

SUCCEEDS
Meeting Minutes
EdVenture Museum
Columbia, SC
April 23, 2004

Tenth Anniversary Meeting of SUCCEEDS
(Founded April 29, 1994)

Attendance: Lafayette Harrison, Debbie Haynes, Mildred Knightner, Rebecca Lawson, Bobbie Lindstrom, Carol Miller, Phil Morris, Pam Niesslein, Karen Pettus, Robert Stuessy, Kathy Wooldridge

[Please note: the full attendance list from this meeting has been lost. If you were there, or you know someone else was there, and are not on the attendance list, please email Robert Stuessy (stuessyr@midlandstech.edu) to add the name(s).

- I. Panel Discussion on Transition Issues for Students with Disabilities
Katherine Fender, SC Department of Education, Department of Exceptional Children
Rosemary Sanders, Richland School District 1, Transition Specialist
Shannon Lindsay, SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department

The three panel members discussed various methods by which we can help high school students transition into the post-secondary arena. Topics of the discussion included the following:

- Preparation for students
- Evaluation and documentation of the disability
- Self-advocacy and self-determination issues
- Inter-agency committees and cohesiveness in delivery of services

II. Business Meeting

- A. Call to Order and Introductions
B. Approval of Minutes for October 23, 2003. Minutes were approved as circulated.
C. Treasurer's Report
Mildred Knightner filed the attached Treasurer's Report
D. New Business
i. Fall Meeting: will be held in Columbia, SC
ii. Elections
1. Pamela Isacco Niesslein, Ph.D., was elected Chair
2. Carol A. Miller was elected Chair-Elect/Vice Chair
3. An Executive Committee comprised of the former Chair (Robert Stuessy), the current Chair (Pam Niesslein), the Chair-Elect (Carol Miller), and the Program Committee Chair (Rebecca Lawson) will meet to plan the next two meetings and to ensure Carol has the training needed to become SUCCEEDS' next Chair.
E. Adjournment

III. Keynote Speech

In honor of our 10th anniversary, we had our Chair from our charter year , Dr. Pamela Isacco Niesslein, offer a keynote speech entitled “*Helping Students SUCCEED: It’s what we do.*” Dr. Niesslein spoke about three students from her past who had a significant impact in her life. Her initial inability to help students with disabilities as so little was known then, but her increasing ability to help students as more and more information was given to educators to help with diagnosis and accommodations. She also took us through important highlights of the SUCCEEDS organization, some past speakers, and demonstrated the important role in information dissemination that SUCCEEDS has played in our lives. We are better service providers because of what we have learned through our discussions, speakers, assistive technology fairs, etc. She concluded with the following: “We have a proud history, now 10 years in the making, of being central to the SUCCESS of our students. Helping students SUCCEED, is it what we do? You bet it is! I would like to congratulate this fine organization on its 10 year anniversary and to thank each and every one of you for your participation in its success. ... [I]t is in the success of each advisor that the success of our students may be found. It is in your dedication that SUCCEEDS as an organization will thrive and flourish so that we can continue our heritage of helping each other and our students SUCCEED.”

IV. Recognition of Founding Members of SUCCEEDS

The following members were recognized for their part in founding this organization: Lafayette Harrison, Pamela Niesslein, Bobbie Lindstrom. Other founding members were recognized in absentia: Ellen Long, Belinda Smalls. Marcia Willenius received special recognition for the idea that grew to be SUCCEEDS. Former and chairs and officers of the organization were also recognized: Cathy Woolridge, Karen Pettus, Debbie Haynes, Phil Morris, Rich Weldon, Eunice Robinson, Lafayette Harrison, Kathy Wooldridge