



Mission Possible  
Transitioning to the Future



**Virtual and In-Person  
Opportunities Available**

Penn Stater Conference Center  
215 Innovation Boulevard  
State College, PA 16803

## Conference Features

### Accommodations, Supports, and Resources Expo, including Reception & Raffle

This interactive, hands-on expo is designed for participants to learn about specific assistive technology, resources, supports, and services available to youth.

### Youth & Family Sessions

These sessions include youth development activities, to help youth grow and plan for adult life, with the support of their family (or supporting adult).

### Fab Lab

A Fab Lab is a digital fabrication laboratory for innovation and invention. It's a workshop for learning: a place to create, learn, mentor, and to invent.

# 2022 PA Community of Practice Transition Conference

August 10 & 11, 2022

## Feature Presenters



**Brandon Farbstein**  
Gen Z activist, and author



**Sylvia Farbstein**  
Inspiring speaker,  
writer and advocate



**Megan Bomgaars**

Well-known self-advocate  
with Down Syndrome, a tv  
personality and entrepreneur.

Register at:

[www.pattan.net/events](http://www.pattan.net/events)

Registration Deadline: July 30, 2022



# 2022 PA Community of Practice Transition Conference

## Mission Possible: Transitioning to the Future

### Description

The primary purpose of this two-day conference is to expand the capacity of youth, family members, schools, and community partners regarding specific issues related to: effective employment and post-secondary educational practices, development of healthy life-styles; and the utility of assistive technology, resources, supports, and services available to youth and families.

### Conference Features

#### Accommodations, Supports and Resources Expo, Reception & Raffle

This interactive, hands-on expo is designed for participants to learn about specific assistive technology, resources, supports, and services available to youth. Participants will gather valuable information from transition partners, conference presenters, and community agencies. As part of the expo, on Wednesday afternoon, there will be a raffle of items provided by members of our PA Secondary Transition Community of Practice and our vendors. **You must be present at the reception to win!**

#### Youth & Family Team Sessions

Throughout the years, youth/young adults, and families have benefitted from the sessions held at the transition conference. Based upon feedback, the planning team has developed a team approach where youth and family members (or a supporting adult) attend sessions together. These sessions include youth development activities, to help youth grow and plan for adult life, with the support of their family (or supporting adult).



#### Fab Lab

A feature at this year's transition conference is the opportunity to view and explore a Fab Lab. A Fab Lab is a digital fabrication laboratory for innovation and invention. It's a workshop for learning: a place to create, learn, mentor, and to invent. There are 2, two-hour sessions, available for youth only, on Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Up to sixteen registered youth will have the chance to experience firsthand, the tools needed to develop the practical and critical thinking skills they will need to be the inventors and innovators of the future.

### Credits Offered

Act 48 and CRCC continuing education credits are offered for all keynote, feature, and breakout sessions. **Act 48 will be offered per day.** CRCC credits are offered by session. Individuals attending this conference, both In-Person and Virtual must complete the conference evaluation survey with proper codes within one week of the conference in order to be eligible to receive continuing education credit (Act 48 and CRCC).

#### In-Person Participation:

To receive continuing education credit, individuals attending this conference must arrive on time and stay the duration of the day(s)/session(s) for which they are requesting credit(s). Additionally, individuals must complete the conference evaluation survey with proper codes within one week of the conference to be eligible to receive continuing education credit (Act 48 and CRCC).

#### Virtual Participation:

To receive continuing education credit, participants must login to ZOOM on a computer individually. No credit will be awarded for those who attend by phone (audio alone). Additionally, individuals must complete the conference evaluation survey with proper codes within one week of the conference to be eligible to receive continuing education credit (Act 48 and CRCC).

**August 10, 2022** Act 48 – 5.5 hours  
CRCC – 5.5 hours

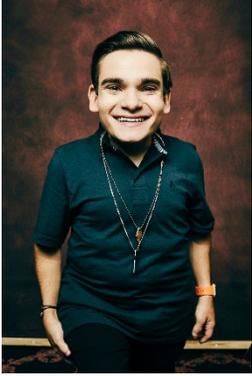
**August 11, 2022** Act 48 – 5.5 hours  
CRCC – 5.5 hours

### Session Topic Descriptors

To assist participants in selecting sessions, a topic area has been identified for each session.

- Cross Agency Collaboration
- Transition Planning
- Employment
- Family Engagement
- Independent Living
- Person-Family Directed Planning
- Post-Secondary
- Relationships
- Transition Planning
- Youth Development

# Feature Presenters



**Brandon Farbstein** is a 22-year-old speaker, Gen Z activist, and author. He inspires millions of people across the globe with his universal message of living life on your own terms and building the framework for self-acceptance.

Born with an extremely rare form of dwarfism (metatropic dysplasia), Brandon has turned his life experience of suffering, isolation, and victimhood into empowerment, impact and influence.

After a severe battle with cyberbullying in high school, he decided to share his story - to both offer hope and to enact change. Brandon was the driving force behind two new pieces of legislation that were signed into law in Virginia by the time he turned 18. The first addressing bullying prevention and the other requiring empathy and emotional intelligence to be taught in all K-12 classrooms across the state.

Whether sharing his message with thousands of students at a time, empowering readers with his books *Ten Feet Tall & A Kids Book About Self-Love*, or working with Fortune 100 companies like Facebook, HP, and Marriott, Brandon consistently delivers tools to audiences of all ages to shatter limiting beliefs, elevate their mindset, and create an amplified life.

He frequently advises foundations, boards, and large-scale organizations on their DEI efforts, especially towards the disability community - the largest minority group in the world comprising 15% of the global population.

Brandon continues to break barriers and pave the way for people who often feel invisible. He was named Instagram's #19under19 as one of the most influential young people in the world with his mission to Elevate Empathy®. In 2020, Brandon made his runway debut at NY Fashion Week wearing Tommy Hilfiger Adaptive and has become a sought-after voice for inclusion.

**Wednesday, August 10, 2022 (8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.)**

[KN1 Ten Feet Tall: Becoming Your Greatest Hero](#)

**Wednesday, August 10, 2022 (10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)**

[A-05 Shifting the Lens of Uncertainty and Leaning into Curiosity](#)



**Sylvia Farbstein** is an inspiring speaker, writer and advocate who is on a mission to widen the lens through which people see their world. She has spent the last 2 decades learning how life presents us with unexpected twists and turns that can stop us in our tracks or provide a catalyst for exciting change. Her professional world took a leap from the defined realm of financial services to one of few answers and no blueprint when son

Brandon was born with a rare form of dwarfism. Their experiences navigating a world not built for somebody like him prompted them to seek out ways to neither be confined nor defined by limitations, perceived or otherwise. This has led to an entrepreneurial career path for both mother and son that has impacted millions of lives.

Sylvia has helped Brandon launch his professional speaking career, advocated on anti-bullying legislation, collaborated on his two books and has advised hundreds of families how to leverage curiosity to turn obstacles into opportunities. She proudly works as Brandon's "Momager" as they spread his universal message to elevate empathy across the globe.

**Wednesday, August 10, 2022 (8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.)**

[KN1 Ten Feet Tall: Becoming Your Greatest Hero](#)

**Wednesday, August 10, 2022 (10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)**

[A-05 Shifting the Lens of Uncertainty and Leaning into Curiosity](#)



**Megan Bomgaars**, 27, is a well-known self-advocate with Down Syndrome, a tv personality and entrepreneur. Loving to share her life experiences with others, she has developed her skills as a public speaker and travels across the world giving keynote speeches.

She composed a popular video called "Don't Limit Me" which has become the motto that Megan lives by.

**Thursday, August 11, 2022 (2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.)**

[KN3 Don't Limit Me](#)

**Youth Wanted**  
 ...for the youth-led,  
 youth-driven  
 experience with PYLN

**What youth gain**

- Knowledge
- Soft Skills
- Social Capital
- FUN with their Peers

**It's By Youth.  
 For Youth.**

Youth attending the conference will have the opportunity to participate in sessions with their family/caregiver during the day, including sessions specifically designed to spark conversations between youth and their families/caregivers. On Wednesday night, August 10<sup>th</sup>, youth may participate in a dance! During this activity, youth will be able to interact with youth leaders and their peers in meaningful ways. Scholarships to attend the conference are available!

## Youth & Family Team Sessions

Youth and young adults, with their family's support, will have the opportunity to develop a portfolio of resources to help them as they continue transition planning activities after the conference!

| Breakout | Day       | Time                | Session |  |
|----------|-----------|---------------------|---------|--|
| Pre-Conf | Tuesday   | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM   | AA-1    | <b>Speed Interviews and Disability Pride – Youth</b>   |
| Pre-Conf | Tuesday   | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM   | AA-2    | <b>Getting to Know You – Parents/Caregivers</b>  |
| 1        | Wednesday | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM | A-04    | <b>The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation: Where Are We Now &amp; Where Are We Going?</b>             |
| 2        | Wednesday | 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM | B-04    | <b>Empowering Youth to Lead, Inspire, and Guide Current and Future Transition Activities</b>           |
| 3        | Wednesday | 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM   | C-05    | <b>Family Engagement Forum: Navigating Transition</b>  |
| 4        | Wednesday | 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM   | D-01    | <b>“Letting Grow”: Empowering Families to Maximize their Role in Support of Increased Independence</b> |
| Evening  | Wednesday | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM   | DD-1    | <b>Building Healthy Relationships</b>  |
| 5        | Thursday  | 9:15 AM – 10:45 AM  | E-01    | <b>Engaging Families: Questions, Communications, and an Open Mind</b>                                  |
| 6        | Thursday  | 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM | F-01    | <b>Everybody Wants to Win</b>  |
| 7        | Thursday  | 1:15 PM – 2:15 PM   | G-04    | <b>Using Your Voice for Change</b>   |

## Who Should Attend The Conference?

Individuals supporting post-school outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities are encouraged to attend this conference, either in-person or virtually.

- Advocates
- Agency Administrators
- Assistive Technology Professionals
- Business Owners/Employers
- Career & Technology Educators
- CareerLink Staff
- Direct Support Providers
- Drug & Alcohol Program Workers
- Education Administrators
- Family & Caregivers
- Family Health Representatives
- Foster and Adoptive Parents
- Health Professionals
- Higher Education Professionals
- Independent Living Staff
- Juvenile Justice Affiliates
- Job Coaches
- Local Government Officials
- Local Service Providers
- Local Youth Councils
- Medical Assistance Program Staff
- Mental Health Services Workers
- Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Speech/Language Therapists
- Office of Developmental Programs Staff
- Paraprofessionals
- Psychologists
- Public & Private Child Welfare Workers
- School Counselors
- School Nurses
- Secondary Educators
- Social Security Benefits Counselors and Staff
- Social Workers
- Special Educators
- Transition Coordinators
- Transportation Affiliates
- Vocational Evaluators
- Vocational Rehabilitation Staff
- Workforce Investment Board Members
- Youth & Young Adults
- Youth Served in Foster Care

# 2022 PA Community of Practice Transition Conference

## Tuesday, August 9, 2022

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Youth & Family Pre-Conference Sessions

## Wednesday, August 10, 2022

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Registration  
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Opening Keynote Presentation  
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Break  
10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Accommodations, Supports & Resources Expo  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Breakout Session 1  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Fab Lab 1 – In-Person Only  
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Break  
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Breakout Session 2  
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided  
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch and Learn 1 (*video to be played-optional*)  
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Breakout Session 3  
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Fab Lab 2 – In-Person Only  
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break  
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Breakout Session 4  
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Accommodations, Supports & Resources Reception  
5:30 p.m. Raffle  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Evening Session for Parents – In-Person Only  
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. PYLN Youth Event – In-Person Only

## Thursday, August 11, 2022

7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Registration  
8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Keynote Presentation 2  
8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Break  
9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Breakout Session 5  
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Break  
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Breakout Session 6  
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch will be provided  
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch and Learn 2 (*optional*)  
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Breakout Session 7  
2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Break  
2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Closing Keynote Presentation

## Tuesday, August 9, 2022

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### Youth & Family Pre-Conference Sessions

#### AA-1 Speed Interviews and Disability Pride

The youth pre-conference is an opportunity for young adults to engage with others from across the Commonwealth to practice job interviewing skills in a less stress, more fun way. Youth will also meet with peers and mentors about planning for goals in life during this session.

*Matthew Flanagan, PaTTAN Central*

*Christian Huber, Bucks County Community College*

#### AA-2 Getting to Know You

Families and caregivers will have the opportunity to join other families of children who are transitioning from high school in a pre-conference session called, Getting to Know You. Have fun while networking with others from your area. Listen to stories with ideas and strategies that have assisted families with successful outcomes. Think about what you can do now to support your child and family through the transition process. Parents whose children have gone through secondary transition will be facilitating this session.

*Lorie Brew, PEAL Center*

*Mary Hartley, PEAL Center*

## Wednesday, August 10, 2022

### Mission Possible: Transitioning to the Future (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

#### Opening Keynote Presentation - 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

##### KN1 Ten Feet Tall: Becoming Your Greatest Hero

Get ready to transform your outlook and watch the world around you shift one person at a time. Brandon's 'Ten Feet Tall' mindset gives you the tools to amplify your uniqueness so that you are in the driver's seat to create a more meaningful life overflowing with potential.

In this empowering keynote, Brandon shows you how to:

- Develop a Ten Feet Tall mindset by shattering limiting beliefs
- Increase resiliency during everyday life stressors by understanding and prioritizing the bigger picture
- Step into the fullest version of yourself

*Brandon Farbstein, Gen Z activist, and author*

**Break - 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

## **Accommodations, Supports & Resources Expo** **10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

Throughout the day, attend this interactive, hands-on expo designed for participants to learn about specific assistive technology, resources, supports, and services available to youth. Participants can gather valuable information from transition partners, conference presenters, and community agencies. Opportunities will be provided throughout the expo to win a gift basket.

## **Breakout Session 1 - 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

### **A-01 Transition in Rural Pennsylvania: Perspective of Making Post-Secondary Transition a Priority**

*(Cross Agency Collaboration)*

This session provides the perspective of what post-secondary transition looks like in the rural regions of Pennsylvania. Ideas on how schools can be creative and progressive in order to provide the necessary services to meet students post-secondary transition needs and goals will be shared.

**Tara Freeman**, Troy Area School District

### **A-02 Working Together to Support Employment First**

*(Employment)*

Despite workforce shortages, people with disabilities are employed at a rate much lower than that of people without disabilities. Learn about programs the Department of Human Services (DHS) offers to support people with disabilities to find and maintain employment and how DHS is partnering with the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board. Participants will receive resources on how hiring people with disabilities benefits employers.

**Edward Butler**, Pennsylvania Office of Long-Term Living  
**Laura Cipriani**, Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs  
**Barry Decker**, Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
**James Martini**, Pennsylvania Workforce Board

### **A-03 The Importance of Peer Mentors to an Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Program**

*(Post-Secondary Education and Training)*

A panel of peer mentors, students, and the program coordinator of Penn State Harrisburg's Career Studies Program, will discuss the importance of peer mentors in post-secondary education environments for students with disabilities. Participants will learn how peer mentors promote inclusion. Success stories from both peer mentors and students will also be shared.

**Alyssa Deimling**, Penn State Harrisburg  
**Daniel Miller**, Penn State Harrisburg  
**Sandy McBride**, Penn State Harrisburg  
**Linda Rhen**, Penn State Harrisburg

### **A-04 The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation: Where Are We Now & Where Are We Going?**

*(Family Engagement)*

Join the Executive Team from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) as they highlight the agency's accomplishments over the past year and their collaborative efforts with other stakeholders. This is an interactive panel session where questions, comments, and discussion from the audience is encouraged.

**Rod Alcidonis**, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation  
**John Miller**, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation  
**Ralph Roach**, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation  
**Jeremiah Underhill**, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

### **A-05 Shifting the Lens of Uncertainty and Leaning into Curiosity**

Join Brandon and his mom Sylvia as they lead this interactive session on how to effectively navigate through uncertainty and adversity. Session attendees will learn more about Brandon's journey from the parenting perspective and get to ask both Brandon and his mom in-depth questions. Attendees will walk away with a toolkit to effectively tackle some of life's challenges head on by learning to let go and embrace growth in new ways.

**Brandon Farbstein**, Gen Z activist, and author  
**Sylvia Farbstein**, parent

## **Fab Lab 1 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Youth Only**

**Break - 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

## **Breakout Session 2 - 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

### **B-01 Future Camp - An Exploration of Employment through the Arts**

*(Employment)*

The Future Camp arts program provides exciting opportunities for visual artists, writers, performers, and budding filmmakers to expand their social networks and leverage their creative skills in any field, including music, animation, performance, visual arts and more! Come learn how professionals in various art fields assist campers conceptualize possible careers in the arts.

**Heather Conroy**, Evolve Coaching  
**Joe Farrell**, Evolve Coaching  
**Jim Lilley**, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

### **B-02 Let's Speak Up**

*(Independent Living and Community Engagement)*

Let's Speak Up is a conversation about self-advocacy and speaking up for yourself. During this session, participants will learn about their rights, how to be a self-advocate, ways to advocate, and the power of groups.

**Angie LaVanish**, Self-Advocacy United as One

### **B-03 Educators Creating Meaningful Relationships in a Virtual Setting**

*(Relationships)*

We are continuously challenged to reach students in diverse ways while keeping them engaged. This session focuses on fostering connections with students virtually. Presenters will share strategies they use to create meaningful relationships, which can be adapted to personal preference and benefit teachers in any type of classroom.

**Whitney Bargerstock**, Agora Cyber Charter School  
**Samantha Bonninger**, Agora Cyber Charter School  
**Amber Brisbane**, Agora Cyber Charter School  
**Angela Denham**, Agora Cyber Charter School  
**Morgan Witman**, Agora Cyber Charter School

### **B-04 Empowering Youth to Lead, Inspire, and Guide Current and Future Transition Activities**

*(Youth Development)*

This session will emphasize how to utilize our most valuable IEP team members, students, to drive individual and global transition planning. Pittsburgh Public Schools' Youth Advisory Council on Transition inspires youth to be active participants in their own transition planning and to guide transition services across the district.

**Crystal Evans**, Pittsburgh Public Schools  
**Ashley McFall**, Pittsburgh Public Schools  
**Alicia Stone**, Pittsburgh Public Schools  
**Rachel Whealdon**, Pittsburgh Public Schools

### **B-05 The Power of Relationships to Enact Change**

*(Relationships)*

Learn how the PEAL Center engages youth, families, and professionals in diverse communities to build and maintain relationships. Audience members will learn from presenters and each other about best practices for building relationships and discover how working together creates more success for students.

**Lorie Brew**, PEAL Center  
**Zoe Small**, PEAL Center

### **Lunch and Learn 1 - 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. (optional)**

#### **Transition Discoveries: Designing Pathways to Competitive Integrated Employment**

Come to the Lunch and Learn where you will hear about the upcoming Transition Discoveries: Designing Pathways to Competitive Integrated Employment grant opportunity. This grant is a two-year process designed for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to improve post-school outcomes for transition-aged youth with disabilities. During this session we will dive deeper into the grant expectations and how to apply. Hope to see you there!

### **Fab Lab Open House - 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Open to All**

## **Breakout Session 3 - 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

### **C-01 Essential Functions of Jobs and Universal Design for Learning**

*(Employment)*

Have you wondered how Universal Design for Learning (UDL) impacts the workplace setting and job performance? In this session participants will explore the application of UDL to ensure reasonable accommodations support the ability of individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of a range of jobs.

**Beverly Barkon**, Future. Engaged

### **C-02 Transitioning to your Vocational Future with the Commonwealth Technical Institute at HGAC**

*(Post-Secondary Education and Training)*

Staff from the Hiram G. Andrews Center/Commonwealth Technical Institute (HGAC/CTI) will describe programming and services that will lead to future employment avenues. The session is intended for families and youth to better understand the post-secondary educational opportunities and support services available at HGAC/CTI.

**Joe Smolko**, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation  
**Martin Tran**, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

### **C-03 Transitioning with Technology**

*(Transition Planning)*

A world of tools and technology is available to help youth and young adults increase their independence and meet their goals. Come learn about solutions that work! We will discuss where to find and how to fund assistive technology (AT) after high school.

**Caitlin McKenney**, TechOWL

### **C-04 The Role of the School Psychologist in Transition Planning: Best Practices & Family Engagement**

*(Transition Planning)*

School psychologists are often under-utilized but are valuable assets in the transition planning process. From assessment to person-centered planning, participants will explore the role school psychologists can play in effective transition planning. Professionals, families, and students are invited to learn how school psychologists can enhance the transition planning process.

**Carrie Jackson**, Youngstown State University / West Middlesex Area School District

### **C-05 Family Engagement Forum: Navigating Transition**

*(Family Engagement)*

The Family Engagement Panel guides participants navigating special education and transition planning through their educational journeys. Participants have an opportunity to engage with experienced families in this interactive session that focuses on building networks, the family's role in the IEP, and resources for families and educators.

**Lorie Brew**, PEAL Center  
**Jacqui DiDomenico**, PaTTAN East

## Fab Lab 2 – 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. - Youth Only

Break - 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## Breakout Session 4 – 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### D-01 “Letting Grow”: Empowering Families to Maximize their Role in Support of Increased Independence

*(Family Engagement)*

While transition planning is often initiated in the school, long-term it is families that will play the most significant role in preparing their child for adult life. Join us for this interactive session to learn how families can prepare both practically and emotionally to lay the foundation for their children to become powerful self-advocates, thriving in their everyday, adult lives. Self-advocates will share their lived experience and participants will gain new strategies, awareness, and action steps to integrate into their person-centered planning.

**Mara Dorff**, *Carousel Connections*

**Amy McCann**, *Carousel Connections*

### D-02 NeurodiversityU: College Success for Autistic College Students

*(Post-Secondary Education and Training)*

During this session, the presenters will discuss Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and presenting symptoms at the college level, as well as available resources and accommodations for students. Best practices will be shared on how to support students with ASD, while exploring advocacy and self-advocacy skills to assure proper supportive measures. Participants will leave with increased knowledge of college-readiness skills that are critical for success (for students transitioning from high school to college), as well as ongoing support measures and strategies for college support.

**Alli Gatta**, *Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support/Saint Joseph's University*

**Kella Pacifico**, *Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support/Saint Joseph's University*

### D-03 Cross-Agency Collaboration: Resources for Professionals to Facilitate Youth & Family Empowerment Act

*(Cross Agency Collaboration)*

Young people with disabilities, families and the stakeholders who support them make up a powerful network of relationships, knowledge, and experience for what's working in transition. Learn how the resources from the Transition Discoveries project can support you as a school or youth-serving organization professional to teach about and facilitate interagency collaboration activities that are youth centered, youth driven & empowering for families.

**Courtney Kallas**, *The George Washington University & Denver Public Schools*

**Joan Kester**, *The George Washington University*

### D-04 Vision Boards: "What Does a Good Life look like for Me" *(Transition Planning)*

During this session, professionals, youth, young adults, and caregivers will learn how to combine “SMART” goals with Vision Boards. The focus of the workshop is to assist students in creating a plan for their transition from high school to employment, additional training and/or independent living. The pictorial representations on vision boards can assist with motivation, accountability and follow through. Research informs us that writing goals down increases the chances of achieving the goals by 33% and that the use of pictures increases motivation by storing the visual information in long term memory. Hence the idea of combining written goals with visuals using a “Vision Board”. The goal of the vision board is to aid individuals in staying focused and motivated when working towards goals. A checklist will be introduced as a tool for writing targeted meaningful transition goals. Topics center on the difference between a dream and a goal, benefits of writing “SMART” goals and action plans, and the benefits of vision boards.

**Natalie Vester**, *Office of Vocational Rehabilitation*

## Fab Lab Open House – 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Open to All

## Evening Session for Parents – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### DD-1 Building Healthy Relationships – In-Person Only

Join other parents in learning about tools and resources that could assist your child in "Building Healthy Relationships." Understand that the foundation for healthy relationships lies in having strong self-awareness and self-respect. Discover resources that can assist with sexuality and the importance of continually developing self-confidence and resilience.

**Lorie Brew**, *PEAL Center*

**Mary Hartley**, *PEAL Center*

**Thursday, August 11, 2022**  
**Empowering Youth to Challenge their Limit**  
**(8:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Keynote Presentation - 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.**

**KN2 Putting YOU in YOUth Leadership**

Join us for a panel discussion to hear right from the source the ways YOU contribute to youth leadership in Pennsylvania! Youth and young adults will share what they've learned and offer advice to other young people in the audience. They'll also talk about how the adults in the room and online can be supportive allies and help young people achieve big things!"

*Youth across Pennsylvania*

**Break - 8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.**

**Breakout Session 5 - 9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.**

**E-01 Engaging Families: Questions, Communication, and an Open Mind**

*(Family Engagement)*

Families are most often the main repository of knowledge for transitioning youth. How can professionals and other team members unlock that knowledge and connect with the family, and their youth, to create short- and- long- term outcomes? Join family members working in a professional role to understand the possibilities.

*Francine Hogan, Vision for Equality*  
*Diana Morris-Smaglik, PA Family Network*

**E-02 The Cognitive Skills Enhancement Program (CSEP): Facilitating Successful Transition**

*(Transition Planning)*

This interactive session will provide an overview of the Cognitive Skills Enhancement Program (CSEP) at the Hiram G. Andrews Center (HGAC), highlighting recent program enhancements. Programming is based on evidenced-based interventions designed to facilitate emotion regulation, social skills, community engagement, and self-awareness, resulting in quality employment outcomes.

*Tommy Johns, Hiram G. Andrews Center*  
*Jamie Kulzer, University of Pittsburgh*  
*Kylie Pilot, University of Pittsburgh*  
*Amy Tavares, University of Pittsburgh*

**E-03 All About Jobs**

*(Transition Planning)*

All About Jobs empowers people with disabilities to think about REAL jobs for REAL pay. Learn how to plan for and find the job that is the right fit for you. Find out about waiver services and other supports to help as well as how to work and keep your benefits.

*Angie LaVanish, Self-Advocacy United as One*

**E-04 Mission Possible: Credit Credential in Inclusive Post-Secondary Education**

*(Post-Secondary Education and Training)*

Lehigh Carbon Community College creatively established a credential bearing award for students in our Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE) while maintaining academic standards required by our accrediting bodies. Come learn about our 32 credit Cross Institutional Studies Certificate. Let us tell you about our journey and exactly how this certificate works.

*Everett Deibler, Lehigh Carbon Community College*  
*Michelle Mitchell, Lehigh Carbon Community College*

**Break - 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

**Breakout Session 6 - 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**

**F-01 Everybody Wants to Win**

*(Youth Development)*

"Life is full of ups and downs." Attendees will learn some very practical lessons on growth and improvement, even under difficult circumstances. We will learn healthy, responsible ways to deal with failures by developing tools to learn from the experiences.

*Allison Holcomb, Serve, Inc.*  
*Stacey Nybeck, Serve, Inc.*

**F-02 Peers Helping Neurodiverse Students Conquer a Neurotypical World**

*(Post-Secondary Education and Training)*

The changing Neurodiverse landscape requires higher education to meet the demand for an inclusive living and learning environment. This interactive session is designed to provide a blueprint to create a peer infrastructure to support the personal and academic development of Neurodiverse students on campus across the country.

*Lynn Ortale, Chestnut Hill College*  
*Stephen Stunder, Chestnut Hill College*

**F-03 Managing Change in the Transition from High School to College**

*(Post-Secondary Education and Training)*

Transition means change. Change often requires individuals to think about things and do things in a different way than they have been done in the past. Using the five stages of Jeff Hiatt's ADKAR® change framework, the presenters will help students and parents plan for a successful college transition.

*Jennifer Osinski, Bucks County Community College*

**F-04 Transition is Not Just a Form**

*(Transition Planning)*

Transition in the IEP is crucial for empowering students. Young people need to see all possibilities in order to maximize their power and achieve their goals! Let's take a holistic view of transition using the Transition Discoveries framework to ensure strong IEP successful outcomes for students!

*Diane Perry, PEAL Center*

**F-05 Transition Planning in 2022: Community Integration, Interdisciplinary Coordination, and Proactive Approach**

*(Transition Planning)*

Transition planning is often the most critical element of an IEP when students prepare to exit the educational system. During this session, multiple family/community-centered approaches will be discussed. Participants will learn how these available approaches can greatly enhance the transition planning process to benefit students and their families as the student approaches adulthood.

**Dennis McAndrews**, *McAndrews, Mehalick, Connolly, Hulse, and Ryan, P.C.*

**Lunch and Learn 2 - 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. (optional)**

**Measuring and Improving Special Education: SPP/APR Stakeholder Engagement Session**

The BSE State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Team encourages advocates and families to learn more about how special education services are reviewed in the Commonwealth.

**Barbara Mozina**, *Bureau of Special Education Adviser, State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report State Lead*

**Breakout Session 7 - 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.**

**G-01 Work Incentive Counseling: SSA's WIPA - What it Means to your Student's Future**

*(Employment)*

Social Security provides Work Incentives to facilitate beneficiaries' return to work, but the rules are individual and complex. Community Work Incentive Coordinators, (CWICs) assist young beneficiaries and their families to navigate these rules. CWICs have a special role in the community among those professionals who work with youth with disabilities.

**Martine Delorenzo**, *Disability Rights Pennsylvania*  
**Joy Smith**, *AHEDD*

**G-02 Supporting Novice Special Education Teachers with Transition Planning**

*(Transition Planning)*

This session will examine the experiences of pre-service special education teachers regarding transition planning related to the Transition Discoveries Framework. The discussion will include improving practices to ensure novice special education teachers feel confident in supporting students with disabilities achieve their postsecondary endeavors.

**Brittany Severino**, *West Chester University of Pennsylvania*

**G-03 Stretched Too Thin**

*(Transition Planning)*

When educators are wearing many hats, how do they keep transition on the radar? The focus of this session will be on maximizing the benefits of transition services in districts that do not have a full-time transition coordinator. During the session, presenters will discuss strategies they have used to support students with the resources they have.

**Edward Dully**, *Fort Cherry School District*  
**Kimberly Dully**, *Fort Cherry School District*

**G-04 Using Your Voice for Change**

*(Youth Development)*

Presenters will share their experience with leadership and how they've taken advantage of opportunities to make a positive impact. Young people participating in this session will learn ways they can identify causes important to them and how they can use their voices and experiences to advocate for change in their own communities.

**Zoe Small**, *PEAL Center*

**G-05 SkillUp™ PA - The Department of Labor & Industry's No Cost Online Learning System**

*(Employment)*

Come learn about SkillUp™ PA! SkillUp™ PA offers over 6,000 online learning modules and over 130 Career Pathways for any PA resident to strengthen their job skills to be competitive in the current employment market. Courses are online, at no cost, with only a PA CareerLink® Online registration required.

**Ryan Hyde**, *PA Department of Labor and Industry - Bureau of Workforce Development Administration*  
**Stephanie Perry**, *Department of Labor and Industry*  
**Kerry Twomery**, *NY Wired*

**Break - 2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.**

**Closing Keynote Presentation - 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.**

**KN3 Don't Limit Me**

Megan Bomgaars, 27, is a well-known self-advocate with Down Syndrome, an author, a tv personality and entrepreneur. Join us for this motivational closing keynote as Megan encourages all youth and young adults to follow their dreams and be anything they want. Her motto 'Don't Limit Me' and her life experiences are sure to inspire us all.

**Megan Bomgaars**, *Self-Advocate, Author, TV Personality, Entrepreneur*

## General Information

### In-Person Registration Fee:

The registration fee is \$110.00. **Payment must be made with check or purchase order.** No credit cards will be accepted. Please note that if your registration fee is not received by July 30, 2022 you will be required to submit payment at the registration desk prior to registering and receiving your conference materials. (Parents of children with disabilities and youth/young adults are exempt from this charge.)

### Virtual Registration Fee:

The virtual registration fee is \$50.00. **Payment must be made with check or purchase order.** No credit cards will be accepted. **Payment must be received prior to July 30, 2022 to ensure access to the virtual platform. Online access to the conference will not be available to participants who have not submitted payment.**

### Registration Payment:

**Make checks/purchase orders payable to INTERMEDIATE UNIT 1** and send them to the attention of the Business Office, PaTTAN West, 3190 William Pitt Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Email purchase orders to [billing@pattanpgh.net](mailto:billing@pattanpgh.net). Checks/purchase orders must be submitted on or before July 30, 2022 and **must include registrants(s) full name(s).**

### Cancellations:

If you are unable to attend the conference you must cancel your registration by July 30, 2022, by contacting Paula Quinn via email at [pquinn@pattanpgh.net](mailto:pquinn@pattanpgh.net), or your registration fee will not be refunded.

### Conference Registration:

All participants should register for this PaTTAN-sponsored event by visiting our website at: <http://www.pattan.net>. Click training calendar and go to August. If you prefer, you may email the registration form to Paula Quinn, [pquinn@pattanpgh.net](mailto:pquinn@pattanpgh.net).

### Youth and Family Scholarships:

A limited number of scholarships are available for family members or caregivers of a transition-aged youth between the ages of 14-22 with a current IEP, a 504 Plan or self-disclose that they have a disability or Youth/Young adult between the ages of 14-22 with a current IEP, a 504 Plan or self-disclose that they have a disability accompanied by a family member/caregiver. Families are encouraged to apply by completing the scholarship application online at: <https://fs25.formsite.com/3fHiZQ/confscholarship2022/index.html> on or before June 30, 2022.

The scholarship will cover the following:

- **Registration Fee** – for either in-person or virtual registration
- **Lodging** - Cost of a double occupancy hotel room for those that live beyond 50 miles of the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center
- **Meals** - Continental breakfast and lunch on August 10th and August 11th will be available. All other meals will be the responsibility of the applicant.
- Please Note - **Scholarships do not include travel expenses or transportation.**
- **Childcare is NOT provided**

You will be informed of your acceptance by July 15, 2022. For additional information about youth/young adult family scholarships, please contact Paula Quinn at [pasecondarytransition@gmail.com](mailto:pasecondarytransition@gmail.com).

## For questions about registration, contact:

**Paula Quinn**

PaTTAN West

[pquinn@pattanpgh.net](mailto:pquinn@pattanpgh.net)

**Pam Ranieri**

PaTTAN West

[pranieri@pattanpgh.net](mailto:pranieri@pattanpgh.net)

## For questions about conference sessions, contact:

**Kim Cole**

PaTTAN East

[kcole@pattan.net](mailto:kcole@pattan.net)



## Hotel Information

Listed below are the hotels in State College that are close to the conference center. Book early to secure your hotel accommodations.

**The Atherton Hotel**  
125 South Atherton Street  
State College, PA 16801  
Phone: 814-231-2100

**Courtyard by Marriott**  
1730 University Drive  
State College, PA 16801  
Phone: 814-238-1881

**Days Inn by Wyndham**  
240 South Pugh Street  
State College, PA 16801  
Phone: 814-238-8454

**Fairfield Inn & Suites**  
2215 North Atherton St.  
State College, PA 16803  
Phone: 814-238-3871

**Hampton Inn & Suites WS**  
1955 Waddle Road  
State College, PA 16803  
Phone: 814-231-1899

**Hampton Inn State College**  
1101 East College Avenue  
State College, PA 16801  
Phone: 814-231-1590

**Hilton Garden Inn State College**  
1221 E. College Avenue  
State College, PA 16801  
Phone: 814-272-1221

**Holiday Inn Express**  
1925 Waddle Road  
State College, PA 16803  
Phone: 814-231-1899

**Marriott SpringHill Suites**  
1935 Waddle Road  
State College, PA 16803  
Phone: 814-867-1807

**Residence Inn Marriott**  
1555 University Drive  
State College, PA 16801  
Phone: 1-800-Marriott

**Rodeway Inn by Choice Hotels**  
1040 N. Atherton Street  
State College, PA 16803  
Phone: 814-238-6783

**Toftrees Golf Resort**  
One Country Club Lane  
State College, PA 16803  
Phone: 814-234-8000

# 2022 PA Community of Practice Transition Conference

## Mission Possible – Transitioning to the Future – August 10-11, 2022

### Registration Form

We encourage all participants to register online for this PaTTAN-sponsored event by visiting our homepage at [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ \*E-mail (\*necessary for confirmation): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Indicate your primary role:**

- |  |   |   |                                  |
|--|---|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Administrator | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech Therapist       | <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Direct Service Staff  | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Educator        | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Therapist     | <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Administrator         | <input type="checkbox"/> Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Educator        | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupational Therapist | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Coordinator          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Counselor        | <input type="checkbox"/> Paraeducator           | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate                     |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psychologist            | <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education       | <input type="checkbox"/> Career & Technical Education |                                  |

**Please check to apply for the following credits**

**In-person participation:** To receive continuing education credit, individuals attending this event must arrive on time and stay the duration of the day(s) they are requesting credit(s).

**Virtual participation:** To receive continuing education credit, participants must login to ZOOM on a computer individually. No credit will be awarded for those who attend by phone (audio alone).

To receive continuing education credit, individuals attending this event, both in-person and virtual must complete the conference evaluation survey with proper codes within one week of the conference in order to be eligible to receive continuing education credit (Act 48 and CRCC).

- Act 48**  
Individuals attending this event must arrive on time and stay. Up to eleven (11) Act 48 hours will be offered for the conference.

- Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC)**  
Continuing Education credits up to (11) for professionals with CRCC credentials will be offered for attendance at this conference.

**Americans With Disability Act (ADA)  
Accommodations**

If you require accommodations as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact: Paula Quinn, PaTTAN West or [pquinn@pattanpgh.net](mailto:pquinn@pattanpgh.net). Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate you if your request is received prior to the registration deadline (July 30, 2022).

- Large Print Agenda
- Braille Agenda
- Other

**ACT 48 Information**

*(Offered only to individuals who hold a valid Pennsylvania Professional Educator Certificate.)*

**Professional Personnel ID Number**

This information is being collected for Act 48 purposes only and must be provided if you are seeking graduate credit, continuing professional education program credit (formerly known as in-service credit), or PDE approved clock hours.

# 2022 PA Community of Practice Transition Conference

## Mission Possible – Transitioning to the Future (August 10-11, 2022) - Registration Form

*Please check the sessions you would like to attend. Choose one option per Breakout Session.*

**In-Person participation:** To receive continuing education credit, individuals attending this event must arrive on time and stay the duration of the day(s) they are requesting credit(s).

**Virtual participation:** To receive continuing education credit, participants must login to ZOOM on a computer individually. No credit will be awarded for those who attend by phone (audio alone).

To receive continuing education credit, individuals attending this event, both in-person and virtually must complete the conference evaluation survey with proper codes within one week of the conference in order to be eligible to receive continuing education credit (Act 48 and CRCC).

### **Tuesday, August 9, 2022 - 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

#### **Youth & Family Pre-Conference Sessions**

- AA-1 Speed Interviews and Disability Pride – Youth Only
- AA-2 Getting to Know You – Families & Caregivers Only

### **Wednesday, August 10, 2022 - 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

#### **Opening Keynote Presentation - 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

- KN1 Ten Feet Tall: Becoming Your Greatest Hero

#### **Breakout Session 1 - 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

- A-01 Transition in Rural Pennsylvania: Perspective of Making Post-Secondary Transition a Priority
- A-02 Working Together to Support Employment First
- A-03 The Importance of Peer Mentors to an Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Program
- A-04 The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation: Where Are We Now & Where Are We Going?
- A-05 Shifting the Lens of Uncertainty and Leaning into Curiosity

#### **Fab Lab Session 1 - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Youth Only**

- A-06 Fab Lab 1 – In-Person Only

#### **Breakout Session 2 - 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

- B-01 Future Camp - An Exploration of Employment through the Arts
- B-02 Let's Speak Up
- B-03 Educators Creating Meaningful Relationships in a Virtual Setting
- B-04 Empowering Youth to Lead, Inspire, and Guide Current and Future Transition Activities
- B-05 The Power of Relationships to Enact Change

#### **Lunch and Learn 1 - 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (optional)**

- Transition Discoveries: Designing Pathways to Competitive Integrated Employment

#### **Breakout Session 3 - 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

- C-01 Essential Functions of Jobs and Universal Design for Learning
- C-02 Transitioning to your Vocational Future with the Commonwealth Technical Institute at HGAC.
- C-03 Transitioning with Technology
- C-04 The Role of the School Psychologist in Transition Planning: Best Practices & Family Engagement
- C-05 Family Engagement Forum: Navigating Transition

#### **Fab Lab Session 2 - 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Youth Only**

- C-06 Fab Lab 2 – In-Person Only

#### **Breakout Session 4 - 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

- D-01 "Letting Grow": Empowering Families to Maximize their Role in Support of Increased Independence
- D-02 NeurodiversityU: Inclusion for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder by Bridging the Gap
- D-03 Cross-Agency Collaboration: Resources for Professionals to Facilitate Youth & Family Empowerment
- D-04 Vision Boards, "What does a Good Life look like for Me"

#### **Evening Session for Parents/Caregivers (6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)**

- DD-1 Building Healthy Relationships

### **Thursday, August 11, 2022 - 8:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

#### **Feature Presentation - 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.**

- KN2 Putting YOU in YOUth Leadership

#### **Breakout Session 5 - 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

- E-01 Engaging Families: Questions, Communication, and an Open Mind
- E-02 The Cognitive Skills Enhancement Program (CSEP): Facilitating Successful Transition
- E-03 All About Jobs
- E-04 Mission Possible: Credit Credential in Inclusive Post-secondary Education

#### **Breakout Session 6 - 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

- F-01 Everybody Wants to Win
- F-02 Peers Helping Neurodiverse Students Conquer a Neurotypical World
- F-03 Managing Change in the Transition from High School to College
- F-04 Transition is Not Just a Form
- F-05 Transition Planning in 2022: Community Integration, Interdisciplinary Coordination, and Proactive Approach

#### **Lunch and Learn 2 - 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. (optional)**

- Measuring and Improving Special Education: SPP/APR Stakeholder Engagement Session

#### **Breakout Session 7 - 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

- G-01 Work Incentive Counseling - SSA's WIPA - What it Means to Your Student's Future?
- G-02 Supporting Novice Special Education Teachers with Transition Planning
- G-03 Stretched Too Thin
- G-04 Using Your Voice for Change
- G-05 SkillUp™ PA - The Department of Labor & Industry's No Cost Online Learning System

#### **Closing Keynote - 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

- KN3 Don't Limit Me