

Able South Carolina
720 Gracern Rd., Suite 106
Columbia, SC 29210
803-779-5121; 800-681-6805
803-779-5114 Fax
803-779-0949 TTY
www.able-sc.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kimberly Tissot, Executive Director – ktissot@able-sc.org
803-779-5121 Ext. 224

Transition Conference to Support Youth with Disabilities in South Carolina Brings in National Speakers

Columbia, SC (March 12) – Able South Carolina’s annual transition conferences, Empowering A Future and Mapping Your Future, will be held on Friday March 15 and Saturday March 16 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The two-day event is designed to raise expectations, foster awareness of best practices, and build critical skills that will empower youth with disabilities to succeed in adulthood.

Honored guest Julie Hocker, who serves as the Commissioner of the Administration on Disability at the Administration on Community Living within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will share valuable insight to support the employment initiatives taking place in South Carolina. “I am thrilled to be in South Carolina to speak at Empowering a Future,” Says Hocker. “At ACL we know employment is a direct pathway to sustainable self-sufficiency. Integrated employment at competitive wages is a vital part to community living, and we believe it should be the expectation for all people with disabilities. With 60,000 unfilled jobs in SC today, we know that people with disabilities entering the job force is critical to our nation’s strong & growing economy.” LeDerick Horne, a dynamic speaker and advocate for people with disabilities, will provide the keynote address.

Empowering A Future provides content from pre-employment transition services to best practices in self-determination skills building for professionals working alongside youth with disabilities in South Carolina. “It’s with the best of intentions that people have spent the last several decades working to keep young adults with disabilities safe,” Says Charlie Walters, Director of Transition Programs. “These conferences however, focus on providing support to keep young adults fully included as they age out of high school and enter the workplace, post-secondary education and training, and their communities at large.”

Mapping Your Future is a FREE half-day conference for youth with disabilities and their families to learn more about pursuing their goals in employment, education/training, and independent living. During Mapping Your Future, participants will hear from their peers about independent living, employment, and education and will have the opportunity to connect with the community service providers that are there to support them.

Empowering A Future and Mapping Your Future 2019 are made possible through support from Able South Carolina, Transition Alliance of South Carolina, SC Department of Education, and the SC Assistive Technology Program. Pre-employment transition services to students attending the conference are provided by SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

For more information on either conference, please contact Charlie Walters by phone at 803-779-5121, ext. 133 or email at cwalters@able-sc.org.

ABOUT ABLE SOUTH CAROLINA

Able SC is a change agent committed to fostering an inclusive society that empowers individuals with disabilities to live fully-engaged and self-directed lives. Able SC challenges stereotypes, protects disability rights, and champions social reform. To learn more about Able SC's programs and services, please visit www.able-sc.org.

###