



# 2017 Pennsylvania Community on Transition Conference



## Pathways to Success: Transitioning into Tomorrow Together

**August 9 – 11, 2017**

**Penn Stater Conference Center and Hotel  
215 Innovation Boulevard, State College, PA 16803**

## Conference Overview

*The sponsors of the conference are the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, and the PA Training and Technical Assistance Network, in collaboration with members of the PA Community on Transition including:*

- The Pennsylvania State University
- PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- PA Youth Leadership Network
- Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT)
- Transition State Leadership Team including members from:
  - **Advocacy, Systems Change and Capacity Building Organizations** (Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and The Leigh Valley Center for Independent Living)
  - **Higher Education** (The George Washington University, The Pennsylvania State University, and Temple University)
  - **PA Department of Education** (Bureau of Special Education and Bureau of Career and Technical Education)
  - **PA Department of Health** (Bureau of Family Health and Bureau of Community Health Systems)
  - **PA Department of Human Services** (Office of Developmental Programs, Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, Office of Children, Youth & Families, and Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services)
  - **PA Department of Labor & Industry** (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Bureau of Workforce Development Partnership, and Pennsylvania State Workforce Investment Board)
  - **Parent/Advocacy Organizations** (PA Education & Advocacy Leadership Center, Hispanos Unidos para Ninos Excepcionales (HUNE), The Arc of Philadelphia, and The United Way of Allegheny County)

### Primary Purpose

The primary purpose of this conference is to expand the capacity of schools, agencies and communities, in partnership with youth, young adults and families, in promoting the successful transition of youth/young adults with disabilities to post-school outcomes of employment, post-secondary education and training, community participation and healthy lifestyles. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about effective practices to assist youth/young adults with disabilities to explore possibilities, take advantage of their opportunities, and actively advocate for their future.

### The conference will feature:

- *Keynote and feature presentations*
- *Approximately 80 breakout sessions*
- *Sessions and activities designed for youth and young adults*
- *Family engaging sessions and networking opportunities*
- *Accommodations and Supports Expo, featuring hands-on assistive technology exhibits, vendor displays and resource tables*

### The focal points of this year's conference are:

- Promoting success of all youth and young adults by addressing the transition needs of those who are at-risk and struggling
- Empowering families and caregivers with transition knowledge and resources
- Supporting successful outcomes for youth and young adults with behavioral health needs
- Engaging youth and young adults in social interactions and in understanding their potential for post school success
- Building leadership skills of all transition stakeholders to promote successful outcomes of youth and young adults
- Using transition and career assessment, universal design, accommodations, and supports to build the foundation for self-determination and self-advocacy
- Linking transition, health, and healthy lifestyles to promote success in adult life by empowerment through self-determination and self-advocacy
- Showcasing evidence-based and effective practices with youth outcome data
- Building and supporting community partnerships and local transition coordinating councils

### Conference Registration

- Conference registration will be available online after **May 15, 2017** at [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net).
- A per person registration fee of \$150 will be charged for this year's conference.
- A limited number of scholarships will be available to family and youth who need support in order to attend the conference. The scholarship will cover the registration fee and hotel (one room up to a maximum of 3 nights).
- Additional information regarding scholarships and the conference registration fee will be available online after May 15, 2017 at [www.secondarytransition.org](http://www.secondarytransition.org) and [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)

# Proposal Guidelines

## Conference Proposal Submissions

All proposal applicants should review the presentation guidelines prior to completing the Presentation Proposal Form. The Presentation Proposal form is located at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017PATransConf>.

Please direct any questions regarding a proposal submission to: [paconf2017@gmail.com](mailto:paconf2017@gmail.com).

## Proposal Submission Requirements

**Deadline – January 23, 2017**

### **Presentation Proposal Form:**

The proposal is to be submitted electronically to

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017PATransConf>. All fields of the proposal must be addressed/completed to be considered for the conference. Incomplete proposals will be ineligible.

## Presentation Format (90 Minute Sessions)

All sessions are 90 minutes in length and should include at least 15 minutes for discussion. To be accepted, all proposals must support post-school outcomes and align with a conference theme.

**Please note: If the content of your presentation requires more than 90 minutes to adequately address the topic, indicate on the proposal form that the session requires two 90 minute sessions.**

## Conference Themes:

The following themes have been identified by transition stakeholders from across the state. Each of these themes will be addressed at the 2017 conference.

- Accommodations & Assistive Technology
- Assessment
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Employment
- Effective Educational Practices
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Independent Living & Community Participation

- Knowledge Building: Agency Information
- Knowledge Building: Disability Specific Information
- Models of Success
- Post-Secondary Education & Training
- Pre-Employment Transition Skills
- Promoting Youth Development & Youth Leadership
- Transition & Career Assessment
- Youth Family Partnership Collaborative Session

## Selection Criteria

Proposal selection is based on the following:

- Degree to which the proposal aligns with the **conference purpose and theme(s)**.
- Participation by **cross-systems teams** (e.g. interagency) including families/caregivers.
- Participation of **youth/young adults** and/or adults with disabilities as presenters.
- **Clarity, organization, and feasibility** of presentation proposal.
- Inclusion of **evidence-based or promising practices**.
- **Appropriate for a diverse audience** (e.g. youth/young adults, families/caregivers).
- **Potential to replicate and build capacity** of outcome-driven practices.
- Degree to which proposal meets the **youth and/or family engaging criteria**.

## Notification

- You will receive notification regarding your proposal status on or before **April 24, 2017**.
- If selected, handouts must be submitted electronically by **July 21, 2017** so that materials may be provided to attendees.

## Conference Registration Fee

- **ALL PRESENTERS MUST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AND PAY THE \$150 REGISTRATION FEE.**

## Targeted Audience:

Stakeholders supporting post-school goals for youth/young adults with disabilities, including:

Advocates  
Agency Administrators  
Assistive Technology Professionals  
Business/Employers  
Career & Technology Educators  
CareerLink Staff  
Direct Support Providers  
Drug & Alcohol Program Workers  
Education Administrators  
Family & Caregivers  
Family Health Representatives  
Foster and Adoptive Parents  
Guidance Counselors  
Health Professionals  
Higher Education Professionals  
Independent Living Staff  
Juvenile Justice Affiliates  
Job Coaches  
Local Government Officials  
Local Service Providers  
Local Youth Councils  
Medical Assistance Program Staff  
Mental Health Services Workers  
Occupational Therapists  
Office of Developmental Programs Staff  
Paraprofessionals  
Partnerships for Youth Affiliates & Staff  
Physical Therapists  
Psychologists  
Public & Private Child Welfare Workers  
School Nurses  
Secondary Educators  
Social Security Benefits Counselors  
Social Security Staff  
Social Workers  
Special Educators  
Speech/Language Therapists  
Transition Coordinators  
Transportation Affiliates  
Vocational Evaluators  
Vocational Rehabilitation Staff  
Workforce Investment Board Members  
Youth & Young Adults  
Youth Served in Foster Care