



Connections

for families touched by special needs

New Project Studies College Possibilities for Nevadan's with Developmental Disabilities

by Mary Bryant, Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities

The Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED) was recently awarded the Think College Mini-Grant by the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston. This project proposes to utilize funding to provide the first step towards Nevadans with intellectual/developmental disabilities being meaningfully included in postsecondary education. The NCED will coordinate strategic planning activities with a wide variety of statewide stakeholders, many whom have already identified postsecondary education as a priority in Nevada. The NCED's current relationships with the Nevada System of Higher Education, the Nevada Department of Education, People First, the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Health & Human Services Regional Centers, Nevada PEP, Interagency Transition Advisory Board, the Nevada Council on Developmental Disabilities, and Family TIES of Nevada will guarantee that a wide scope of voices and experiences are heard.

During the first 6 months of this 9-month mini-grant, NCED staff member Mary Bryant will meet with stakeholders throughout the state in person and via webinars and video-conferences, to inform about best practice inclusive postsecondary projects throughout the country, get initial ideas and concerns, discuss possible funding sources, and identify additional collaborators. With the assistance of the Institute for Community Inclusion's Think College staff, these efforts will then culminate with a one-day collaborative strategic planning process, where stakeholders will identify project goals, tasks to achieve goals, timelines, responsible entities and milestones. This 9-month mini-grant will conclude with a collaborative strategic plan in place as well as funding to continue the project activities.



Portrait of a Student *by Shauna Buxton, Resource Coordinator, Family TIES of Nevada*

Ryan Leibhardt, a 23 year-old student at Truckee Meadows Community College, has multiple disabilities and lots of dreams for his future. The following is an excerpt from an interview conducted with him in January 2010.

What are your life goals? My goals are to go to college and do the best I can. I want to find an occupation that is suitable for me. I am looking into history, research, or the medical field. I'd like to be a radiologist. I want to pursue higher education and become financially secure.

Who is in your Circle of Support? My family is my foremost support system. I have friends who support me too, and organizations like church, and Family TIES of Nevada.

Who helped you plan your transition out of high school? In elementary, middle, and high school I had counselors and aids that assisted me. I've had resource teachers like Melissa Raines who provided direction, and my parents are very supportive.

Where did you receive information about college and work options? Family TIES was a great source. Shauna Buxton got me started by driving me to TMCC to speak with a financial aid advisor. I am also working with Vocational Rehabilitation about employment options.

How does living on a limited income affect your access to attending college?

Last semester, my parents paid for two classes. I have turned in applications for grants for next semester. I am hoping to find a job to help me through school.

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Un Nuevo Proyecto Estudiará las posibilidades de Asistir Colegio para los Residentes de Nevada con Discapacidades de Desarrollo

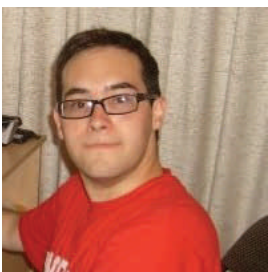
por Mary Bryant, Centro de Nevada para la Excelencia en Discapacidades

El Centro de Nevada para la Excelencia en Discapacidades (NCED- siglas en inglés) recientemente fue galardonado con el “Think College Mini-Grant” por el Instituto para la Inclusión en la Comunidad de la Universidad de Massachusetts en Boston. Este proyecto propone utilizar fondos para facilitar el primer paso para que los residentes de Nevada con discapacidad de desarrollo o intelectual sean incluidos de manera significativa en la educación superior.

El NCED coordinará las actividades de planificación estratégica con una amplia variedad de partes interesadas de todo el estado, muchos de los cuales ya han identificado la educación superior como una prioridad en Nevada. Las relaciones actuales del NCED con el Sistema de Educación Superior de Nevada, el Departamento de Educación de Nevada, People First, la Oficina de Rehabilitación Vocacional, Centros Regionales del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos, Nevada PEP, el Consejo Consultivo Interinstitucional de la Transición, el Consejo de Nevada de Discapacidad de Desarrollo y Family TIES of Nevada, garantizarán que se escuchen una amplia gama de voces y experiencias.

Durante los primeros 6 meses de esta mini beca de 9 meses, Mary Bryant, miembro del personal del NCED, se reunirá en persona y a través de seminarios y videoconferencias con las partes interesadas de todo el estado. Informará sobre los proyectos de las mejores prácticas de educación superior inclusiva en todo el país; obtener ideas iniciales e inquietudes; estudiará posibles fuentes de financiamiento e identificar colaboradores futuros. Con la asistencia del personal de “Think College” del Instituto para la Inclusión en la Comunidad, estos esfuerzos culminarán con un día de colaboración en el proceso de planificación estratégica. Partes interesados identificarán los objetivos del proyecto, las tareas para lograr los objetivos, plazos, y entidades responsables. Esta mini beca de 9 meses concluirá con un plan estratégico colaborativo y los fondos para continuar con las actividades del proyecto.

Retrato de un Estudiante por Shauna Buxton, Resource Coordinator, Family TIES of Nevada



Ryan Leibhardt, un estudiante de 23 años de Truckee Meadows Community College, tiene discapacidades múltiples y muchos sueños para su futuro. Lo siguiente es un extracto de una entrevista que se llevo a cabo con él en enero 2010.

¿Cuáles son tus metas en la vida? Mis metas son ir al colegio y hacer lo mejor que puedo. Quiero encontrar una profesión que sea apropiado para mí. Estoy contemplando el campo de historia, investigación, o médico. Me gustaría ser un radiólogo. Quiero continuar educación superior y tener seguridad económica.

¿Quién es parte de tu círculo de apoyo? Mi familia es mi sistema de apoyo más importante. Tengo amigos que también me apoyan, y organizaciones como la iglesia y Family TIES of Nevada.

¿Quién le ayudo a planear su transición de la escuela secundaria? En la primaria y la secundaria tuve consejeros y auxiliares que me asistieron. Tuve maestros de recursos como Melissa Raines quien me dirigió, y mis padres me apoyaron mucho.

¿Dónde recibió información acerca de colegio y opciones de trabajo? Family TIES fue un gran recurso. Shauna Buxton me llevo a TMCC para que hablara con un consejero de ayuda financiera. Estoy también trabajando con Rehabilitación Vocacional acerca de oportunidades de empleo.

¿Cómo afecta el ingreso limitado para ir al colegio? El semestre pasado mis padres pagó por dos clases. He aplicado para una beca para el siguiente semestre. Espero encontrar un trabajo que me ayude a través de mis estudios en la escuela.

Ways to Connect

Northern Nevada Region

All-You-Can-Eat Baked Potato Bar Annual Fundraiser - Center for Adaptive Riding
Saturday, March 6 • 4:30PM - 8PM
A great opportunity to see riders in the arena, find out what the volunteer jobs entail and see the facility. Tickets thru March 4: \$8 at door: \$9
Children 12 years & under half price
Location: 2980 Eagle Street, Washoe Valley • **Contact:** Christine Mullen (775) 846-7509
Email: info@adaptiveriding.org

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Lecture sponsored by UCAN, the Lili Claire Foundation and Renown Hospital • Tuesday, March 9 6:30PM - 8PM. One hour lecture followed by a half hour question and answer session. Prior registration is required **Location:** Renown Hospital, 1155 Mill Street, Reno in the MAC Auditorium **Contact:** Kari Horn (775) 682-7025 • **Email:** khorn@liliclairefoundation.org

Nevada's 3rd Parent Involvement Summit: Connecting the Dots
Friday, March 12 • 8:00AM
This year's Parent Involvement Summit will focus on the role of family engagement in student achievement.
Location: Joe Crowley Student Union, University of Nevada, Reno
Register: www.ed-alliance.org/events/app-events/1/38/

5th annual St. Baldrick's Head Shaving Celebration - The Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation
Wednesday, March 17 • 5:00PM
How would you like to take part in the world's largest fundraising event for childhood cancer research?
Location: Coconut Bowl at Wild Island 1855 E Lincoln Way, Reno
Contact: Lizzie Dalton (775) 327-6275
Email: lizzie@nvchildrenscancer.org
Website: www.stbaldricks.org/events/mypage/eventid/45/eventyear/2010

Free ESL Tutor Training Workshop
Friday, March 19 • 2PM - 4PM
Training takes one hour. Necessary instructional materials are provided at no charge. No experience necessary. Be part of the solution in your community.

Location: Ron Wood Family Resource Center (WIC), 212 E. Winnie Lane, Carson City (NW corner of the Salvation Army Crossroads Shop)
Contact: Florence (775) 888-2021

A Night to Imagine a benefit event for Community Chest, Inc.
Friday, March 26 • 5:30PM - 8PM
This elegant event will provide attendees with the opportunity to hear about the soon-to-be-built community center as well as the importance of raising additional funds to help people meet basic household bills. Wine, appetizers, music, and silent auction will be included.

Location: Tahoe House in Virginia City • **Contact:** (775) 847-9311
Website: www.communitychestnevada.net

FANatic 5k benefiting the Crisis Call Center • Saturday, March 27 8:00AM • Grab your family and friends, pick a team, cause, hobby, or anything else that you are CRAZY about and show us your FANatic side! Race Day Registration fee is \$25
Location: SCHEELS Parking Lot, Sparks Marina, 1200 Scheels Drive
Register: www.scheelssports.com/clearspace/community/events/rsevents

The Teen Art Club meets every 3rd Saturday of the month from noon to 2:00PM. We will work on a different project each month and invite special guests to share their talents and techniques. No previous classes or experience necessary!
Location: Carson City Library, 900 N. Roop Street
Contact: Amber Sady (775) 887-2244 ext. 102
Website: www.carsoncitylibrary.org

Southern Nevada Region

5th Annual Vision Forum - City of Las Vegas Adaptive Recreation Division
Wednesday, March 3 • 8:30A - 1:30P
Enjoy this fun-filled day while obtaining information from agencies and services for people who are blind, visually impaired or experiencing temporary vision loss. Learn new skills, gain new understanding and meet new friends.

Location: Las Vegas Senior Center, 451 E. Bonanza Rd., LV
Contact: (702) 229-4904
Website: www.lasvegasnevada.gov/information/5168.htm

Health Fair - Nevada Diabetes Association
Wednesday, March 10 • 6:30P - 10PM
Location: Elks Lodge, 4100 W. Charleston Blvd., LV
Contact: (702) 364-5604
Website: www.diabetesnv.org/index.php

Chili's Lunch/Dinner Fundraising in Las Vegas - Deaf & Hard of Hearing Advocacy Resource Center
Saturday, March 13 • 10:30A - 10:30P
Come join us for lunch or dinner we will donate 10% of your check to help assist children go to Camp SignShine this year. Please bring the Chili flyer (print from www.dhharc.org/announcements)
Contact: Christine Stoddard (702) 363-3323
Location: Chili's, Ft. Apache 9051 W. Charleston Blvd., LV

Scale the Strat - American Lung Association of Nevada
Sat. & Sun. March 13 & 14
Individuals & teams will race up the world famous Stratosphere Tower staircase for bragging rights and prizes while raising money for the American Lung Association in Nevada.
Location: Stratosphere Tower, 2000 Las Vegas Blvd., LV
Registration: www.mrsnv.com/evt/e01/reg/preform.jsp?id=2640



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The Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities at the University of Nevada, Reno was recently awarded the Think College Mini-Grant by the Institute for Community Inclusion at the Univer-

sity of Massachusetts Boston. This 9-month project will result in a statewide strategic plan to provide the first step towards Nevadans with intellectual/developmental disabilities being meaningfully included in post secondary education. There are two ways to get involved in this project:

- 1) One of the early activities of the grant is a series of focus groups of transition age students, parents of transition age students, educators (secondary and postsecondary) and other disability professionals.
- 2) There will be monthly informational webinars about best practices in inclusive postsecondary education, possible funding sources, etc. beginning in March.

If you are interested in either of these activities, please contact Mary Bryant at mhbryant@unr.edu

