



**“Shared Work, Shared Vision”
Community of Practice DE Transition Conference
April 3, 2012 – Sheraton Dover, DE - 8:00am-3:15pm**



Keynote Speaker - LeDerick Horne: Poet, Disability Advocate, & Entrepreneur

As a child, LeDerick Horne believed he did not have much of a future. Despite being classified as having a neurological impairment in the third grade, LeDerick has become a successful spoken word poet, playwright, motivational speaker, entrepreneur, and advocate. Using his gift for spoken word poetry as a teaching tool, LeDerick has been recognized across the country as a motivational speaker and advocate for people with disabilities. After graduating with honors from New Jersey City University in 2003 with a BA in Mathematics and a minor in Fine Art, LeDerick released *Rhyme Reason and Song* (2005), an album of his poetry set to music, and he co-created and performed in *New Street Poets*, a spoken word play addressing gentrification's affect on urban culture.

The play was first staged in 2005 at the Tony Award winning Crossroads Theater in New Brunswick, NJ. *New Street Poets* received great critical acclaim at the New York City International Fringe Festival in 2007, and is currently touring throughout the northeast. LeDerick has presented to groups from the students and faculty at Harvard University to the youth and staff at correctional facilities. His message addresses increasing confidence, academic performance, self-determination, and self-advocacy by challenging conventional teaching styles and asking his audience to look beyond negative labels.

LeDerick is currently the board chair of Project Eye-to-Eye, a national nonprofit which provides mentoring programs for students labeled LD/ADHD. In the spring to 2011 he released his second collection of poetry called *Black and Blue*. He is collaborating with the writers of *New Street Poets* to develop a new spoken word play called *Commencement* which addresses the stereotypes that shape our education system. LeDerick has facilitated workshops, delivered keynote presentations, and spoken to thousands of students, teachers, and service providers about his experiences.

Community of Practice DE Transition Conference 4/3/2012 – Schedule at a Glance

10:30-11:45am (Sauvignon Ballroom)	12:30-1:45pm (Sauvignon Ballroom)	2:00-3:15pm (Champagne Ballroom)
A	B	
<p>Seamless Transition Practices: A National Perspective of Collaborative Strategies - Joan Kester, George Washington University</p> <p>One of the predictors of success post-school outcomes of youth with disabilities is the creation and replication of transition practices through interagency collaboration. During this interactive session, participate in a discussion connecting research and practice regarding what facilitates seamless transition through interagency collaboration, along with the challenges. A dialogue about strategies to stop –reinventing the wheel and –starting over from a cross-systems perspective will lead into a discussion of effective interagency collaboration projects, products, and activities.</p>	<p>How Genuine are We in our Collaborative Efforts? The Impact of Personal Communication Styles - George Tilson, Transcen</p> <p>Whether we realize it or not, our days are filled with collaborative efforts, in both our personal and professional lives. Most human endeavors, from basic to complex, are collaborative in nature because something is expected of us – or we expect something from another person. We are constantly in a state of –presenting our case or negotiating, or persuading/convincing/enticing someone to see things our way – or to take action. Nowhere is that more true than in our efforts to help youth with disabilities and their families navigate the transition process. In this session we will explore collaboration pitfalls, conduct a communication styles self-assessment, discuss why our communication styles impact collaboration and find ways to be more perceptive of the styles of others. The ultimate goal is to get past some of the conflicts, truly collaborate -- and produce better transition outcomes.</p>	<p>Closing – LeDerick Horne</p> <p><i>Self-Advocacy: What Is It And How Does It Work?</i> is a workshop that will introduce high school students to the principles of self-advocacy, explain how self-advocacy works in a variety of environments, and prepares students to begin advocating for themselves in postsecondary educational setting. Students will also understand how self-advocacy skills are linked to identifying and achieving their life goals.</p>

10:30-11:45am (Verona Room)	12:30-1:45pm (Verona Room)
A	B
<p>AmeriCorps Delaware</p> <p>The AmeriCorps program staff of Delaware will share information about opportunities in Delaware for youth to serve in The National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP). This project provides for the active engagement of people with disabilities to become service members in all levels of national and community service via comprehensive training and technical assistance. The project is part of The Corporation for National and Community Service, which is a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. The Corporation annually engages more than five million Americans in service to meet local needs and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve.</p>	<p>Crime Does Not Pay the Bills - DE State Police</p> <p>What happens to my juvenile records when I become an adult? What charges show up on my criminal record? Do I need an attorney to assist me in getting my record expunged? Come listen to what the DE State Police can offer in regard to navigating through the system!</p>
10:30-11:45am (Champagne Room)	12:30-1:45pm (Champagne Room)
A	B
<p>The Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative: Demystifying the Transition Process - Adele Connolly</p> <p>Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative (MSTC) A project funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, US Department of Education is designed to improve the postsecondary outcomes of students</p>	<p>Determined Youth-Successful Youth: An introduction and overview of “I’m Determined” - Carol Wiegler, M.A., Region 5 Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC), James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA / Sarah Craig, Student, Western Albemarle High School, Charlottesville, VA / Doniella Kissinger, Student, South County Secondary School, Fairfax, VA</p>

<p>with disabilities through a sequential delivery of specific transition service components beginning in early high school, and the braiding of resources of transition partners. The MSTC model is student driven and is comprised of key components such as numerous Discovery activities, individualized Work-Based Experiences, at least one Paid Inclusive Employment experience prior to exiting school, emphasis on Family Involvement and Participation as well as linking transitioning youth to community resources.</p>	<p>Four Youth Leaders and Project coordinator will discuss how they have set and achieved goals and have a greater understanding of their personal strengths and how to get support for areas of assistance. The hallmarks of the program and the new website (www.indetermined.org) will be shared with participants.</p>
<p>10:30-11:45am (Corporate Room)</p>	<p>12:30-1:45pm (Corporate Room)</p>
<p>A</p>	<p>B</p>
<p>Maximizing Access to Higher Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities - UD/CDS-CLSC Program</p> <p>The Career & Life Studies Certificate (CLSC) program is a new 2-year certificate program at the University of Delaware for students with intellectual disabilities. In this presentation, students, family members, and university partners will present on their experiences with CLSC. Students will present a summary of the program and describe their experiences participating in campus activities. Family members and university partners will share information regarding their involvement with CLSC and the impact they have observed on the participants and the greater</p>	<p>Project SEARCH</p> <p>Project SEARCH has come to Delaware and The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has begun a Project SEARCH site in Delaware at Christiana Care Medical Center in Newark. The Project SEARCH High School Transition Program is a unique, business led, one year school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and on-the-job training and support through internships or worksite rotations. The goal for each student participant is competitive employment. The program provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help youths with significant disabilities make</p>

university community.	successful transitions from school to productive adult life.
10:30-11:45am (Siena Room)	12:30-1:45pm (Siena Room)
A	B
<p>Entitlement vs. Eligibility</p> <p>What is the Difference between ENTITLEMENT and ELIGIBILITY services? Transition is the process of moving from entitlement services to eligibility services. The difference between the entitlements of public education and the eligibility criteria of adult services can be confusing. Students with disabilities are entitled to educational services until age 21; met the requirements for a high school diploma; or, they exit the school system. Once the student exits, he/she must meet eligibility criteria to receive services from adult service agencies. This session will detail the differences between entitlement services vs. eligibility services and the importance for transition planning to start early.</p>	<p>Employment in Today's Society - Chaz Kellem and Chris Mielo</p> <p>Employment is the goal of successful transition. Discussion will include the current state of employment for those with disabilities, as well as strategies for youth, parents, and professionals to build the skills necessary to successfully transition into the workforce. Topics discussed will be moving from an IDEA to an ADA world, building self-advocacy skills, volunteerism, and social media in employment.</p>
10:30-11:45am (Chardonnay Ballroom)	12:30-1:45pm (Chardonnay Ballroom)
A	B
<p>Self - Determination & Self-Advocacy - "Believe in the Unbelievable" Chaz Kellem & Chris Mielo</p> <p>Session is a customized presentation that will provide information to help the disability community and families understand the significance of being</p>	<p>DTCC Supported Education Program</p> <p>The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Delaware Technical and Community College (DTCC) are working together to provide additional support for post secondary DVR students who are enrolled in Basic and Pre-Tech courses in</p>

<p>an empowered advocate. The presentation will promote the advancement of people with disabilities and help with the transition into a life filled with passion, fun, and empowerment. Presentation will include personal stories and testimony from the presenters.</p>	<p>their first year at DTCC. These pre-college level courses are required for students to matriculate into the regular college curriculum. There are support workshops in Math, English, and Reading, along with some additional specialized study skills training and other helpful educational seminars. DVR and DTCC are collaborating to provide this academic support program to help students be successful with the transition to college. This program runs concurrently with the college calendar, four hours a week for 15 weeks. The program is offered in two hour sessions, four days a week at all DTCC campuses (Wilmington, Stanton, Dover and Georgetown).</p>
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10:30-11:45am (Venetian Room)

12:30-1:45pm (Venetian Room)

A

B

YES WE CAN - Partnering w/Parents in Transition
 Ellen Coulston, DE Mom Congress 2011 Delegate, Co-founder BSNPTA
 Debra Heffernan, State Representative 6th District, Co-founder BSNPTA
 Brandywine Special needs PTA (BSNPTA) Members

"YES WE CAN" - Partnering with Parents in the Transition Process: The importance of parent involvement will be highlighted in a unique presentation as seen from both a parent and child perspective. Parents from the Brandywine Special Needs PTA will demonstrate how they are creating a self-determination program

Asperger's Alliance - Rebecca Clark, DE Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

This student led session will focus on the real life experiences of students who are currently navigating their way through the transition process. Their presentation will highlight the challenges and opportunities of life after high school in reference to higher education, internships, volunteer experiences, employment and social activities and resources. These emerging adults are all active and enthusiastic members of the Asperger's Alliance group. They will also share information about this growing group and their numerous activities and fund raising events.

<p>for their children and providing exposure, opportunity and practice to support successful transitions to employment, further education and independent living. This session will emphasize how effective parent leaders and advocates can make a difference. This session is for participants who are ready to work hard, think outside the box and act now!</p>	
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