. In this presentation, our team will discuss the training, what we have learned so far, highlight our ambassadors work, and share program implications for transition. We will discuss replicable aspects of the program and propose engagement opportunities for session attendees to bring back to their teams whether they are parents, educators, or service providers.</p>	Student Development

03/01/24	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	The Power of Partnerships	<p>This workshop addresses the power of relationships and how to support students and their families as a “connector” during the transition process. First, attendees will learn about key partners in the school system, service system, and in community who can support transition. Second, we will map out our own "transition networks" and set goals for expanding these networks to support student success. Third, we will learn strategies to conduct relationship mapping with students and use it as a tool for person-centered planning.</p>	Interagency Collaboration
03/01/24	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Bloom Consulting - Transition Related Services	<p>Bloom Consulting will present the following two transition services provided in Texas. As a vendor with TWC/VRS, Bloom has created a person-centered approach to Pre-ETS. Learn how Bloom provides these services during the school year and the summer through our innovative summer camps. Also, during this presentation, Bloom will provide information on our college support program, which is offered throughout the entire state of Texas. Come learn how to bring these programs to your school and your students as you help them transition.</p>	Interagency Collaboration

03/01/24	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	How Cooking Changed Our World! The Story and Data Behind Our Transition Program's Success	The outcomes for our graduating students increased from 54% to 95% engaged in post High School programming, from working to college, after instituting an on campus culinary program along with our transition programming. By teaching skills and then applying them to project based learning, and allowing for student choice, we changed so many things! Students were excited to begin their transition classes, and progress through the program. They took feedback and generalized skills to different environments! Food seems to be a universal language. See what parts of our success you can take and implement in your own setting!	Student Development
03/01/24	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Texas Two Step! Getting Into a Rhythm With Transition and Compliance	Get ready to hit the ground running after you attend, "Texas Two Step: Getting into a Rhythm with Transition and Compliance." Join Brynn Biggs where she will be spotlighting the moves to master Indicator 13, compliance, and transition services. This session promises to be a compliance-shaping experience that will guide you through the steps of educational success.	Student Development

03/01/24	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Tips, Tricks, & Tools for Teaching Self-Determination	<p>In this presentation, the skillset and mindset that makeup self-determination will be explained, as will the benefits that come from students learning these essential skills. Decision-making, problem-solving, goal setting and attainment, self-advocacy, student involvement in the IEP, perseverance, and disability awareness are all components of self-determination that will be addressed. Resources, strategies, and techniques for these skills will be shared, along with descriptions of how they can be implemented inside and outside the classroom. Participants will be prepared to support K-20 students in developing and applying these skills in their everyday lives.</p>	Student Development
03/01/24	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Tools for Teachers: Community Mapping Strategy for Effective Transition Planning	<p>The demand for improved transition planning for students with disabilities comes from the evidence of their dismal outcomes in the areas of post-secondary education, employment, and independent living. However, special education teachers feel unprepared when it comes to transition planning (Kohler & Greene, 2004; Morningstar & Benitez, 2013). Therefore, it is critical for teachers to identify practices that could be used to support effective transition planning for students with disabilities. This session will provide an overview of community mapping, an evidence-based practice, that teachers can use to prepare their students for successful adult lives and achievement of aspired goals.</p>	Student-Focused Planning

03/01/24	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Transition Preparation Starts Day 1: Strategies to Teach Independent Living Skills in Elementary Schools	<p>Research shows positive relationships between early interventions and student outcomes. While IDEA requires transition planning at age 16 and Texas requires planning at age 14, preparing students for life after school needs to begin to be addressed earlier.</p> <p>During our time together, we will share the research done on independent living skills instruction in elementary schools through the lens of transition. We will discuss how these practices impact student access to secondary transition predictors leading to post school success for students with disabilities. Participants will leave the presentation with applicable strategies and an action plan for implementation within their programs.</p>	Student Development
03/01/24	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Using State-Approved Course Content To Support Decision-Making Skills and Self-Determination For Students	<p>In transition planning, educators may sometimes have difficulty in addressing the use and availability of curriculum content that can support transition planning in the IEP while still supporting students in working towards meeting credit requirements for graduation under the Foundation High School Program. This session will walk attendees through existing TEKS standards in grades K-12 that closely align with teaching self-determination and decision-making skills, as well as take a look at some state-approved innovative courses which can support the acquisition of self-determination and decision-making skills while supporting college/career readiness and fostering student independence.</p>	Student-Focused Planning