

SERC (State Education Resource Center),
the CSDE (Connecticut State Department of Education), and
Goodwin College are proud to present..

Preparing for the Road Ahead: Helping Students Transition to College

Are you ready for college? Are you debating whether to disclose your disability status? Although this is an exciting time in your life, going to college can often bring on feelings of fear and anxiety. These feelings are normal. Being strategic and deliberate about preparing for college will actually reduce your fear and build your confidence.

Self-advocacy and effective time management skills are key to college success. This conference will address these areas and provide valuable resources to help make a successful transition from high school to college.

All participants will attend the opening keynote address by Sarah Helena Vazquez, who says she defines her life by **what she could do and NOT what others told her she could not do**. This will be followed by three separate workshop sessions provided by Ms. Vazquez and representatives from Goodwin College, University of Connecticut (UConn), CSDE, and Tunxis Community College, specifically designed for students, family members, and professionals. All participants will be able to observe the Goodwin College student panel to learn the "real story" about college life.



Students will:

- engage in interactive sessions focused on their role as self-advocates;
- determine the skills needed to be a college student; and
- understand the process of disclosure of disabilities at the college level.

Family members will:

- receive answers to the most commonly asked questions about college;
- learn about assistance offered through a college's disability services office; and
- network with other parents to discuss college life.

Professionals will:

- meet with Dr. Joseph Madaus from the Neag School of Education, UConn to discuss how to prepare students with disabilities for college success.

Date/Time/Location:

Tuesday, May 11, 2010
8:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
Goodwin College,
East Hartford, CT

Keynote Presenter:

Sarah Helena Vazquez
Support Coordinator
Neighbours Inc.
Highland Park, NJ

Alternative to CEUs:

SERC will not offer CEUs.
After the conference, SERC will provide participants a **Certificate of Contact Hours**. A participant may qualify for continuing education credit from his or her district. It is necessary to contact the district prior to the conference.

Registration Fee:

\$10.00 per student
\$30.00 per family member
\$50.00 per professional
(Payable to *Rensselaer at Hartford*)
Payment is due upon confirmation of participation.

Audience:

Two hundred (200)
high school students, family members,
secondary general and special educators,
transition specialists, guidance counselors,
career counselors, and state and
local agency representatives

Questions/Special Needs:

Contact: Heather Penfield
Education Services Specialist
(860) 632-1485, ext. 263
Fax: (860) 632-0438

Register By:

Tuesday, April 27, 2010



www.ctserc.org



Preparing for the Road Ahead: Helping Students Transition to College May 11, 2010

Keynote Speaker

Sarah Helena Vazquez



Sarah Helena Vazquez was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of four. Born and raised in Newark, N.J., she remembers two lessons in particular from her mother: that her Puerto Rican culture demanded that rice and beans always be on the dinner table, and that she could do anything she put her mind to. Proud of her education in the Newark Public School system, Sarah went on to earn a BA in psychology and English at Rutgers University. She is now a support coordinator at Neighbours Inc., a nonprofit disability supports agency in Highland Park, N.J., and a freelance writer for the World Institute on Disabilities of Oakland, Calif. Sarah has served as the keynote speaker and emcee at several events, including the Secondary Transition State Planning National Institute, the New Jersey Department of Education's Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conference, the Latinos with Disabilities Employment Conference, the annual conference of the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education, the regional conference of the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, and the annual New Jersey Governor's Conference on Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities. Sarah credits her achievements to having dreams ... and following her dreams on a full stomach.



Students

Educators

**Preparing for the Road Ahead:
Helping Students Transition to College**

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

8:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Family Members

Goodwin College, East Hartford, CT

Transition Specialists

Registration Information: The closing date for submitting applications is **April 27, 2010**. Please return application to Heather Penfield, Transition Initiative/SERC, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1516. Participants will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis with consideration to regional distribution and to teams that include student participation. Shortly after the closing date, written confirmation of enrollment will be sent to the school contact person responsible for communicating with school personnel and students. Family members will receive confirmation of enrollment at their home address. Upon acceptance, the school contact person and/or family member(s) attending on their own will receive an invoice covering total registration fees. Please direct content questions to Missy Wrigley, Consultant, ext. 397, and registration questions to Heather Penfield, Education Services Specialist, ext. 263, at (860) 632-1485.

A limited number of stipends are available to offset the expense of registration fees for students and family members and transportation costs covered by schools. Contact Missy Wrigley for additional information at (860) 632-1485, ext. 397.

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APPLICATION FORM: **Transition to College** (10-20-075-Flyer/Transition)hp (Please print clearly.)

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

District/Region _____ School/Program _____

Indicate Number of Personnel Attending: _____ (Please duplicate registration form, if needed.)

Name (Contact Person) _____ Work Phone (____) _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Home Address _____ City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Position/Role _____ E-mail (Please print clearly.) _____

Name _____ Work Phone (____) _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Home Address _____ City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Position/Role _____ E-mail (Please print clearly.) _____

Indicate Number of Student Reservations: _____ (Please print the students' names for name badges.)

Student Name _____

Student Name _____

Student Name _____

Student Name _____

Please check if an interpreter and/or disability-related accommodation is needed. Specify: _____

PARENT /FAMILY MEMBER REGISTRATION

Parent/Family Member Name _____ Daytime Phone (____) _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Home Address _____ City/State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail (Please Print Clearly.) _____ My son/daughter will be attending with me.

My child receives services in the following School District: _____ School Name: _____

Student Name _____

Please check if an interpreter and/or disability-related accommodation is needed. Specify: _____