

# Add Us In – National Diversity Forum From Classrooms to Careers (co-hosted with the U.S. Department of Education)

Time: 1:40 pm – 2:40 pm    Room: Hemisphere A

## Panel Description

From research, to practice, to policy, this break out session will examine the issue of transition for all youth, including youth with disabilities from diverse communities, and its impact on obtaining and sustaining competitive employment. Presenters will discuss the latest transition research; the pathways and potential pitfalls that confront youth exiting secondary education settings; the policies and programs that exist to support youth into adulthood; and demonstrate how every individual, from policymakers to employers, can play a role in ensuring better outcomes for youth.



## Facilitator

- Alex Watters, U.S. Department of Education/American Association of People with Disabilities

## Presenters

- Ryan Barnes, YouthBuild Student
- Cheryl Keenan, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education
- Marlene Simon-Burroughs, Ph.D., Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education
- Sherry West, Division of Youth Services, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

## Learning Objectives

- Recognize the components that all youth need in order to successfully transition from early and secondary education to post-secondary employment and education.
  - What additional supports that youth with disabilities from diverse backgrounds may need to facilitate their transition from the classroom?
- Be familiar with the different pathways that exist for youth transitioning into employment.
  - What are the entry points for youth seeking competitive employment?
  - What common barriers exist that prevent youth from obtaining or sustaining competitive employment in integrated settings? What supports must be provided to facilitate seamless transition?
- Understand how systems and policies can be strengthened to facilitate transition from the classroom to post-secondary education and employment.
  - How does this relate to the concept of universal design?

## Readings and Resources

- Guideposts for Success - <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/topic/guideposts>
- Comprehensive Career Planning and Its Role in the Competitive Global Economy - <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/node/552>
- ESEA Reauthorization: A Blueprint for Reform - <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/index.html>
- Cultivating Leadership: Mentoring Youth With/ Disabilities - <http://www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/fact/cultivate.htm>
- On the Nexus of Race, Disability and Overrepresentation - <http://www.urbanschools.org/pdf/race.pdf>
- How to Recruit People with Disabilities From College Campuses - <http://www.lighthouse.org/services-and-assistance/career/esight/for-employers/qualified-job-candidates-with-disabilities/>

For more information about Add Us In please visit:  
<http://www.dol.gov/odep/addusin/>  
or contact Day Al-Mohamed at [Day.Al-Mohamed@dol.gov](mailto:Day.Al-Mohamed@dol.gov)

