

J.E.S.S.E. Newsletter

January 2016



Hope everyone had an excellent winter break! As we begin the second semester, we hope everyone has a great rest of the school year. Never hesitate to call the JESSE office for help, guidance, and support!

New Transition/Vocational Coordinator



Please welcome Angie Resendez as the new JESSE Transition/Vocational Coordinator replacing Johnna Ramer. Johnna will definitely be missed, but we are very excited with the addition of Angie to our team. Angie started her career in education with JESSE as a paraprofessional in a life skills classroom at Argos Community Schools in 2008. Angie completed student teaching at Argos in the fall of 2014 working in a cross-categorical (mild disabilities) classroom. Angie graduated from IUSB with a master's degree in Special Education- Mild Interventions in the spring of 2015. For the fall semester of 2015, Angie did a maternity leave in a mild disabilities classroom at Argos High School.

Transition Inservices

In the upcoming weeks, Joni Schmalzried, Project Coordinator for the Center on Community Living and Careers, which is part of the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, will be visiting schools for assistance with transition IEPs. Scheduled times and locations were in a recent document provided by Linda. This only applies to teachers who do Transition IEPs. You can also check times/locations through the following link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DZvyY5x-_GD0BngrFoU8ZAjSt75UVteajA-jN-FyHJo/edit

Tom Dulle Scholarship Fund

It's that time of year again for high school seniors to start filling out applications for the Tom Dulle Achievement Scholarship. Eligible candidates must have a current IEP in place and attend one of the nine schools that JESSE serves. This scholarship is in honor of a man who served 17 years as the first director of JESSE. This is the 17th year for our \$500 scholarship. It is awarded annually to a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in his or her educational career, and shows promise to further his or her education beyond high school. All applications must be received no later than April 11, 2016.

*An electronic copy of the scholarship application will be sent to each school corporation.



Success Story

Meet Ryan Calhoun from Argos High School. At the end of last school year, Ryan wasn't sure if he wanted to finish the needed courses to earn his diploma due to various frustrations. Ryan became determined over the summer to finish what he had started. After splitting his school day between Plymouth Academy and Argos High School during the fall semester, we are proud to report that Ryan has earned his diploma and will be attending IVY Tech in South Bend. Not only did he complete the required coursework, but Ryan also finished very strong academically! He was a role model for other students in the class, and through the help of our alternative program, Ryan found success in the end!

Focus on Inclusion – PD Opportunity

February 23-24, Indianapolis: Focus on Inclusion Conference - \$135 for one day; \$225 for both days. Various breakout sessions to choose from, along with many BIG names in education presenting. Carpooling can be arranged upon request through JESSE. <https://www.indianaieprc.org/index.php/events/annual-focus-on-inclusion-conference>

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