Preparing Students Who Learn Differently for College Success!

October 27, 2020 | 8AM-8PM
COLLEGE STAR SUPPORT PROGRAMS

As-U-R Program
Appalachian State University

SKILL Program
Auburn University

Center for Student Success
Beacon College

PAL
Curry College

STEPP Program
East Carolina

Bronco STAR
Fayetteville State

Educational Research
Landmark College

Learning Partners
Louisburg College

CPSASD
Marshall University

Learning Differences
Mercyhurst University

ACCESS
UNC-Greensboro

S.A.L.T Center
University of Arizona

Learning Effectiveness
University of Denver

Jones Learning Center
University of Ozarks

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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
BLOCK 1

8:00 – 8:45AM EST  WELCOME AND CONFERENCE KICKOFF
This session welcomes participants, reviews the agenda, and covers the technical aspects of the virtual conference.
Presenters: Alysha Gray, Ellen Bunn, & Tanner Jones

9:00 – 9:45AM EST  NAVIGATING THE COLLEGE SEARCH
This session addresses college readiness factors that should be considered for students with LD, ADHD &/or Executive Function difficulties; General and legal high school to college paradigm shifts; specific college factors and support programs that allow for a seamless and successful transition to college.
Presenter: Paula Cocce
Moderator: Heather Lippard

10:00 – 10:45AM EST  BUILDING A COLLEGE SUPPORT PLAN
This session will guide participants through transitioning from high school disability supports to college disability supports with a focus on constructing an individualized plan for understanding and accessing available resources at the college level. It will also provide specific guidance, tips, and steps that participants can take towards preparing for academic success in college.
Presenter: Emily Johnson
Moderator: Adam Denney

11:00 – 11:45AM EST  EXECUTIVE SKILL LEARNING PROFILE
This presentation will elaborate on the topic of executive functioning and discuss essential executive skill areas that are necessary for successful college students. Facilitators will provide resources for participants to discover their strengths and needs related to different areas of executive functioning, such as time management, monitoring, motivation, organization, and working memory. Lastly, participants will receive suggestions on how to improve or support these skill areas to prepare them for the transition into higher education.
Presenter: Ellen Bunn
Moderator: Megan Tate

12:00 – 12:45PM EST  SEMESTER ON A PAGE (SOAP)
This session will show participants how to complete the SOAP and provide ways to encourage students (or yourself) to use the SOAP to its fullest potential. It also provides direct quotes from students on their opinions of the SOAP and how they incorporate it in their lives.
Presenter: Caroline Ragano
Moderator: Jennifer Williams

1:00 – 1:45PM EST  PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS AND Q&A
This session will review the various support programs within the College STAR Network. Participants will be able to gather more specific information about the support programs and ask questions to program representatives.

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2:00 – 2:45PM EST  NAVIGATOR PREP
This session will discuss Navigator PREP and introduce the College Match Scale, a tool that can help families determine college fit. Navigator PREP is the country’s first virtual transition program for neurodiverse students. Working with students and their parents on executive functioning, emotional regulation, and social skills, the program helps families prepare for the high school to college transition.
Presenter: Katelyn Reinke
Moderator: Alex Morris-Wood

3:00 – 3:45PM EST  BEYOND ACADEMICS: HARD FACTS & SOFT SKILLS
This presentation will help participants differentiate between the laws governing disability support at the secondary and post-secondary levels and understand how these changes impact college readiness. Participants will learn strategies for incorporating executive function, social skills and self-advocacy skills into transition planning at home and at school and discuss the pros and cons of beginning college virtually instead of on campus.
Presenter: Janet Price
Moderator: Stephanie Decker

4:00 – 4:45PM EST  PROMOTING SELF-ADVOCACY: BUILDING ESSENTIAL SKILLS
This session will describe self-advocacy skills necessary in higher education. In addition, facilitators will provide tools that students can use now to prepare for the transition focused on 3 key elements: knowledge of laws and policies, knowledge about their personal learning profile, and effective communication skills.
Presenters: Laurel Grigg Mason & Claudia Sandoval
Moderator: Heather Lippard

5:00 – 5:45PM EST  COURSE PROGRESS RECORDS (CPR)
This session will teach participants how to create a Course Progress Record (CPR), how to integrate the CPR into their ongoing academic routines, and how to use it as a tool in various situations throughout the semester. A CPR is a document that any student can create and use to support their academic success in a college class. It consolidates key information about the course's requirements into a single-page quick reference that can be updated throughout the semester to keep track of the student's performance and progress in the course.
Presenter: Alysha Gray
Co-Presenter: Sarah Williams

6:00 – 6:45PM EST  PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS AND Q&A
This session will review the various support programs within the College STAR Network. Participants will be able to gather more specific information about the support programs and ask questions to program representatives.

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Ellen Bunn (bunnek@appstate.edu)
Ellen Bunn started working permanently with the As-U-R program in June 2018 and has been mentoring and working with students in the As-U-R program since Fall of 2015. After serving in various roles, both in As-U-R and with the College STAR program, Ellen is currently serving her second year as the interim director of the As-U-R Program at Appalachian State University. Ellen received her B.S. and M.A. in Special Education at Appalachian State with a special interest in Executive Functioning, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. Additionally, Ellen is a licensed special educator in the state of North Carolina. As an undergraduate student, Ellen fell in love with working with students who have diverse learning profiles in post-secondary education. When she isn’t working with students, you can find Ellen spending time with family, friends, and her hedgehog Tulip or exploring the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains in Boone, North Carolina.

Paula Cocce (p cocce@post03.curry.edu)
Paula Cocce is a Senior Lecturer in the Program for Advancement of Learning (PAL) at Curry College. PAL is metacognitive support for college students with ADHD. In addition to her work in PAL, she teaches classes in First Year Transitions. As Outreach Coordinator, she facilitates workshops on LD Awareness, Study Skills Strategies, Student Motivation and the College Search Process.

Adam Denney (denneya15@ecu.edu)
Adam Denney is the Senior Associate Director for Program Services with the STEPP Program at East Carolina University. Adam holds a Master of Science degree (M.S.) in Counselor Education with a focus on Higher Education and Student Affairs and a Bachelor of Science degree (B.S.) in Special Education with a focus on Adapted Curriculum.

Alysha Gray (grayal18@ecu.edu)
Alysha Gray is the Instructional Specialist for the STEPP programs at East Carolina University and serves as the Project Director for the College STAR National Student Support Network. In her daily role, she provides ongoing support to all currently enrolled STEPP participants during the academic year. She develops and teaches the STEPP Program curriculum, which focuses on equipping participants with skills, strategies, and resources necessary to be successful in the university setting, such as time management, organization, study skills, learning strategies, and campus resources.

Emily Johnson (johnsonem@ecu.edu)
Emily Johnson is the Associate Director for Transition Support with the STEPP Program at East Carolina University. In this role, she assists students, families, and K-12 schools in navigating STEPP’s recruitment and admissions process and works with admitted students throughout their transition from high school to college.

Laurel Grigg Mason (lgrigg@arizona.edu)
Laurel is the Director of the Bartlett Labs, part of the SALT Center at The University of Arizona. She oversees data management and assessment within the department and collaborates with researchers around the word on projects that explore students with learning differences in college. Prior to this role, she worked directly with students and peer tutors. Her doctoral work in Higher Education focuses on college access and success for disabled students.
Janet Price (japrice@experiencecle.com)
Janet Price is the Assistant Vice President for Outreach and Admissions at College Living Experience, a post-secondary support program with 7 centers throughout the country. She joined CLE in 2015 as the Director of Admissions and Outreach for the Washington, DC center. Prior to that, Janet spent 9 years as a Special Needs Advocate, helping families navigate K-12 supports in both public and private school settings. She has co-authored two books, Take Control of Asperger’s Syndrome: The Official Strategy Guide for Teens with AS and Nonverbal Learning Disorders (winner of the 2010 TAGT Legacy Book Award), and Take Control of Dyslexia and Other Reading Difficulties: The Ultimate Guide for Kids, as well as numerous articles. Janet has been a guest lecturer for graduate programs at Towson University and American University and wrote the course content for an online class in Special Needs Advocacy offered at Catholic University. She frequently presents at national conferences. Janet holds a B.A. With Distinction in International Affairs, with a concentration in Communications, from The George Washington University.

Katelyn Reinke (kreinke@beaconcollege.edu)
Katelyn Reinke is the Assistant Director of Transition Services and Outreach at Beacon College and she serves as a Transition Counselor for Navigator PREP. Katy earned her B.A. in Communication- Public Relations at Florida Gulf Coast University and her M.S. in College Student Affairs- Counseling and Student Development at Eastern Illinois University. During her master’s degree program, she engaged in research focused on creating an effective learning environment at colleges across the nation for students with learning differences.

Claudia Sandoval (claudia3@arizona.edu)
Claudia received her Master’s in Social Work from the University of Southern California. She served as a Student Support Specialist at the SALT Center at the University of Arizona for over 10 years. She is now Assistant Director and leads a team of 14 Specialists who provide a broad range of support to students with learning differences in college. She currently works with her colleagues and students by empowering students to become their own self-advocates.

Sarah Williams (williamssar@ecu.edu)
Sarah Williams is the Executive Director of the Office for Faculty Excellence and STEPP Program at East Carolina University. For the past 10 years, she has served as the PI for College STAR, a grant-funded initiative focused on helping universities learn to become more welcoming places for students with learning and attention differences. She previously held positions as a faculty member in the College of Education at ECU and as a middle school special education teacher in the NC public schools.
Thank you to the OAK Foundation for making this conference possible and for their continued support of the College STAR National Student Support Network.

Virtual Toolkit

Interested in a tangible takeaway?

Visit our virtual toolkit page for more resources from the conference!

WWW.COLLEGESTAR.ORG/VIRTUAL-CONFERENCE/TOOLKIT

Thank you!