

**Register Today!**

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## “Shared Work, Shared Vision”

### Community of Practice DE Transition Conference

April 29, 2009 – Sheraton Dover, DE - 8:00am-3:15pm

#### Harvey Alston – Keynote Speaker – YOU ARE THE "BEST!" – 8:30am – 10:15am

Believe in yourself and don't hesitate to let others know that you are great! Expand your mind and continue to grow for you will always be the star of the show. Strive to achieve excellence in all that you do. Think before you act, work before you rest, and let the world know that you are the "BEST".

**Keynote Speaker:** As one of the most in-demand speakers in America, Harvey Alston's career has spanned positions from **head football coach** of Columbus East High School in Ohio in 1968, to **assistant director of student financial aid** at the university level. As an educator he's taught English, biology, health, life sciences and math curricula. Over the years, Harvey Alston has received recognition and awards from such diverse groups and organizations as the **Ohio House of Representatives** as one of Ohio's Finest Citizens, the **City of Columbus** declared a **Harvey Alston Day**, and he was commissioned a **Kentucky Colonel**, and has received numerous national recognitions and awards. However, none has more impact than the response from those individuals whose lives have been dramatically changed. People walk away from Harvey Alston's presentations knowing they have just heard someone who “has been around the track a few times” and one who shares it in a way that people do not forget. He has the courage it takes to remind people that life is only what they make it, that self-respect does not come with the job, but is brought to the job by people who do the **best** they can do, with whatever work is available to them.

### Community of Practice DE Transition Conference 4/29/09 – Schedule at a Glance

	10:30-11:45am	12:30-1:45pm	2:00-3:15pm
<b>I</b>	<b>Youth Taking Charge!</b> Bridget Green – Youth Keynote Speaker  <i>First, students will be inspired by their own Motivational Speaker, Bridget Green, to take charge of their lives. Bridget, a college student, will share her experiences, her accomplishments, and goals and how every student can Take Charge. Student participants will work in teams with Student Leaders from Delaware to respond to questions that students from Delaware</i>	<b>Bullies Are Not The Cool Kids</b> Joyce Bender – CEO/President, Bender Consulting Services  <i>Ms. Bender will discuss how to marginalize bullying and how to keep from being bullied.</i>	<b>Motivating Educators</b> Harvey Alston – Educator & Author  <i>Apply effective strategies and ideas on how to become the best; Demonstrate ways to be more effective as leaders; Identify school challenges and ways to handle them; Develop a specific goal-setting strategy; Work more effectively as members of a team; Enhance their communication and listening skills; Apply effective strategies and ideas on how to be a trailblazer.</i>

	<i>developed on how to Take Charge and have a successful transition.</i>		
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2	<p><b>Who's The Boss? Employer Panel</b></p> <p><i>Meet some of Delaware's leading employers to discuss today's employment trends, the changing employment market and employer's expectations in hiring young people. Presenters include human resources representatives from Chik-Fil-A, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Christiana Care and Shoprite.</i></p>	<p><b>Engaging Parents: Strategies to Build Partnerships</b></p> <p>Amy Pleet, Ed.D., – University of DE Donna Wandry, Ph.D. – West Chester University</p> <p><i>Parental support is critical during the transition years, but what roles can parents play? How can schools and agencies improve their strategies for empowering parents in ways that will increase student outcomes? This presentation includes accountability tools from the latest CEC publication, authored/ edited by these presenters.</i></p>	<p><b>Life and Work After High School</b></p> <p><i>Come explore options following high school. Meet some of today's leading training provider's from across the state of Delaware that represent programs from culinary arts to communications technologies. Featured presenters include Goodwill of Delaware, the Opportunity Center Incorporated/Projects with Industry, the Food Bank of Delaware, Kent Sussex Industries and Harris School of Business.</i></p>
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3	<p><b>What Does Indicator 13 Have To Do With Transition and the IEP?</b></p> <p>Dale Matusевич – Education Associate, Dept. of Education</p> <p><i>Come get the low down on the latest federal indicator 13 information and the impact it will have on transition planning in the IEP. During this session we will take an in-depth look at the indicator and have an open discussion about what it means for teachers, students, families, and adult agency providers. We will break down the indicator; look at specific components of the IEP; and how information should be written in the IEP.</i></p>	<p><b>Creating the Safety Net</b></p> <p><i>Come and meet with several disability services providers who offer a supportive framework for working with at-risk youth. Speakers include representatives from: Delaware Guidance - a mental health services program operating within local high schools; Fisher Transitional Services, Inc. - an overview of the challenges and services of foster care youth in Delaware; Parent Information Center of DE - a statewide advocacy and information center supporting families of children with disabilities.</i></p>	<p><b>What's New with Agencies?</b></p> <p><i>Get the latest updates and information about current services and programs from agencies including:</i></p> <p><i>DVR (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation), DDDS (DE Developmental Disabilities Services), DART (DE Administration for Specialized Transport) DVI (Division of the Visually Impaired)</i></p>
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4	<p><b>Adult Services Partnerships that Work!</b></p> <p>FrameWORK for Success – Deborah Talley, Asst. Director of Employment Services, OCI</p> <p><i>Hear about a unique partnership between Opportunity Center Inc (OCI) and Brandywine School District (BSD) to provide assessment and vocational services to SITE program students who are completing school in 2009. Six BSD students report to OCI each morning where they participate in work</i></p>	<p><b>Children's Beach House – Youth Development Program</b></p> <p>Jennifer Clement – Director, CBH</p> <p><i>Youth development programs prepare young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through a structured, progressive series of activities and experiences, which help them obtain social, emotional, ethical, physical, and cognitive competencies. Children's Beach House Youth Development Program addresses the broader developmental assets all children and</i></p>	<p><b>Should I Become My Child's Guardian?</b></p> <p>Daniel G. Atkins – Disabilities Law Program Sherri Harmer – Guardianship Monitoring Program Director for the Court of Chancery</p> <p><i>Have you ever wondered what will happen to your child when he/she turns 18 years old? This session will answer questions such as: What does guardianship mean? Why do I need guardianship? Where can I get it done? I never got around to it, and now my "child" is 18, what do I do now? How does guardianship relate to "age of majority" and</i></p>

	<p><i>adjustment training and community-based work experiences. The full-day of work assists in developing stamina, endurance and an understanding of employer expectations. In addition, OCI staff work closely with local businesses to coordinate individualized work experiences for the students. Assessments are typically 1:1 and encompass a wide variety of jobs. This type partnership between a local school district and an adult service provider is the first of kind in the state of Delaware.</i></p> <p>Transitioning to Adult Services-A Person Centered Approach – Deanna Pedicone, Studies, Employment Specialist – U/D Center for Disabilities Studies</p> <p><i>We will discuss using person centered planning to approach the transition into adult services as well as identify the milestones a student will encounter during their transition year. We will briefly discuss the model employment program at the University of Delaware, the SWANK Employment Program.</i></p>	<p><i>youth need (such as caring relationships, safe places and activities, physical and mental health, marketable skills, and opportunities for service and civic participation). The attendees will participate in hands on activities, while gaining information about the services the Children’s Beach House provides across the state.</i></p>	<p><i>my child making IEP decisions? What is the difference between guardianship and power of attorney?</i></p>
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5	<p><b>YES WE CAN – Partnering with Parents in the Transition Process</b>  Cathy Cowin – Parent/Dickinson H.S.  Lisa Dunstan – Parent/Sussex Tech H.S.  Tia Moore – Parent/Caesar Rodney H.S.  Emma Quillen – Parent/Caesar Rodney H.S.  Winnie Sammons – Parent/Delcastle H.S.</p> <p><i>A parent-led session designed to provide educators and professionals with tips and strategies for involving parents in the transition process in an informed and meaningful way. Hear from parents who will discuss their own children’s transition plans, share what worked/what didn’t work and what they think parents, educators and professionals can do to make the transition process a</i></p>	<p><b>Crime Does Not Pay the Bills</b></p> <p><i>Come and speak with a representative from the Delaware State Police to learn all you ever wanted to know about criminal records, expungement and the pardon process. Important questions will be answered, such as: What happens to juvenile records when a person becomes an adult in Delaware? What charges show up on a criminal record? Do I need an attorney to assist in getting a record expunged?</i></p>	<p><b>Crossing the Spectrum</b></p> <p><i>Join us in this session to learn about several of Delaware’s disability services providers who work with individuals with autism spectrum disorders as well as individuals with multiple, severe disabilities. Featured presenters include:</i></p> <p>POW&amp;R – (Productive Opportunities for Work and Recreation) - Karen Anderson – POW&amp;R offers individualized vocational and recreational supports to adults funded by the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. POW&amp;R staff will work with the individual and family to develop a circle of support and create a plan for success with the individual and family participating in choosing and</p>

	<i>collaborative effort.</i>		<i>supervising direct support staff.</i>  DE Autism Program/Brennen School - Alexis Hackett & Allison Hunter, Vocational Specialists <i>Presenters will explain the process of transition beginning with age 14 to the age of 21 and the different roles people play in the transition process.</i>  CERTS Adult Action Center – Vivian Davis, Director; Melanie Hoffman, Educational Diagnostician Colonial School District; Judy Brimer, Parent/Board Member <i>The C.E.R.T.S., Inc. presentation focuses on the need for and birth of a groundbreaking new program for young adults with severe, multiple disabilities who are transitioning from school to adult life. As its name suggests, the Adult Action Center is person centered and action oriented. The presentation will be made by the parent of a program participant, a board member who is a special education professional and the executive director of the agency.</i>
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<b>6</b>	<b>Wesley College Transition Project</b> Jeanne Zimmerman/Lynn Knable  <i>Discover how the partnership between Wesley College and JS Charlton was formed, view the projects and activities preparing young adults to live and work in their communities after graduation. Plus meet the stars of the program.</i>	<b>Social Security Made Easy!</b> Tony Francioni – DVR  <i>Confused about SSI or SSDI payments, Ticket to Work rules or policy changes? Tony Francioni, disability benefits specialist, will guide you through the new laws, regulations and processes that relate to SSI and SSDI nationally and in the state of Delaware. Please come with your questions!</i>	<b>Without Paychecks You Are Not Free</b> Joyce Bender – CEO/President, Bender Consulting Services  <i>Ms. Bender will address future employment for high school students with disabilities, leadership and advocacy skills and understanding the meaning of work ethics. She will also highlight her work with the Bender Leadership Academy and its origination in Delaware.</i>
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<b>7</b>	<b>Early Start to Supported Employment and Customized Employment</b> George Tilson, Ed.D. – TransCen, Inc.  <i>In 2005, the Department of Education (DOE), Division on Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), and Division on Developmental Disability Services (DDDS) entered into a collaborative project to align resources that would prevent</i>	<b>Blue Jay Expectations-Jays Learning to Fly at Seaford Sr. H.S. and Beyond</b> Robin Andrus – Seaford High School Kedra Lineweaver – Seaford High School Mike Smith – Seaford School District  <i>With the support of the Seaford Special Education Director, Seaford High School is implementing a new course elective for the 2009-2010 school</i>	<b>ADA Provisions for Higher Education</b> Laura Eisenman, Ph.D. – Assoc. Professor/UD Karen Mancini, Director – Office of Disability Support Services/UD  <i>Learn how to create a good fit in postsecondary education environments for youth with disabilities, including those with intellectual disabilities. Discuss common practical challenges, supports, and</i>

<p><i>a gap in services to students needing supported employment services upon leaving school and entering the workforce. The “Early Start to Supported Employment” (ESSE) is intended to demonstrate the feasibility of a more seamless transition for students leaving school and entering the adult workforce. The outcome of paid work with post-school support in place before leaving school is the primary goal of this pilot. Through the efforts of ESSE, the Customized Employment Pilot evolved and is currently in the initial implementation year. Some students need other supports for employment success that often is unavailable by traditional supported employment. The Customized Employment model has been very successful around the country as a way of increasing employment success for students with significant support needs on the job, when traditional supported employment may not work. Come hear information about referrals, state efforts and results to sustain and expand both projects!</i></p>	<p><i>year. In this course students will learn and demonstrate the technical, academic, and work readiness skills required to be successful in high school, community, family, workplace, and continuing education. Come hear the rationale for the class development, inclusion into the course selection process, and overall course development. Participants will hear the overall course description and competencies.</i></p>	<p><i>program options. Find out more about the new Higher Education Opportunities Act.</i></p>	
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