ROADMAP TO EMPLOYMENT

In 2014-15, the Britt Henderson Training Series focused on transition and high school staff. We developed six high-impact trainings to help educators meet the needs of adolescents and young adults with disabilities as they transition into the world of work. These topics were chosen from our 2014 educator surveys to provide teachers with the information they identified as critical to their role as transition specialists.

More than 25 professionals attended each session. Beyond school staff, we also welcomed employment providers, community organizations, post-secondary educators, and families. This diversity allowed us to create a collaborative atmosphere in which participants could share resources and information while forming new community connections. Word has been spreading about the Britt Henderson Training Series! In addition to educators from seven local private and public school districts, this year we expanded our reach to Clarksville and Macon County.

We kicked off the series with Managing Challenging Behaviors. Michelle Halman, from Project Search, shared strategies to prevent and address challenging behavior in the workplace. Together, educators brainstormed ways they can involve coworkers and other natural supports to decrease problem behaviors and help students find long-term employment. As a follow-up to our first training, we moved right into The Art of Job Coaching, with John Camperlino from MillarRich. He discussed job coaching methods at Old School Farm, and how their team helps individuals gain valuable skills and build independence on the job. We closed out 2014 with a fan favorite; The Right Tools for the Right Job: Free and Low-Cost Assessments, with Professor Erik Carter. He presented several formal and informal assessments that teachers can easily access. The assessments covered areas such as self-determination, living skills, community participation, job skills, and relationships. Educators had the opportunity to look through copies of several assessments and even take some free assessments home!

The Britt Henderson Series started 2015 with a great training from John and Joey Staubitz of TRIAD. In their session, Social Skills Interventions that Really Work, they focused...
97% of attendees said their knowledge level increased as a result of the training.

on practical tools and activities teachers can use to improve social skills in the classroom and workplace. In addition, the group discussed ways to teach students about relationships and healthy bodies as they move into adulthood. From social skills, we moved into Creating Employer Partnerships. This panel-based training featured representatives from Walgreens, Goodwill, Our Place Café, Center for Literacy, Education & Employment, and Impact Centers. The panel shared the ins and outs of community connections, and how participants can promote and brand their own transition programs. It was their favorite training of the year! We finished the series with Grant Writing 101, a session led by Nancy Dickson from Vanderbilt University. Educators learned about building budgets, formatting grant applications, and opportunities to raise funds for their own programs in the following year. We learned so much this year from our presenters as well as our participants. We can’t wait to see how educators use their Britt Henderson knowledge and resources to shape their classrooms next year.

FIND OUR TRAININGS ONLINE
Our training presentations and materials are now available online at www.tennesseeworks.org/educators/.

Check the website monthly to stay up-to-date on our transition topics. We also created three interactive transition modules for you to access on-demand. You can find the modules here www.tennesseeworks.org/online-training-modules/. Looking for videos to share with colleagues, families, and students about employment? Look no further at www.tennesseeworks.org/educator-videos/. Don’t forget to send us your questions and feedback. We love to hear from you!

WHAT’S NEXT?
Next year, we’ll be diving into the social aspects of transition focusing on building peer support networks at your school. We’ll continue expanding our resources, videos, and content available online. Have an idea for a resource or training? Visit our website and let us know!

-The Britt Henderson Team

NEW WEBINAR SERIES

This year, we partnered with the Tennessee Department of Education to develop a new project to reach educators across the state: Launching Students with Disabilities Toward Adulthood: A Webinar Series on Promoting Successful Transitions. Each month, we explore cutting-edge transition topics and give you the information you need to prepare your students for a successful transition to adult life. In addition to these live webinars, we’ve created 25-minute informational videos on each topic for you to watch on your schedule. Each video has downloadable resources, links, and engaging content to make your learning experience exciting. Watch them today!