

**WNY CCDA Presents: Before the Cap and Gown – A conference on transition  
March 8, 2019  
Paczesny Hall, Hilbert College**

8:00 – 8:30 AM	<b>Registration and breakfast – West Herr Atrium Visit vendor tables</b>		
8:30 – 9:25 AM Session 1	<a href="#"><u>Preparing Students on the Autism Spectrum for Postsecondary Visual Arts Programs</u></a>  <i>Lindsay R. Masters</i>	<a href="#"><u>Overview of the Transition Planning Timeline</u></a>  <i>Julia Duerr and Elizabeth Loughran-Amorese</i>	<a href="#"><u>Preparing for Independent College Life</u></a>  <i>Anne Showers and Melissa Heldwein</i>
9:30 – 11:00 AM	<a href="#"><u>Keynote address</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Michael Rembis</u></a>  Director of the Center for Disability Studies and Professor of History, University at Buffalo		
11:00 – 11:10 AM	Break/AT Vendors and Services Tables		
11:10 – 12:05 PM Session 2	<a href="#"><u>Preparing to Access Traditional, Hybrid and Online Classes</u></a>  <i>Elizabeth Kerr, Melissa Zgliczynski and Jennifer Cornacchio</i>	<a href="#"><u>ACCES-VR Supports for College Students</u></a>  <i>Sarah Wolf</i>	<a href="#"><u>Preparing for a Successful Transition to College</u></a>  <i>Donald Pool</i>
12:05 – 12:45 PM	Lunch and Vendor Tables		
12:45 – 1:40 PM Session 3	<a href="#"><u>Hot Careers for College Grads</u></a>  <i>Mary Richards and Paul Wekarski</i>	<a href="#"><u>Preventative Classroom Management: Curbing Behaviors and Setting Expectations for Everyone</u></a>  <i>Andrea Gustafson</i>	<a href="#"><u>How to Improve College Conversations with Students and Parents</u></a>  <i>Tonia Weichmann</i>
1:45 – 2:40 PM	Student Panel/presentation by CCDA Swan Auditorium		
2:40 – 3:00 PM	Wrap up /Evaluation		

## Presentation Overview

### Keynote Address

*Dr. Michael Rembis*

University at Buffalo

The National Council on Disability recently stated that we need to work together to improve outcomes for people with disabilities at the postsecondary level. What is the current situation in high school and in postsecondary education? How do we encourage students with disabilities to continue their schooling beyond high school and how do we motivate them and provide them with the supports to successfully complete a degree? To what extent do race, class, and gender interact with disability to influence outcomes among high school students? Prof. Rembis will begin to explore these and other questions in his keynote address.

### Preparing Students on the Autism Spectrum for Postsecondary Visual Arts Programs

*Lindsay R. Masters*

Daemen College

Many students on the spectrum enjoy video games, comic books, anime and other artistic forms of media. They are often encouraged to pursue careers in animation, graphic design, or other art based fields. These academic programs will require coursework outside of their area of interest and include participation in highly unstructured learning environments such as lengthy studio classes with frequent critiques from peers/instructors. Attendees will learn about these often unexpected technical standards, challenges typically faced by entering art major freshmen with ASD, and some strategies to better prepare the students with whom they work for the road ahead.

### Overview of the Transition Planning Timeline

*Julia Duerr and Elizabeth Loughran-Amorese*

Erie 1 BOCES

Successful planning for the transition from school to post-secondary life is an indicator of student success in the adult world. We know that transition planning can take many forms and require multiple considerations. Where? When? With whom? How? Now What? All of these elements play a considerable role in successful transition planning. Join us as we explore the Transition Planning Timeline to answer some of these questions.

### Preparing for Independent College Life

*Anne Showers and Melissa Heldwein*

Accessible Academics

We propose a training on how to prepare high school graduates for their first semester of college. This training could be utilized by professionals to give to families. The focus is on life skills and essentials for the transition to independent daily living. The training covers important topics including identifying students support systems, creating a financial budget, supplies to purchase, independent living skills, identifying campus resources, planning for the move, planning a

practice day, and differences between high school and college. Every attendee will receive an electronic pdf of the 8-week College Life Guide in the form of a workbook.

### **Preparing to Access Traditional, Hybrid and Online Classes**

*Elizabeth Kerr, Melissa Zgliczynski and Jennifer Cornacchio*  
Villa Maria College and Empire State College

The presentation will explore accessing different types of class delivery models available in post-secondary education: traditional in-person, hybrid and online. The presenters will highlight the strengths and challenges of each type of class for students with disabilities. Additionally, the assistive technology and self-advocacy skills required to prepare for each type of class will be discussed. The presentation will come from the perspective of a small, private college and a large, state college.

### **ACCES-VR Supports for College Students**

*Sarah Wolf*  
ACCES-VR

In this session we will review the various services ACCES-VR has available to assist students in college; including coaching and communication supports. We will also review how Pre-employment Transition Services can be used to assist college students with developing work readiness skills as well as securing paid or unpaid internships.

### **Preparing for a Successful Transition to College**

*Donald Pool*  
Jamestown Community College

Many students, especially students with disabilities struggle in college. However, many more succeed and thrive. This session will explore the common differences between students who struggle and those who succeed. Many of the supports that students receive in High School are not available, or are available in different forms in College. We will discuss ways to take advantage of these differences. We will also explore what students can do while they are still in High School to prepare for college life.

### **Hot Careers for College Grads**

*Mary Richards and Paul Wekarski*  
Erie 1 BOCES

A college degree can be a key step on the way to a great career, but many students enter college with no knowledge of the current job market. Without a plan in place, students may find they graduate from college with a lot of debt and no lucrative job prospects. This session will discuss the local labor market and high-growth career options that your college-bound students might consider pursuing. Participants will leave with online resources to stay current on labor market information.

## **Preventative Classroom Management: Curbing Behaviors and Setting Expectations for Everyone**

*Andrea Gustafson*

Buffalo State College

In this session we will discuss techniques in preventative classroom management that can assist educators, students, and parents alike in what it takes from everyone in order to maintain a respectful and productive classroom experience. We will also delve into techniques to facilitate understanding and to positively enforce behaviors when they present themselves in a classroom setting. This session is aimed at providing education for all types of students, and although many topics discussed will have had their birth in Special/Exceptional Education, the techniques involved are applicable to all students, regardless of ability.

## **How to Improve College Conversations with Students and Parents**

*Tonia Weichmann*

Parent Network of WNY

Exiting high school is always an exciting and scary time for students and their families. While in high school students were receiving a variety of supports and services to help them achieve academic success. Students and families need to have an understanding of the reality of how the college system is different from the school based system they have been use to for all these years. Learn some strategies on how to have honest, productive, and sincere conversations with families around their child moving on to college.