



## College Bound Arkansas

*June 12-14, 2019*

### College Bound Arkansas 2019

by Carrie Tuttle

Arkansas Transition Services in partnership with the University of Central Arkansas Disability Resource Center is offering the 13th annual College Bound Arkansas camp June 12-14, 2019. For thirteen years we have offered high school students from across Arkansas the opportunity to prepare for their postsecondary education experience.

Why should your students attend? We want Arkansas students with disabilities to be the best prepared students for college that they can be. A major component of being prepared to enter college is to be made aware of the significant differences between high school and college and the process that students will be required to utilize to get needed services on college campuses. This is what College

Bound Arkansas is all about. There is a major focus at College Bound Arkansas on self-advocacy and self-determination skills. We want the students who participate to know that they can and should go to college if that is what they truly want to do but that they are going to have to take the initiative in getting the services they need to be successful. To help facilitate this we offer them a mock class where a college professor gives the students a class lecture where their engagement is expected. The students also attend workshops related to entering college; self-advocacy; assistive technology; time management and organizational skills; food and nutrition presentations and an adversity and risk taking.

# Arkansas Transition Services Newsletter

Winter 2019

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# Inclusion Films Film Camp 2019

by Bonnie Boaz

Film Camp 2019 will be here before we know it! The third Inclusion Films Film Camp will once again be brought to you by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and Arkansas Transition Services. Joey Travolta, of Inclusion Films, will bring his crew to provide instruction, equipment, and editing, not to mention an incredible opportunity for juniors and seniors with disabilities! April 29 – May 3, fifty students will gather on the campus of the Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC), in Bentonville, Arkansas, for an amazing week of learning, teamwork, laughing, socializing, and producing a short film of which they will all be proud.

Joey Travolta started Inclusion Films in 2007 to teach filmmaking to students with disabilities. His dedication to this work is unbelievable! He spends much of his time with the Inclusion Films team preparing not only camps like the one in Arkansas, but several other camps that are more than one week. Travolta is currently working on set to produce a movie in which 70% of the staff working both behind the scenes and in the scenes have disabilities! Travolta knows the importance of inclusion and he makes it happen!

In years past students have made films within themes specified by Travolta. "Inside the Filmmaker's Studio," and "The Bizarre Zone," were the past two years' themes and soon we will know what theme awaits our young filmmakers. Upon arrival to the camp students will be placed on one of three teams. Their job for the week is to pay close attention to their instructor and work together to incorporate their creativity, communication, and skills to develop a short film that will be edited and previewed at the Bentonville Film Festival! What an amazing opportunity for these students!

The opportunity to work with these artists is pretty great by itself, but add other opportunities like, writing a script to be filmed, acting a part you wrote, creating costumes, working a camera, being interviewed by Joey Travolta, spending a week with friends learning work skills that will transfer to any environment, and doing all of this with some new-found friends, and you have the opportunity of a lifetime! Students are so engaged in all the activities that take place at film camp, they may not be completely aware of how much learning is taking place. Camp staff has witnessed students actively participating in some complex conversations about plots, best use of props, reshooting scenes, and what music should be included in a certain scene. The experience of this film camp brings meaning to their work and to their learning. They may not be famous filmmakers, but in this fast-paced week they will learn what it takes to develop a product and to work with a team. We are thrilled that these students will get this opportunity again this year.

Registration is filling up quickly, so if you have a student who might be interested in attending the Short Film Camp, April 29 – May 3, 2019, please share the application link with them: <https://goo.gl/SghUym>

The deadline to apply is March 26, 2019.

# CIRCLES: Communicating Interagency Relationships and Collaborative Linkages for Exceptional Students

by Jennifer Williams

Communicating Interagency Relationships and Collaborative Linkages for Exceptional Students (CIRCLES) is a three-leveled system approach to improve post school outcomes for students with disabilities through interagency collaboration. CIRCLES is being implemented in five school districts across Arkansas. These five schools are Harrisburg, Rogers, White Hall, Magnolia and LISA Academy. Harrisburg High School recently participated in an "Ask the Expert"

webinar hosted by the Transition Coalition to share their experiences on the implementation of CIRCLES. Some of the positives included the impact CIRCLES has had on staff, agencies, and students. The Harrisburg staff has gained knowledge of local agencies, learned of community supports available to the students, and developed meaningful transition goals and activities from the student presentations. Local agencies have learned about services offered by one another and formed new

relationships. The students have gained valuable self-determination and self-advocacy skills by discussing their strengths and needs with agencies and asking/answering questions of those present. Currently Harrisburg is working with ATS on tracking students that have gone through the CIRCLES process, in order to evaluate the post-school outcomes for those students. Anyone interested in starting a CIRCLES program may contact the ATS consultant in your area.

## Arkansas Transition Services Summer Trainings

by Bonnie Boaz

Summer training opportunities with Arkansas Transition Services are right around the corner! Check your Coop's schedule soon to see when any one of these three trainings will be available to you! If you don't see a date that works for you or you aren't part of a Coop, you can always call your consultant directly to find a date and time that will work!

### **Transition Toolkit Training (1/2 day training)**

This workshop will review the Indicator 13 checklist as it directly relates to the Arkansas IEP Transition Plan to ensure your IEP team will meet the IDEA and Arkansas requirements. Transition related indicators will be discussed, as well as how to make the transition plan meaningful and based on transition assessment results. Tools and resources, as well as a group activity will help bring all the components together to ensure your team is prepared to help student reach positive post-school outcomes. Attendees are encouraged to bring a plan **with all names removed** for more meaningful discussions.

### **Transition Assessments: The Who, What, When, Where, Why & How (Also includes information on the Summary of Performance) (1/2 day training)**

This workshop will pick up where the Toolkit left off! Join us for a second half day and learn more about specific assessments for the different domains of transition planning, as well as some resources for planning for students with significant disabilities. We will also cover the Summary of Performance and provide a new tool to help guide the process for this IDEA required component of transition planning. This is sure to help you feel more confident about helping your students plan for life after high school.

### **Evidence-Based Practices for Secondary Students in Special Education (1/2 day training)**

There are many factors that contribute to a student's success once they leave high school. Many of those factors happen while they are in high school! Attendees of this workshop will not only get a comprehensive tool to determine if predictors are a part of their school's program, but they will also gain valuable information on the first of several soon-to-be-offered evidence-based practices. The presenter will share guidance and information on how to implement the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction and the Self-Directed IEP. Both of these practices have free resources and can be used when they go back to the classroom. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring a team of two or more for more effective use of tools within the training. *Arkansas Transition Services will continue to expand upon the practices included in this training.*

# District Spotlight

## Where's Norman? Little District Doing Big Things Caddo Hills High School: Work-Based Learning Native Supply & Co.

by Lisa Washington

For three years, the Caddo Hills High School's Work-Based Learning Program has expanded from the on campus coffee shop, out into the community with a small business selling school merchandise, into students being paid board members of the Glenwood Chamber of Commerce. The Native Supply & Co. (name of the work-based program) has been a collaborative partnership growing from the school community to the community of Norman. Kathy Baker, Special Education Director for Caddo Hills School District, Melanie Hollifield, Transition Special Educator and Justin Neel, Career and Technical Educator are leading this amazing group.



Students participating in the transition class are learning about the importance of community service and giving back to the community that supports them through an on-campus food bank. Marketing students get a hands-on experience sorting and planning the t-shirts for FBLA Conferences and other business activities in the Native Supply & Co.

Led by the forward thinking mindset of Mr. Justin Neel, the diligence of the student body, and the daring action of the members of the Glenwood Chamber of Commerce, the small business/marketing program is creating a more inclusive pathway by incorporating entrepreneurial-specific skills and soft skills to assist ALL students to be successful in whatever career path they choose. By empowering and teaching employability skills they are keeping the community of Norman thriving—a vision shared by Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Hollifield and Mr. Neel. Mr. Neel goes on to say that he wants to see the business/marketing program of study,

“expand into a safe ground, a leveling field to ensure every student has the opportunities and the resources to be successful in whatever activity or career or college option they would like to pursue”.

Caddo Hills hosts several schools across Arkansas who are interested in starting a school-based enterprise. February is National Career & Technical Education Month and districts from across Arkansas met on the second floor of the Rotunda at the Capitol building to share their innovative ideas.

For more information, check out social media or click on the links below:

<https://www.arkansasacte.org/conference>

<https://youtu.be/7RoZ3lNNpXM>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rcXRlfDurg7ANmUMW\\_Hf9gubeFiLge6Mxd/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rcXRlfDurg7ANmUMW_Hf9gubeFiLge6Mxd/view)

# Student-Led IEP Conference

by Karen Randolph & Thelma Brandon, Rison High School



Question: Will your graduating student be able to make their own choices, self-manage their lives and set their own goals? We as educators and parents need to ask this question before a student leaves high school. Have we prepared this young adult to speak for themselves?

The students in Mrs. Thelma Brandon and Mrs. Janet Brown's Transition Classrooms at Rison High School are prepared to lead their IEP Conferences. An invitation letter is sent requesting that the parents come prepared to listen, ask questions from their child and both the parent and student are asked to complete a "Reflection Sheet" about their thoughts on the conference.

Two of Rison's seniors shared views concerning their Student-Led IEP Conference.

Paige Kirkpatrick: *"The Student-Led Conference is a bridge you cross to self-awareness. Leading my own conference was a great experience for me. I shared with my teacher and parents all the subjects I liked, my strengths, weaknesses, and goals and objectives completed in my IEP. I also told them my future plans and postsecondary goals from my Transition Plan."*

River Byrne: *"The Student-Led Conference is an opportunity to be a leader. When I led my conference, I felt as if I was driving a car and I took my teachers and parents on a tour of my life in school. I felt like a leader. I used my self-advocacy skills. I felt confident about myself, the experience was great and thanks to my teachers for teaching me self-determination and self-awareness skills."*

Mrs. Thelma Brandon: *"A Student-Led IEP Conference is a mirror that reflects a student's image of his/her learning process. During the Conference, students articulate their disability, gain strength in self-confidence, self-advocacy and self-awareness skills. Students can communicate positively with adults in a leadership role. Benefits include: the student's eagerness to participate, increase in classroom activities, control and assume responsible for individual work, progress and performance. Students are given a voice in making decisions for their lives and planning their educational programming. The conference is a good source of communication between parents, students and teachers."*

To obtain the "Reflection Sheets" please email Karen Randolph at [Karen.randolph@searkcoop.com](mailto:Karen.randolph@searkcoop.com).

To learn more about how to conduct a Student-Led IEP Conference, please visit the following websites:

<https://transitiontn.org/transition-plan-videos/> Steps to an effective Student-led IEP meeting.

<http://www.ou.edu/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow/choicemaker-curriculum/self-directed-iep>.

Free curriculum on Self-Directed IEP. This curriculum contains 11 sequential lessons, videos, Teacher Manual and student workbooks.



## Arkansas Interagency Transition Partnership (AITP) and Interagency Teams

by Paul Johnston

Interagency teams bring together a variety of stakeholders who are supporting youth with disabilities so that they can have the best chance for success as adults.

State Interagency teams are comprised of representatives of all agencies involved in preparing, connecting and receiving youth with disabilities as they transition from secondary school to post-school environments.

Arkansas has a State Interagency Team called the Arkansas Interagency Transition Partnership or AITP.

**Vision:** The Arkansas Interagency Transition Partnership envisions a state that respects and values all individuals with and without disabilities who fully participate together in all life experiences.

**Mission:** The Arkansas Interagency Transition Partnership will, through coordination and collaboration, improve lifelong outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities.

**Goals:** Through the collaboration of the AITP we will work to: review the transition process among all stakeholders to articulate and propose data-driven system improvements (policy and programs); establish creative problem solving transition teams to minimize barriers and address unmet needs; discover common, cross-agency goals and how they can cooperate to address the needs of youth with disabilities; identify current weaknesses in the system of care for youth in transition to improve the overall efficiency and the overall application of resources and maintain and grow the application of effective practices.

One of the resources that AITP provides is the Arkansas Secondary Transition Planning resource folder. If you don't have these or haven't seen them be sure to ask your Transition Consultant for the folder. It is also available on the Arkansas Transition Services website.

AITP also sponsors the AITP Summer Agency Connections. This is an all-day event in Little Rock where teachers from across the state can learn about many of the State Agencies and what services, resources, and programs they can provide for transitioning youth. This will be our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual event and the date is July 29<sup>th</sup>. Make sure you save the date!!!

You can find more information about AITP and other agencies and their programs on the Arkansas Transition Services website.

[www.arkansastransition.com](http://www.arkansastransition.com)

Have an idea for an article or a great story about a student, staff member, agency, or program in your school or district that you would like to share?

Let us know so we can include it in the next edition! Email: [jennifer.bibel@arkansas.gov](mailto:jennifer.bibel@arkansas.gov)