



**HIGHLIGHTING
SUCCESSFUL
COLLABORATIONS FOR
PRE-EMPLOYMENT
TRANSITION SERVICES**



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



SESSION INFORMATION

- **Please put all questions in the Q&A**
- **Use “speaker view” for the best experience**
- **Mute your microphone during the session presentation**
- **All sessions are being recorded**
- **Complete the survey at the end of the session for PD points – please do not leave the Zoom**

MATT LUTHER

REGIONAL TRANSITION SPECIALIST

DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND

REHABILITATIVE SERVICES (DARS)



Collaborating for Success:

Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

Transition Services for Students with Disabilities

June 28th, 2023

Matt Luther

VA DARS Regional Transition Specialist



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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES









Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

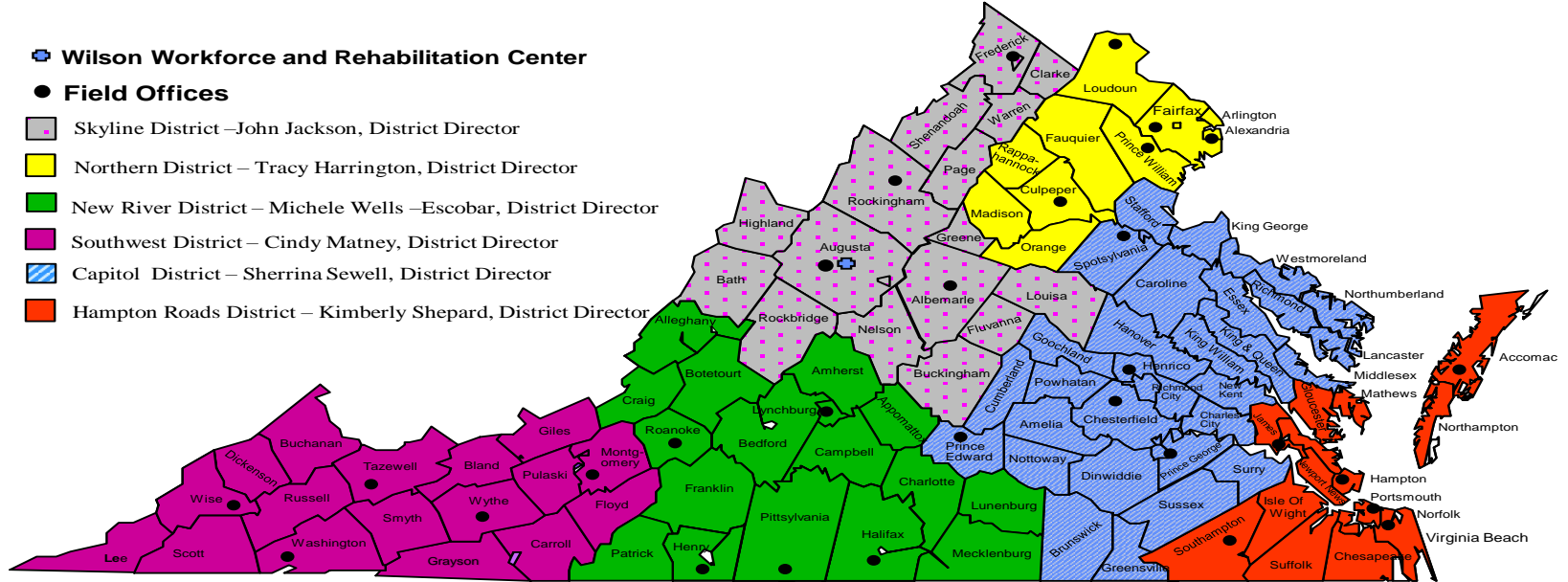
- A state agency with a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program that assists people with disabilities with career exploration, job-seeking and job-keeping services.
- Committed to ensuring individuals with disabilities have opportunities to compete for and enjoy high quality employment
- Services include assistance to Students With Disabilities (SWDs)





Virginia Dept. for Aging and Rehabilitative Services Division of Rehabilitative Services

-  **Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center**
-  **Field Offices**
-  Skyline District – John Jackson, District Director
-  Northern District – Tracy Harrington, District Director
-  New River District – Michele Wells –Escobar, District Director
-  Southwest District – Cindy Matney, District Director
-  Capitol District – Sherrina Sewell, District Director
-  Hampton Roads District – Kimberly Shepard, District Director



Effective 09/25/2021

Pre-ETS for Students with Disabilities (SWDs)

- A SWD is:
 - ages 14 to 21 (22 if birthday is during school year);
 - in a secondary, post-secondary or other recognized education program; and
 - an individual with a documented disability



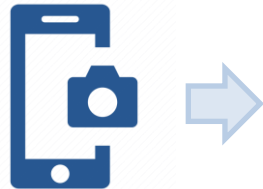
DARS and Students with Disabilities

- DARS offers two sets of services to Students With Disabilities (SWDs)
 - Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
 - Do not require an eligibility determination.
 - Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services
 - Do require an eligibility determination.



Referring Students for Pre-ETS

- Anybody can refer a student (teacher, case worker, student/family, etc.)
 - Referral must include the following:
 - [Pre-ETS Information Release & Consent Form](#)
 - Copy of IEP, 504 accommodation, or other documentation verifying disability & school enrollment



Pre-Employment Transition Services

- Designed to:
 - Encourage and support initial career exploration;
 - Enrich transition planning and services available to prepare students for successful careers and adult life; and
 - Empower students to maximize their employment and personal and financial independence.



Pre-Employment Transition Services

- Begin general (mostly group-based) and become more individualized
- May lead to interests that can be further explored through Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services
- Provided at no cost to participants
- May be provided virtually or in person



The Five Pre-ETS

Supports SWDs to...

1. Job Exploration Counseling (JEC)

Learn about career pathways, in-demand industries and occupations, the labor market and their career interests

2. Work-Based Learning (WBL)

Further explore the world of work, occupations and career pathways and have opportunities to practice and improve workplace skills

3. Counseling on Postsecondary Education/Training Options (CPSET)

Develop awareness of the range of postsecondary educational and occupational training opportunities that lead to industry-recognized credentials to prepare for Career Pathways.

4. Workplace Readiness Training (WRT)

Job-seeking, job-keeping, social or interpersonal, and independent living skills (including travel training).

5. Instruction in Self-Advocacy (ISA)

Develop communication, decision-making; and self-determination skills

Where are Pre-ETS provided?

- In schools
 - Planned collaboratively with school personnel
- DARS Field Offices
- Community (e.g. businesses, college campuses)
- Virtually



When do Pre-ETS End?

- Student is no longer interested in or available to receive Pre-ETS; or
- Individual no longer meets the definition of a Student with a Disability (SWD).



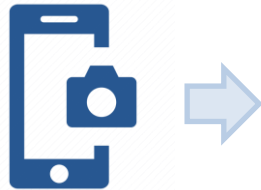
Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and VR Transition Services

- Pre-ETS help students get an early start exploring careers of interest and developing foundational skills.
- VR Transition services are designed to support students pursue their goals as they transition out of school.



To Learn More and Get Connected...

- Check out our DARS website: <https://vadars.org/>
- Visit our Pre-ETS and VR Transition Services page: <https://vadars.org/drs/transitionservices.htm>
- Find your local DARS office (Scan QR Code Below):



Youth/Adult Referrals to DRS

- To refer yourself or someone you know (with their consent):
 - [Contact your local DRS office](#) or call 1-800-552-5019 to be appropriately directed.
 - DRS accepts self-referrals and referrals from social workers, doctors, mental health professionals, high school teachers, family, employers, hospitals and many others.
- Once a referral is received, an initial intake meeting is scheduled with an assigned local VR counselor to complete an application for VR services and begin the eligibility determination process.



Examples of VR Services

Counseling and Guidance

Job Placement

Vocational Evaluation

Customized Employment

Situational Assessments

Job Coach Training Services

On-the-Job Training

Supported Employment

Unpaid Work Experiences

Self-Employment Enterprise

Assistive Technology Assessments and Services/Accommodations

Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC)

Postsecondary Education/Vocational Training

Support services (Job readiness training, resume development, application assistance, driver's education, time-limited transportation assistance, etc.)



Wilson Workforce & Rehabilitation Center (WWRC)

- Campus located in Fishersville, VA
- Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation Training (PERT)
 - 5-day career exploration and on-campus independent living skills
- Vocational Evaluation Services
- Vocational Training programs
 - Include employment PREP programming to teach soft skills
- *New* National Retail Federation Customer Service Credentialing
- Medical Services (occupational, speech/language, physical, cognitive)
- Assistive Technology & AAC
- Driver Evaluation & Training (including modified)



Collaborations with Secondary Education

Working with VDOE and LEAs
Successful Collaborations for Pre-ETS



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The logo for CREATE Transition Success features a stylized sunburst with seven rays in red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Below the sunburst, the word "CREATE" is written in large, bold, green capital letters, and "Transition Success" is written in smaller, dark blue capital letters below it.

CREATE

Transition Success

- CREATE Transition Success is an event bringing regional school and DARS staff together with community partners to network, learn, and plan student- focused transition activities together.
- Hosted first event in VDOE's Superintendent Region 2 (Hampton Roads) on August 2nd at the Norfolk Mariner's Museum. To be planned in the remaining 7 VDOE regions soon!
- Planned collaboratively between VA DARS, VDOE TTACs, VCU-CTI, VDOE CTE WBL coordinators, DBVI, and WWRC.



Amherst HS Lunch 'n Learn

HUNTER RETAN (VRC LYNCHBURG DRS) PARTNERED WITH AMHERST HIGH SCHOOL TO HOST A LUNCH AND LEARN EVENT FOR 20 STUDENTS WHO EXPLORED JOBS THANKS TO CAREER SPEAKERS FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MEDICAL (NURSING) FIELDS.



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Virginia Food for Virginia Kids Initiative



- Virginia DARS has been partnering with VDOE's School Nutrition Programs on the workforce development subcommittee to get students and youth with disabilities into paid work experiences with school nutrition programs.
- Nathan Roberts (VRC Lynchburg DRS) had the first DARS client, a young man recently graduated from Project SEARCH, to become placed and permanently employed through this program.

Collaborations with Higher Education

Virginia's 2- and 4-year Colleges
Successful Collaborations for Pre-ETS



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Virginia Highlands Community College



Brennan O'Quinn and Lauren O'Quinn (Abingdon DRS Office) worked with Patti Hodge to coordinate a Career Academy at Virginia Highlands Community College. Students from Washington County and Bristol City Public Schools explored the Manufacturing and Healthcare fields. Students made key chains in the CNC lab, while in the Healthcare field they experienced injecting dummy arms with needles and a nursing simulation lab. Students handled real bodily organs and examined cadavers in a lab that would be taken if they go the healthcare route. Brennan had students stating they wished to go to VHCC after the experience.



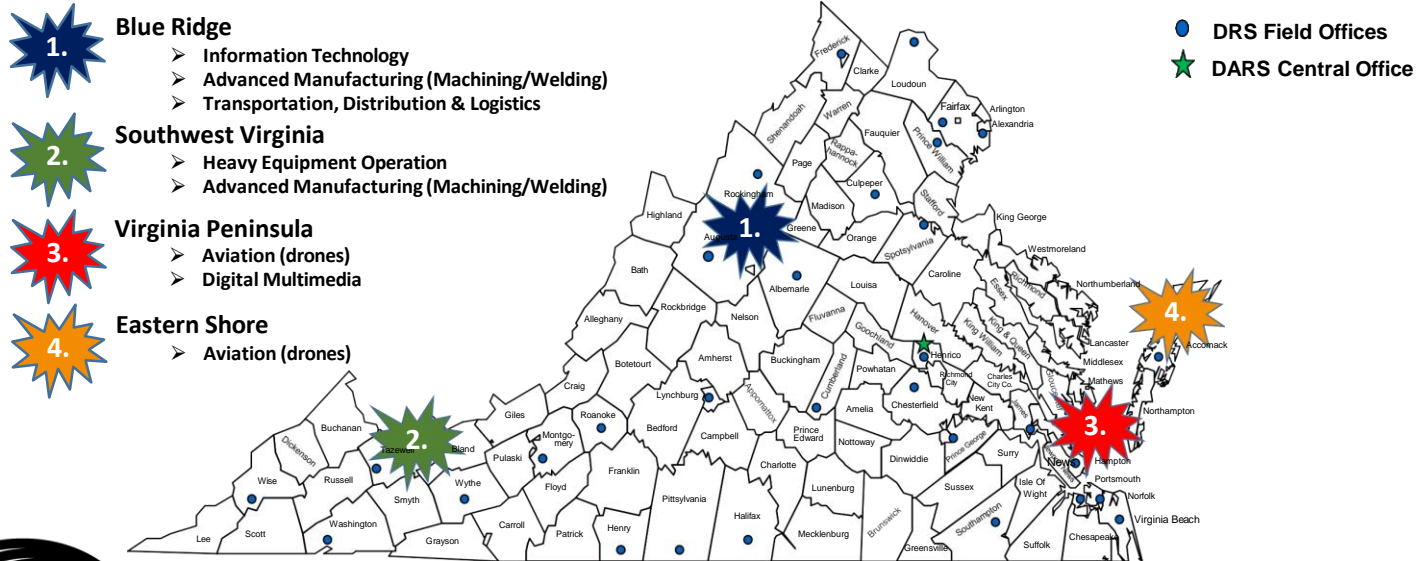
Disability Resource Fair

THE MARTINSVILLE DRS OFFICE (GENEVIEVE COOLEY AND SHERMALE MOTLEY, VRCs) PARTNERED WITH PATRICK HENRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (PHCC) TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT DISABILITY RESOURCES WITH HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS VISITING THE PHCC CAMPUS.



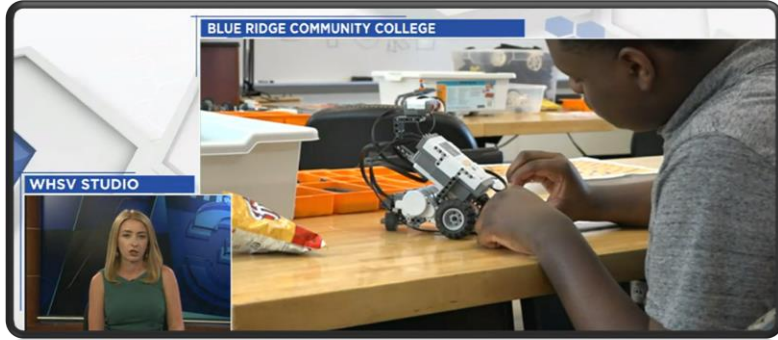
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2022 Summer Career Academies



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WHSV - Students Explore Potential Career Paths through BRCC Summer Program



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DEPARTMENT OF AGING, ADULT SERVICES
 AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

VCCS SUMMER PRE-ETS ACADEMY 2022

EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE (CHOOSE ONE) IN:

MONDAY - THURSDAY | AUG 1-4, 2022 | 9 AM - 4:30 PM

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WELDING AND MACHINING TRUCK DRIVING AND LOGISTICS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 (students will attend one class on each of the four days)
ROBOTICS
 The robotics class will cover complete mechanical assembly of a simple robot, use of the PASCAL programming language to control a simple robot, connecting simple electrical circuits, and learning the operation of a continuous rotation servo.
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY
 Do you have an interest in creating digital art or want to pursue a career in photography or graphic design? Here is your chance to be equipped in entering world of digital photography and work with Adobe software to create a piece of digital art you can take home. You do not need to own or bring a camera.
CYBERSECURITY
 Hacking, malware, and viruses, oh my! Explore various topics in Cyber Security, including how to minimize potential risks in your own online experiences, as well as learning about career opportunities in the booming Cyber Security field.
WEB DESIGN AND COMPUTER CODING
 The web development and coding class offers instruction about how to create a simple web page, design aspects, adding graphics and photography, and introduction to JavaScript programming language.

TRANSPORTATION, LOGISTICS, & HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATION
 BRCC will introduce students to the industries of transportation, logistics, and heavy equipment operation. Students will operate trucks and heavy equipment simulators and real forklifts. The basic understanding of logistics will be discussed, as well as Global Supply Chain, Material Handling, Workplace Communication and more.
WELDING AND MACHINING
 Students will be introduced to the industries of welding, metal forming and fabrication, as well as manual and computer numerically controlled machines and machining processes. The introduction will include both virtual training and practice along with actual hands-on welding and cutting operations. The basic understanding of machine tools and the role they play in modern manufacturing will be the focus of this endeavor.

LUNCH INCLUDED!

BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS AGES 14-21
 Covered by grant funding: visit www.vccs.edu
 Interested students must be referred by their DARS counselor. Contact the Fisheries or Horticulture DARS office for details and to register.



Collaborations with Employers

Successful Collaborations for Pre-ETS



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Winchester Job Shadow Videos

Winchester DARS partnered with several local businesses to put work-based learning videos on YouTube.

- [Lowe's](#)
- [Shaffer's Barbeque and Catering](#)
- [Toray Plastics](#)
- [The Williams Brothers Corporation of America](#)
- [Samantha M. Greenfield Designs in Floral Artistry](#)



Collaborations with Providers

Our Helping Hands in the Community
Successful Collaborations for Pre-ETS



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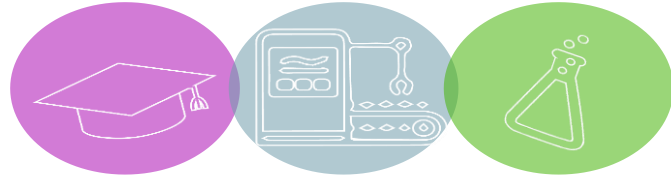
Summer Work Experience (Harrisonburg)



- Abby is a 17-year-old homeschooled student from Rockingham County. When she first began working with Anna Starke (VRC, Harrisonburg DRS) she expressed a variety of talents and interests with regards to employment. Abby's hobbies included crocheting, welding, gardening, shearing sheep, making wool, designing belts and purses on a loom, leather work and much more. Abby was determined to be a good candidate for a Summer Work Experience and was referred to a skills trainer at Career Support Systems (CSS).
- The Skills Trainer had a good connection with the Frontier Culture Museum and Abby was able to begin a summer work experience, and even received help from her skills trainer to capture her experience in a portfolio. She has continued to volunteer there independently and is hopeful to take additional courses to assist her in obtaining future employment at the Frontier Culture Museum.



Summer Work Experience



- Prince William County Parks and Recreation with
- Stacy Chapman, Didlake and Deana Holinka,
Manassas DARS





Prince William County Parks & Recreation



Stacy Chapman, Didlake
Deana Holinka, Manassas DRS



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Thank you!

Matt Luther, Regional Transition Specialist

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Earn Your PD Points!

Please complete the
survey at the end of this
Zoom session