

# **Education...the Stepping stone to Employment**

**My Journey....Past, Present and  
Future**

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# Objectives

## The Past...

- To share the highlights of my journey through Primary and Secondary Education with a *student centered* IEP.
- Emphasize the importance of a committed Transition Team *utilizing the Student Centered Model* to Explore Career Opportunities and Receive a post secondary education.

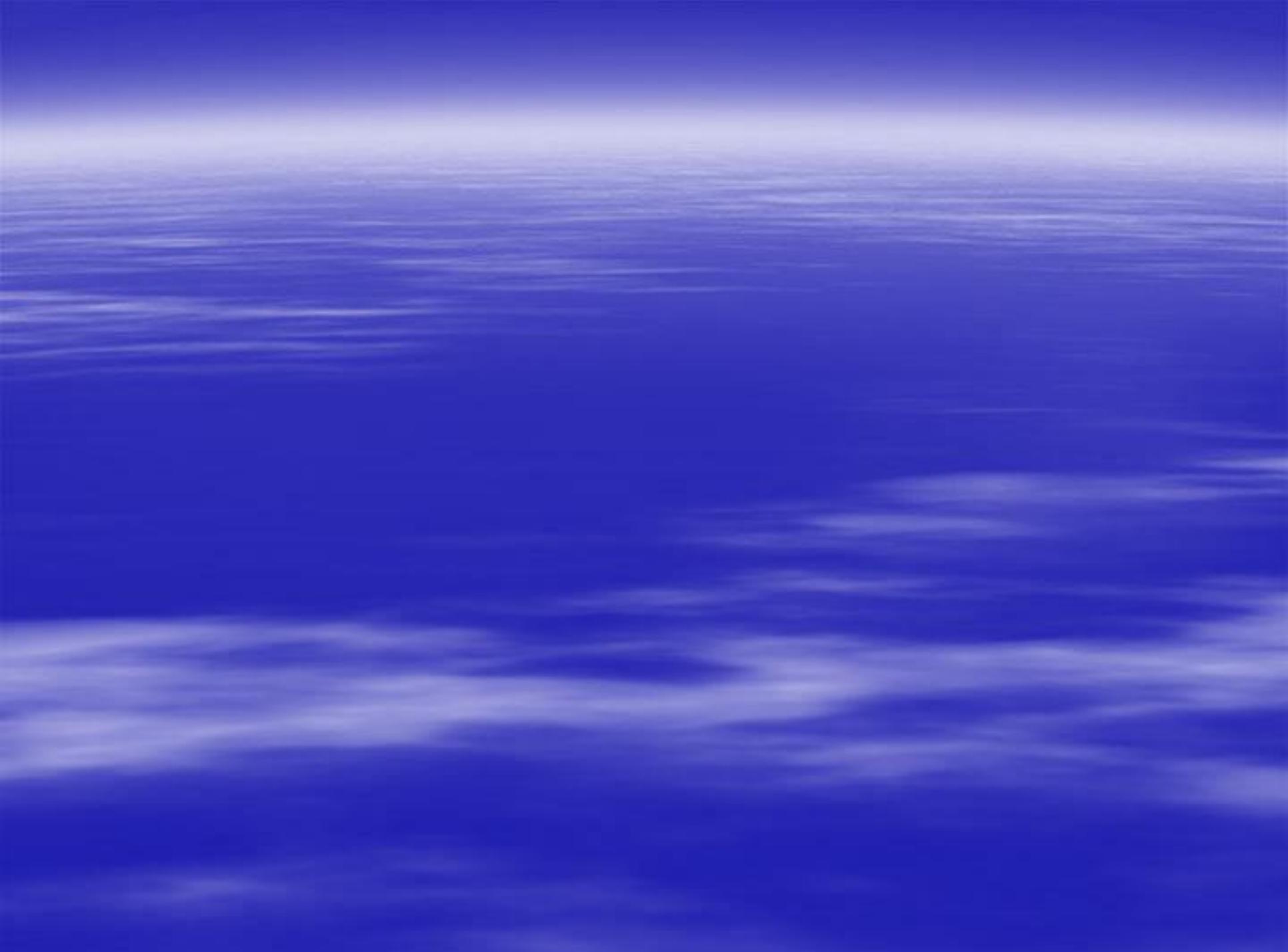
# Objectives continued...

## The Present...

- Describe the journey thus far to achieve
  - Independent Living Skills.
  - Employment/ Education Re assessed!
  - Integration into the Community.

## The Future...

- Be a *Socially Valued Person*
  - Going beyond “special” and instead embracing what’s typical and valued



# My Journey through School.....

## **Elementary-Mill Creek (1994-2000)**

- Regular curriculum
- PT/OT/Speech
- Vacation: Homework/Tutoring-Montessori method

## **Middle-Tates Creek (2000-2003)**

- Front row seat, large font texts, extra time for tests and set of text books for home.
- I had 2 hours of private tutoring daily

# **Tates Creek High School**

## **2003-2007 (9-12)**

- **All accommodations from Middle school were continued.**
- **Scantron for test taking was eliminated.**
- **Private tuition: Daily for 2 hours**
- **Graduation: June, 2007 with High School Diploma**  
**GPA 3.75; Governors Scholar for 4 years !**

# Transition From High School to College A Team Effort!

- Ms Vickie Campbell (Head of Special-Ed)
- Ms Betty Dedman (My case manager)
- *All my regular education teachers*
- My parents
- Ms Veronica Miller (Special- Ed, BCTCS),
- Ms Veronica Dale (Counselor, Voc-Rehab) and Me!
- I enrolled in BCTC in the Fall of 2007.

# Extra Curricular Activities

- 1995-2003- Gymnastics (World Games:2003)
- 2000 to 2013- Cheer leading (National Competitions with the Show Cats)
- 2003 to Present-Aquatics (WorldGames:2007)
- 1998 to Present- Piano
- Served as a Board member for Protection & Advocacy (State) and Best Buddies at UK.
- Advocate for Special Olympics of KY.
- Guest Speaker Advocating for persons with Intellectual disabilities to be in Inclusive classrooms, Post Secondary Education and Employment

# **Accommodations @ BCTCS (2007-2013)**

**Special Ed department notified instructor:**

- **Extra time for tests (double the regular time)**
- **Use of Scantron for tests eliminated**
- **Notes/ tests provided in large font**
- **Academic Support service provided by OVR**

**(Academic coach attended class, took notes and provided tutoring).**

# College Experience BCTCS 2007-2013

- Enrolled in the Fall of 2007
- Required Remedial classes in Math and English.
- Changed major from OTA to Para Educator.
- This decision resulted in extra course work!
- Graduated Spring 2013 with Honors-GPA 3.70!

# **New Year Resolutions for 2013**

- **Graduate from College with my Associates Degree in Education**
- **Get a Paid Job as a Para Educator!**
- **Get my Driver's License!**

# Another Dream!



# Update on my Independent Living Skills

- **Driver's License -December 27, 2013.**
  - OVR provided Driver Instruction Services
  - Modified Mom's vehicle to meet my needs.
- **Live in my own apartment modified for my needs.**
- **Services provided by M-P waiver under Medicaid.**
  - Home making skills/money management.
  - Respite services

# Employment

- **Supported Employment - OVR/ M-P waiver.**
  - **Job Coach assigned to me.**
  - **Assistance with developing Resume,**
  - **Assistance with interview skills.**
  - **Apply for positions in Elementary/Pre school program as a Para Educator.**

# Employment History...

- August 2013 - June, 2015: After School Program Picadome Elementary School.
- July, 2014 – August 2015: Lunch Monitor at SP&P, pre school program AND Counselor, After school program.
- August 2015-Present: Counselor, Afterschool Program at Meadowthorpe Elementary.
  - Supervise KG/First grade students.

# **Glimpse into the Future**

## **...Education Re assessed!**

- **Enrolled at BCTC to obtain Associates certificate as a Para Educator in General Education – Completed, Fall 2014.**
- **Transferred all my credits and enrolled at UK to obtain Bachelor's Degree in Special Education with a major in Learning Behavior Disorders-Fall 2014.**
- **I have completed 80 credit hours and have a GPA of 3.23**

## My story as it relates to education and our role in improving education for persons with disabilities

- Elementary – Inclusion and Individualized Education plan (IEP)
  - Middle school: challenges- Bullying and my inability to defend myself!
  - High school- Committed Transition Planning Team which was Person centered and designed with my interest in going to college
- Goal: Associate degree as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) and then switched my major to education



# Glimpse into the Future...

- I am taking only one or two classes per semester because I know employment is important.
- I intend to continue in my job so I can improve my skills working with children.
- I not only help students one on one with their home work, I now supervise large group activities with the First Graders-I really enjoy working with them!

# Person Centered Planning to Achieve Megan's Dreams

- Transportation
- Work
- Community Activities
- CLS
- Federated Transportation

- Supported Employment
- OVR, M-P Waiver
- Job Coach

- Advocates
- Family
- Siblings
- Friends
- Peers

- Health and Well Being
- Physicians
- Religious Community
- Community Living Support



# Megan's Goals

- **Independent Living**
  - Live in my own home
  - Be competent in Home Making skills.
  - Money Management- Credit card/checking account
- **Employment – Fulltime with benefits!**
- **Own and drive my car to work**
- **Be a tax paying citizen and a *Socially Valued Person!***

# **Socially Valued Person Qualifications**

**Education**

**Job**

# A Win –Win for Employee, Co-Workers and Employer!

## Employee:

- High work ethic.  
Low absenteeism, Pride in job well done!
- A desire to learn and improve performance.  
Acceptance of constructive criticism,
- A Positive Attitude, Honesty and Loyalty!

## Employer/Co workers:

- Acceptance of the Value of Every person!

# Conclusion

- I hope that sharing my journey has helped you know that raising the expectations and providing the necessary supports will help persons with intellectual disabilities achieve their full potential.
- Education is only a stepping stone to getting the job we want.
- Person centered planning is essential for success academically and in employment.

.....I am Loving it!!



Thank you for your attention!