

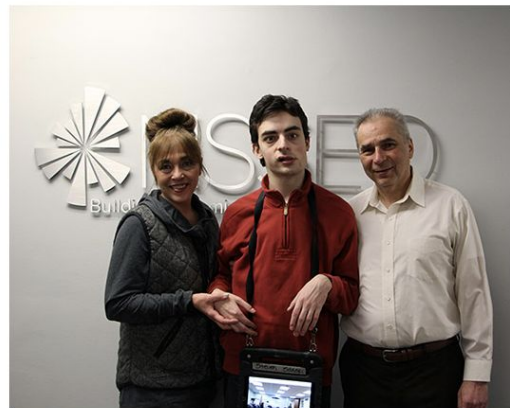


NSSEO Governing Board Brief

March 7, 2018

Engage. Connect. Grow.

March NSSEO Shining Stars- School, Family, Community Partnerships



The NSSEO Governing Board recognized two former students, a parent and a community partner during the Shining Star component of the Board agenda. These honorees were celebrated for their efforts to ensure successful transitions to adult life.

Michelle Schwartz is the Transition Outreach Specialist for Clearbrook, an adult agency that provides services and supports to families and young adults to assist with navigating the complex world of Transition. Michelle is an incredible partner to NSSEO families, engages in IEP meetings and facilitates Transition talks at the PERC for parents. NSSEO appreciates the dedication of Michelle and Clearbrook as a

collaborative partner with a shared vision on developing authentic life plans for our students.

Stephanie Matthias is an involved parent of a twelve-year-old Miner student. She is an engaged and eager parent, committed to learning as much as possible to assist her son in meeting his targeted adult outcomes. Stephanie began this journey on her own but has become a very involved and collaborative parent, participating in the events and trainings of the Parent Education Resource Center (PERC) since it opened, along with being an active Miner PTA parent and supporter. Stephanie models the importance of inquiry, seeking ongoing information, and networking to navigate and access adult service opportunities for students in their post-secondary planning. Stephanie exemplifies the critical role of a parent partner in building bridges and linkages that enhance the opportunities and navigate the complex road of transition planning.

Steven Solinski graduated from Kirk School in June, 2017. Throughout his high school and transition years, Steven participated in a variety of activities through the Center for Enriched Living (CEL), a community-based adult agency for young adults. He expressed interest in attending their program in the future. Throughout the transition planning process, the Kirk team worked collaboratively with Steven, his family and CEL to ensure a seamless transition from school to CEL. At CEL, Steven enjoys volunteering with Meals on Wheels and going into the community with his friends.

Alfredo Salinas graduated from Miner School this past January. Alfredo worked in a number of jobs while he was in school, which included dishwashing at Kirk School and Gus' Diner along with a job at the Doubletree Hotel. He continues to gravitate towards restaurant roles as his preferred jobs. More recently he expanded his work experience at Busse Car Wash, which lead to competitive, part time employment. Alfredo has many roles at Busse Car Wash but his main responsibilities include drying the cars and cleaning floor mats. In November, 2017, he was hired as a dishwasher at Buca di Beppo restaurant. He enjoys working with a great team at the restaurant and balances his work schedule between Busse Car Wash and Buca di Beppo with a solid work ethic and dedication to his work.

NSSEO is proud of our students' successes and grateful for the ongoing partnership of parent and community supporters. These stories highlight that together as a team, our students will achieve great outcomes. Their success reflects an important NSSEO value; looking beyond what is to what is possible.

Transition Mindset - Goal 2 of NSSEO Continuous Improvement Plan

During the 2017-2018 school year, the NSSEO Transition Services Leadership Team comprised of administrators, employment and transition staff members, has focused its efforts on three core initiatives:

- Development and implementation of IEP Best Practices for Transition
- Development and implementation of job coach training modules
- Opening of the NSSEO Parent Education Resource Center (PERC)

Ms. Cathi Ivack led the Transition mindset discussion for the NSSEO Governing Board. The Transition Services Leadership team representatives shared the focus of this extensive board goal designed to project an integrated, long-term IEP development process driven by individual student's preferred adult outcomes from an earlier age and enhancing the likelihood of greater achievement of student educational outcomes. Results from the job coaching and other trainings throughout the year support the strong correlation between consistent, high quality supports and professional development for job coaches and improved student outcomes. The emphasis on building a stronger, more engaged school/parent partnership to provide parents with greater understanding and confidence to advocate for their children during the post-secondary process is reflected in the opening and ongoing supports and networking at PERC. The transition growth mindset is propelled by a vision focused intently on the life plans for students, that focuses every decision on the life dreams students develop with their families and school teams. The importance of this work and the growing positive impacts reflect an incredible and collaborative team effort. Click the link to see the Transition Services Leadership Team and PERC in action.

<https://vimeo.com/259738050>

Administrative Announcements

Three administrators were approved by the NSSEO Governing Board; two are internal candidates advancing to administrative positions and one administrator new to NSSEO, all three positions effective for the 2018-2019 school year.

Ms. Rebecca Dusek, assumes the role of Transition Specialist who will replace Greg Hill, who is retiring after 25 years of dedicated service to NSSEO. Rebecca has been a Transition Specialist assistant for the past seven years and is highly regarded and appreciated by staff, families and districts. Given Becky's enthusiasm and passion for positive student outcomes, coupled with exceptional collaborative skills, knowledge and established relationships with our high school districts, Becky was the best match for the position.

Mr. Mike Browning assumes the role as NSSEO Buildings and Grounds Coordinator. After 30 years of exemplary service, Bob Parotto will be retiring this June. Mike has trained with Bob and the team, learning the complexities and priorities of the position. Mike possesses exceptional interpersonal skills, approaches issues in a calm, thoughtful manner matched with a keen technical skill set. Mike's tenure at NSSEO has included work as a night custodian and for the past few years as Lead Custodian at Timber Ridge School. We are confident the transition will be smooth and reflective of the dedicated team approach to building and grounds.

Mr. Erik Brekke will be the Instructional Coordinator at Kirk School, filling Cathi Ivack's role as she moves into Principalship of Kirk School over the summer of 2018. Erik joins NSSEO with extensive teaching experience working with students with very significant educational needs, coupled with coaching, school/family connections and an advanced specialized degree. Given Erik's unmatched passion for students with complex needs, his ability to integrate and individualize instruction to unique needs, he will be the perfect addition to Kirk School Leadership Team.

Upcoming NSSEO Events

- ISBE Overview and Program Visit: Monday, March 19th
- NSSEO Legislative Roundtable: Thursday, March 22nd
- STEM Science Fair: Monday, April 30th