

## PRESS RELEASE



**For Immediate Release**  
Wednesday, October 2, 2013

**Contact:** Judy Osgood  
775.687.9201  
[josgood@doe.nv.gov](mailto:josgood@doe.nv.gov)

### THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HOLDS INAUGURAL TRANSITION CONFERENCE

**Carson City, Nevada** – The Nevada Department of Education is collaborating with the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities to hold the First Annual Nevada Transition Conference on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas. The theme of this year's inaugural conference is *Youth in Transition – The Pathway to Success*. The conference brings over 300 educators, adult service providers, and parents together from across the state to discuss current trends and best practices to help Nevada students with disabilities successfully transition from high school to employment or post-secondary education.

“Secondary transition is an important stage of the education process for all high school students, but our students with disabilities face unique challenges that require additional support during high school and after graduation,” says Superintendent of Public Instruction Dale Erquiaga. “This conference provides a valuable networking and professional development opportunity that will allow us to better meet the needs of Nevada’s students with disabilities.”

The conference will include nationally recognized speakers and leaders as well as state and local experts. Keynote speaker LeDerick Horne is a nationally recognized motivational speaker and advocate for people with disabilities. Other confirmed national speakers include:

- **Mary Morningstar** - Associate Professor of Special Education at the University of Kansas and Director of the Transition Coalition, which offers online transition professional development and resources for secondary special educators and practitioners;
- **Ed O’Leary** - Program Specialist for Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center, a U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs funded project that helps build the capacity of State Education Agencies in improving programs and services for youth with disabilities;
- **Stephan Smith** - Executive Director of the Association on Higher Education and Disability in Charlotte, North Carolina;

## PRESS RELEASE

- **Larry Kortering** - Professor of Special Education at Appalachian State University, with extensive experience with secondary special education programs, school dropout issues, and transition;
- **Curtis Richards** - Senior Fellow, Center for Workforce Development at the Institute for Educational Leadership and previous Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the U.S. Department of Education;
- **Mindy Larson** – Senior Program Associate, Center for Workforce Development at the Institute for Educational Leadership; and
- **Jennifer Cease-Cook** - graduate assistant working on the National Secondary Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC) grant at University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC), and a doctoral student in the Department of Special Education and Child Development at UNCC, specializing in transition focused education and services.

For conference information and registration go to <http://nced.info/ntc/>.

###