

**Arkansas Department of Education - Special Education Unit
Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Arkansas Transition Services (ATS), July 2019**

- Arkansas Transition Services and University of Central Arkansas (UCA) co-hosted College Bound Arkansas – a 3-day camp for students with disabilities interested in attending college. The camp is open to Juniors, Seniors, or new graduates who want to learn about supports that are available to them in college. Students are put on teams lead by college students with disabilities who utilize the disability supports offices on their campus. Students attend a variety of sessions including a mock class, time management, study skills, cooking skills, assistive technology, and a session about Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. Students spend two nights in a college dorm, utilize the cafeteria, and participate in recreational activities. They complete exercises in self-determination and work with their teams throughout the week. They are held accountable for being on time as well as completing all tasks. Parents and professionals also have the opportunity to attend the camp and participate in similar sessions separate from the students. Eighteen students and 6 parents and professionals participated in this year's event.
- Summer trainings are currently in the works – the “Transition Toolkit”, “Transition Assessments”, “Person-Centered Planning”, and “How to Select Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) for Students in Secondary Special Education” are being provided at all educational co-ops in the state. The focus of the EBP within the training is self-determination. Arkansas has plans to participate in a “Train-the-Trainer” session for those who want to become knowledgeable trainers in the “Self-Determination Learning Model of Instruction” (SDLMI) approach to providing self-determination instruction in the schools. This is an evidence-based practice that ATS plan to pilot in various schools in Arkansas.
- The Arkansas Interagency Transition Partnership (AITP) is hosting “Summer Connections” on July 29 in an effort to raise awareness and increase knowledge of programs and services available for students with disabilities. There will be a focus on services/programs available for students with intellectual and/or multiple disabilities. This event is for special education teachers, supervisors, and other school staff who work with students with disabilities. A youth panel will share their experiences in a variety of programs. Children And Youth with Sensory Impairments (CAYSI) will be the presenter at lunch and another general session will cover the Transition Assessment and Goal Generator – Alternate (TAGG –A) to share a valuable assessment option for teachers helping students with disabilities with the transition process.
- In our continued efforts to scale up research and evidence-based practices, ATS will hold a **Communicating Interagency Relationships and Collaborative Linkages for Exceptional Students, CIRCLES**, training on July 17 for four districts who will be trained on how to implement this three-tiered approach to transition planning. CIRCLES involves three levels of interagency collaboration (i.e., community level team [CLT], school level team [SLT], and Individualized Education Program [IEP] team). The CLT provides administrative leadership for the total array of transition services offered and assists in finding solutions for problems that may arise in service delivery. The SLT provides each student with access to an array of representatives from community

agencies that may provide services to the student after graduation. The IEP team writes the transition IEP.

- District Leadership Teams will meet on July 18 to discuss progress of their team plans, implementation of CIRCLES, and plans for data collection.
- ATS will also hold a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) training on September 26. This training will be a collaborative effort among Career and Technical Education, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Arkansas Transition Services, Arkansas Department of Education - Special Education Unit, the Co-Teach Project, and the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition. UDL is “a set of principles for curriculum development that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn. UDL provides a blueprint for creating instructional goals, methods, materials, and assessments that work for everyone--not a single, one-size-fits-all solution but rather flexible approaches that can be customized and adjusted for individual needs.” UDL is a framework that addresses the barriers to learning and allows students flexibility instead of a cookie cutter curriculum where everyone does the same thing, but to still achieve the same learning goals.
- Transition Consultants will attend the “Training to Work with Individuals who are Deafblind” on August 21-22. The purpose of this training is to help various agencies better understand what Deafblindness is and how we can have an effective role in transitioning individuals from high school to adult life. We are also looking at developing resource materials that will be more meaningful to families with students who are Deafblind.
- ATS is currently developing materials to help districts establish Transition Classes or enhance current Transition Classes to include a work experience component. Toolkits and training modules from the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition and the Transition Coalition will be incorporated into the training. We are currently working with the Transition Coalition on making the Work-Based Learning module a part of the training.