

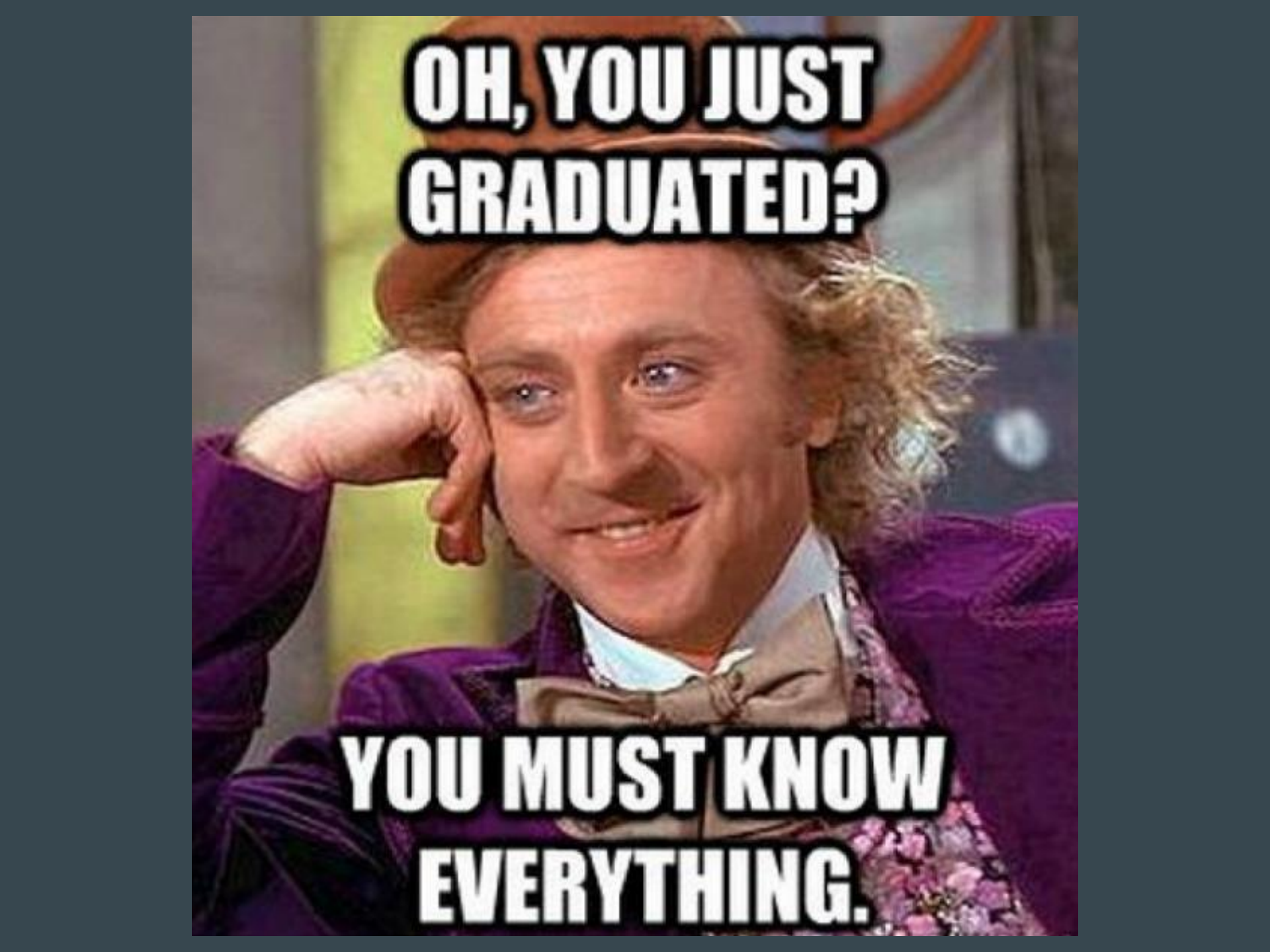
Smooth Transitions: Tips and
Strategies for School VR Counselors
Assisting Students with Disabilities
Enter into Four Year Universities.



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?

A close-up photograph of Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka. He is wearing a brown hat, a purple velvet suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a brown bow tie. He has a slight, knowing smile and is resting his head on his right hand. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a doorway or a window.

**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

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

<u>High School</u>	<u>University</u>
Individuals with Disability Education Act	*I.D.E.A does not apply after high school
Americans with Disabilities Act	Americans with Disabilities Act
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

High School vs. University

Success

vs.

Access

High School vs. University

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

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 understand 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

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