



STAFF SPOTLIGHT Nicole Saunders Transition Partner

Paulding County Community Collaborates around the Topic of Successful High School Transition

Through team building, GVRA, P2P and Paulding County Schools are bringing resources to families in the school and community to assist in the successful transition to life after high school for students from age 14-24 with disabilities. Nicole Saunders, P2P Transition Partner, is the community connection and family engagement resource for the team. Jeanear Kidd, GVRA Career Pathways Specialist, functions as subject matter expert and Dee Dickson, Transition Coach, is an expert on high school transition and Paulding County Schools. They work together to support families and students.

Nicole and Jeanear have been busy traveling together to bring services to the community. They presented at the West Ridge Church Breakaway event, a free respite program for parents. During this event, they had an opportunity to meet with the Local Outreach Director for the church and discuss additional opportunities to support parents as their children transition from high school. With the help of the Dallas Library Assistant, Lisa Denaopli, Nicole was able to provide two P2P presentations: *P2P and Me* and *Where Do We Go from Here, Preparing for Transition from High School*. As a result of these sessions, Nicole received numerous referrals allowing her to provide parents with additional transition information and resources. Nicole also worked with Dee Dickson, Paulding County's Transition Coach, to assist parents whose children are graduating this year in getting the transition ball rolling!



Nicole Saunders, Dee Dickson, Jeanear Kidd

One of the ways the Paulding County School District provides transition information and resources is through their Transition Tuesday meetings. As a parent of a child with a disability, Nicole understands the importance of attending these meetings, so when a recent Transition Tuesday was cancelled due to inclement weather, Nicole used her connections to bring this important meeting to the community by rescheduling it at the Dallas Library. Dee Dickson invited Nicole to present at the Paulding County School District's Transition Conference to let parents know about resources in the community.

This year the E3 team has worked hard not only at maintaining the momentum from last year's efforts, but has moved one step closer to transforming the lives of the students with disabilities and their families in Paulding County. The Paulding County E3 team members continue to show how successful collaboration helps support families as their children move through high school in preparation for successful post-secondary outcomes.