



2011 TASH Conference
November 30-December 3
www.TASH.org/2011TASH

Employment for Youth in Transition Conference Preview

You're invited to be part of the learning and networking event of the year! Join us for the 2011 TASH Conference in Atlanta and take part in a special "conference within the conference" on Employment for Youth in Transition.

The TASH Conference features learning and networking opportunities that create positive change in the lives of individuals with significant disabilities. We bring together every aspect of the disability community to learn from one another, share best practices and unite for a shared vision. For more than 35 years, the TASH Conference has been a place where ideas are formed, passions are ignited and knowledge is shared. Because of this conference, and the contributions of people like you, we believe that people with disabilities belong in their own homes in the community, and not in institutions; they should learn and be part of general education classrooms; they should hold jobs at the prevailing wage, and not be forced into sheltered workshops where they earn only pennies a day; and should go on to college and post-secondary education like brothers, sisters and classmates. Throughout the TASH Conference we'll also explore the disparities in service access and outcomes facing people of diverse backgrounds with disabilities.

No Excuses: Creating Opportunities in Challenging Times

The 2011 TASH Conference theme reflects the spirit of the disability movement today. There are many challenges ahead for individuals with disabilities – access, supports, federal and state budgets, and employment, just to name a few. Yet, despite these challenges, we must continue to make progress in the world around us. During the TASH Conference, join others as we ignite hearts and minds, meet the challenges of today, prepare for those of tomorrow, and create a pathway to a positive future for persons with disabilities.

Learn more and register at www.tash.org/2011tash

Why attend the Employment for Youth in Transition Conference?

The 2011 TASH Conference includes a special learning opportunity on Employment of Youth in Transition. This *conference within the conference* features best practices in youth transition that result in integrated employment for young people perceived as the most challenging to serve. Topics covered include multi-agency partnerships and funding strategies; defining and describing "employment first" strategies; philosophy and values that guide practice; successful transition planning; experiences during high school and post-secondary options that lead to employment; parent and student roles in successful transition outcome and much, much more.

A TASH first: The Employment for Youth in Transition Conference is hosted in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Labor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, HSC Foundation, Georgia Department of Education, and Southeast TACE (Region IV, Training and Technical Assistance Center). This conference is held in addition to the transition content that will be featured throughout the 2011 TASH Conference. To maximize your conference experience, you can register for the Employment for Youth in Transition conference by adding it as a pre-conference day to your TASH Conference registration.

The following is a tentative schedule for the Employment for Youth in Transition Conference. Additional content on transition can be found throughout the TASH Conference!

Employment for Youth in Transition Conference

Wednesday, November 30 – Thursday, December 1, 2011

Wednesday, November 30	
9:00-10:00 a.m.	<p>Keynote Session, Part I: Systems Working Together to Advance Integrated Employment for All <i>Lynnae Rutledge, Administrator, Rehabilitative Services Administration; Melody Musgrove, Director of the Office of Special Education Programs; Bob Williams, Associate Commissioner, Social Security Administration; Serena Lowe (moderator)</i></p>
10:15-11:15 a.m.	<p>Transition Assessments, Part I: Tools for Students with Significant Disabilities in School and Rehabilitation Services <i>Mary Morningstar, University of Kansas</i> Using appropriate transition assessments for students with significant disabilities.</p>
11:15-12:15 p.m.	<p>Transition Assessments, Part II: Tools for Students with Significant Disabilities in School and Rehabilitation Services <i>Amy Dwyre, TransCen, Inc., & Southeast TACE; Charlotte Guy, former Assistant Special Education Director, Mississippi; Norciva Shumpert, Marc Gold and Associates, & Southeast TACE</i> Using "Discovery" as an alternative to traditional evaluations to guide full inclusion and employment, this session will identify "what" Discovery is and how it can impact the student's life for better matching to school and community environments. Strategies for success that are used in schools and vocational rehabilitation will be shared.</p>
12:15-1 p.m.	<p>Lunch Lunch will be provided.</p>
1:00-2:00 p.m.	<p>Coordinating Transition Activities <i>Curtis Richards, Institute for Educational Leadership; Norciva Shumpert, Marc Gold and Associates, & Southeast TACE</i> Creating a coordinated set of transition activities has been a requirement of IDEA. This session will include elements of the Guideposts for Success and strategies for establishing vocational expectations for youth with significant disabilities.</p>
2:15-3:15 p.m.	<p>Vocational Components for Post-Secondary Programs <i>Amy Dwyre, TransCen, Inc., & Southeast TACE</i> Join this session to learn the critical program features needed to assure a strong vocational component in post-secondary programs. The vocational component has both structural and programming components that are critical as teachers, counselors and administrators plan for post-secondary programs. These components will assure work experiences, employment and career development.</p>
3:30-5:00 p.m.	<p>Closing Keynote: Toward Productive Adult Lives <i>Nancy Brooks-Lane, Georgia Advocacy Office; Rich Luecking, TransCen, Inc</i> Self-advocates, parents and other stakeholders share stories about positive youth outcomes in employment, self-employment interagency collaboration, and asset development.</p>
5:00-7:00 p.m.	<p>TASH Conference - Welcome Reception and Opening Rally</p>
7:00-9:00 p.m.	<p>TASH Conference - Welcome Dinner Ticketed Event - \$40</p>



Thursday, December 1

8:30-9:30 a.m.	<p>“All” Really Means “ALL”: Employment as the Priority Post-School Outcome for Youth with Significant Disabilities <i>Mike Callahan, Marc Gold and Associates; Ellen Condon, Marc Gold and Associates</i> Employment begins for most youth at age 16. This session will cover the various types of work experiences that lead to employment outcomes. The progression of work experiences lead to a career direction with targeted skill development and mentors to assist with further education or a job. This section will highlight teacher, family and student presentations.</p>
9:45-10:45 a.m.	<p>Why Asset Building & Being on a Pathway to Economic Sufficiency Need to be part of Transition Planning <i>Abby Cooper, Marc Gold and Associates, & Southeast TACE</i> How do young adults work toward economic stability and maintain important benefits? This session will outline strategies and tools for achieving both goals.</p>
11:00-12:30 p.m.	<p>TASH Conference - General Session <i>Kate Gainer, John O'Brien</i> 2011 keynote presenters –Kate Gainer and John O'Brien - have used innovation and creativity to address the most challenging issues people with disabilities face today.</p>
12:30-1:30 p.m.	<p>Lunch Attendees are responsible for getting lunch</p>
1:30-2:45 p.m.	<p>Model Programs that Support Seamless Transition <i>John Butterworth, Institute for Community Inclusion, U-Mass Boston; Rich Luecking, TransCen, Inc.</i> This session will highlight creative transition programs around the country that show a systematic braiding of funding cross-agency, provide incentives for youth to exit with a job and offer very individualized work experiences.</p>
3:00-4:30 p.m.	<p>Employers as Partners Toward Better Futures for Young People <i>Rich Luecking, TransCen, Inc.; Michael Callahan, Marc Gold and Associates</i> The perspective of employers is the focal point of this hour-long conversation with leading employers from Georgia. Using the U.S. Department of Labor’s newly-released documentaries showcasing the employment histories of several young people with significant disabilities, this session will engage employers in identifying key considerations when evaluating a potential employee. Educators, young people with disabilities, their families, and staff helping people find jobs will come away with insight on how to develop value-added relationships with employers. Employers will be introduced to important new people and processes that can meet important business needs and enhance the culture of their company in positive and significant ways.</p>
5:15-6:15 p.m.	<p>TASH Conference – Concurrent Session Attend a session of your choosing. Topics include inclusive education, employment, community living, diversity and a variety of cross-topical discussions.</p>
6:15-8:00 p.m.	<p>TASH Conference – Poster Presentations</p>