Smooth Transitions: Tips and Strategies for School VR Counselors Assisting Students with Disabilities Enter into Four Year Universities.

Richard “RJ” Kilgore, MS, CRC, LPC-A
NCRA 2016
“Who is in Attendance?”

• VR Counselors (School/Adult)?
• High School Teachers (SPED)?
• School Counselors / Graduation Coaches / 504 Coordinators / Transition Specialists / Other?
• H.E. Disability Services Professionals?
• Students / Parents?
• University / Comm. College Faculty or Staff?
• Others?
OH, YOU JUST GRADUATED?
YOU MUST KNOW EVERYTHING.
Information Overview

• Why is this information important?

• High School vs. College for students with disabilities.
  – Major topics
  – Laws

• Transition Preparation – What role does a VR Counselor play in College preparation?

• Initiatives in New Hanover County.
Why is this information Important?

- Workforce Innovations Opportunity Act (PETS)
  - Counseling on Post-Secondary Training
  - Self-Advocacy Training
  - Job Exploration Counseling
  - Work-Based Experience
  - Workplace Readiness Training

W.I.O.A and (the latest and greatest in) VR Transition Services 2016
Why is this Information Important?

• Counseling on Post-Secondary Training
  – Advising on admission process (Application)
  – Accessing disability supports
  – Career options (major/minor)
  – Course Offerings
  – Academic/Occupational training
Why is this Information Important?

• Self-Advocacy Training
  – Instruction on rights and responsibilities
  – Process to request accommodations, supports, and services necessary for post-secondary ventures.
  – Peer Mentoring
Why is this information Important

• Observations
  – *Students not self-advocating*
  – Students not familiar with disability
  – Students unsure of needs
  – Students not aware of required accommodations
  – Students not seeking assistance/resources
  – Students not involved in transition/IEP
  – Students not aware of Assistive Technology
Why is this information important?

“...Transition does not start in high school...”
## High School vs. University Legislations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals with Disability Education Act</td>
<td>*I.D.E.A does not apply after high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americans with Disabilities Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act</td>
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High School vs. University

Success vs. Access
## High School vs. University

<table>
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<th>High School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identifies students with disabilities</td>
<td>Students must self-disclose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrange and provide necessary assessments/testing</td>
<td>Student’s responsibility to obtain necessary assessments/testing and make them available to Disability Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classify students with disabilities and place them in programs they can benefit from and be successful in.</td>
<td>Determine if mental or physical impairment requires a reasonable accommodation for access to academics, housing, etc.</td>
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</tbody>
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High School vs. University Student Responsibilities

• University students are considered adults and expected to:
  – Contact instructors and discuss academic accommodations.
  – Fulfill all course/program/degree requirements
  – Arrange support services (tutoring, academic advising, etc.)
  – BE SELF-ADVOCATES
VR Counselor Role in Preparation

• VR Counselor is instrumental in transition.
• VR Counselor is an important part of a team.
• VR Counselor is a facilitator of transition.
• VR Counselor is a resource for students, family and school staff.
• VR Counselor is an information obtainer, provider and interpreter.
VR Counselor Role in Preparation
Tips and Strategies

• Develop effective relationships with your school(s) / school personnel.
  – Be visible in your schools
  – The school is not solely a referral base

• Promote Vocational Rehabilitation
  – Extend your reach further than OCS, SDA, AU.
  – Seek out 504 students.
  – Partner with 504 Coordinators.
VR Counselor Role in Preparation
Tips and Strategies

• Attend IEP Meetings
  – IEP meetings need to be priority.
  – Ensure effective and realistic transition goals.
  – Provide input and promote student involvement (student led IEP meetings would be ideal).
  – Student needs to understands their disability, the impacts and necessary accommodations.
  – “Upon Request” accommodations (if possible).
VR Counselor Role in Preparation
Tips and Strategies

• Conduct Effective Comprehensive Assessments
  – Disability, Impacts, required accommodations
  – Documentation requirements
  – Career/Major exploration (including admission requirements - prerequisites)
  – Community Based Assessments
  – Vocational Evaluations

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Initiatives in New Hanover County

• Collaboration between VR, Community College, UNCW and New Hanover County Schools.
• Transition Advisory Team
• Transition Panel for New Hanover County Schools.
Questions, Comments?

Contact Information:

Richard “RJ” Kilgore
UNCW Disability Resource Coordinator
(910) 962-3878
kilgorer@uncw.edu