



# Limitless Learning After High School

How to Imagine, Create and Cultivate Job opportunities for your students in urban and rural settings

*a brighter future for children with disabilities*

[www.tnstep.org](http://www.tnstep.org)

# STEP: Who We Are & What We Do

**Support and Training for Exceptional Parents, Inc. (STEP) is a statewide not-for-profit established in 1989 serving Tennessee families. We are Tennessee's PTI - Parent Training and Information Center.**

## **WHO do we help?**

Families or caregivers in Tennessee with children and youth, birth to 26, with a diagnosed or suspected disability or special healthcare/ mental health need. STEP believes parents and caregivers are a child's best advocate.

## **HOW do we help?**

- ★ Navigating special education laws
- ★ IEP or 504 Plan review and assistance
- ★ Workshops and in-person training
- ★ Referrals to other agencies
- ★ Life after high school planning
- ★ Training videos and webinars
- ★ Collaboration and communication
- ★ Special education updates

**Services are FREE for Tennessee families**

# Our Mission

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**STEP's Mission** is to serve families of children and youth, young adults, and those who are involved in their lives.

**We provide** accurate, timely, and relevant information and training related to special education rights, equal access to quality education, and connections to community resources.

**We believe** that parents and caregivers are their children's best advocates, and that youth disabilities should be self-advocates.

**We know** that families and youth who are informed, empowered, and engaged can effectively collaborate as part of a team for services and supports that will lead to improved outcomes and success in life.



# Agenda:

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- Introductions
- Discuss the Impact that each Transition Program has had on Students, Families and Communities
- Identify Challenges and Discuss what was done or continues to be done to address those and improve the program
- Suggestions for anyone looking to start a School Based Enterprise or Community Based Transition Program



# Introductions

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- Mr. Tyler Lisowski
- Community Based Transition Program
- Metro-Nashville Public Schools

# Introductions

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- Brandi Hays: Smith County High School.
- IEP Transition Coordinator
- School Based Enterprise
- Upper Cumberland Work Based Learning
- LEAD



# Introductions



- Vanessa Johnson:
- Putnam County Schools Independence Program
- Located on the Campus of Tennessee Tech University

# Student, Family and Community Impact



- Brandi Hays: Smith County High School
- Valuable Job/Soft Skills
- Students make all of the Awards for Sports/Clubs at School
- PIE Conference attendance yearly





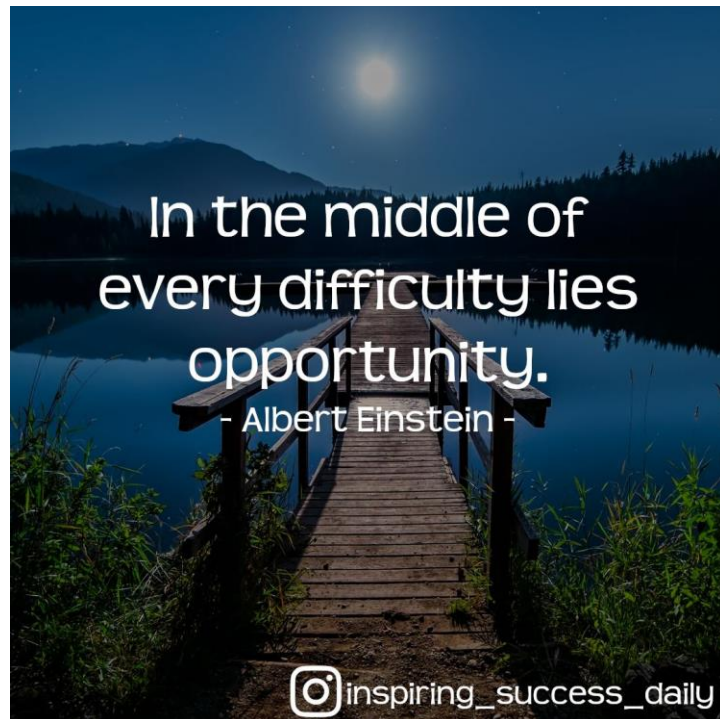
# Student, Family and Community Impact



- Vanessa Johnson: Putnam County Schools Independence Program
- Social Skills developed by being on a College Campus
- School Based Enterprise develops employment skills
- Community Based Job Sites: Many students exit program with paid employment

# Overcoming Obstacles

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- Vanessa Johnson: Putnam County Schools Independence Program
- Gaining approval for the program
- Finding appropriate job sites
- Transportation logistics
- Inventory for School Based Enterprise

# Overcoming Obstacles

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- Brandi Hayes: Smith County Schools
- Buy in from School Teams and Clubs
- Buy in from Administration
- Keeping up with finances



# Overcoming Obstacles

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- Tyler Lisowski: Community Based Transition
- Classroom Space
- Job sites that don't lead to paid employment, tough decisions
- Management/staff not on board
- Parent concerns



# Suggestions for starting a program

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- Tyler Lisowski: Community Based Transition
- It makes sense vs. charity/pity
- Make it meaningful
- Take the time to develop relationships/cultivate opportunities
- Maintain Relationships



# Suggestions for starting a program

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- Vanessa Johnson: Putnam County Schools Independence Program
- Visit other WBL and School Based Enterprise Programs before starting
- Learn from other's mistakes
- Allow students to research products or business that work for the school

# Questions?

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# More Information



[www.youtube.com/user/TNStep](http://www.youtube.com/user/TNStep)



## Events Calendar

[www.tnstep.org/events/](http://www.tnstep.org/events/)



## Workshops

English & Spanish



## STEP's Parent Manual

View on front page of

[www.tnstep.org](http://www.tnstep.org),

or order disc or hardcopy



[www.facebook.com/steptn](http://www.facebook.com/steptn)



# Empowering Families to Ensure a Brighter Future for Children with Disabilities

This is a journey and the STEP staff is available to provide support, information, and training to families and students!

Call 800-280-7837 or your local office

## West Tennessee

Memphis and Shelby/Fayette/Tipton counties

(901) 726-4334

All other West counties

(731) 225-6034

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# Share Your Thoughts

Please take a moment to take our parent survey.

INSERT LINK HERE

INSERT QR CODE HERE

