



RMU Trees Network July 2025 Newsletter

Upcoming Special Education Conference

On Monday, October 13, 2025, the RMU Trees Network will be holding its annual Special Education Conference. This year the theme is **Leading the Way: Innovation and Inclusion**. It is being held virtually to allow for more participation from special educators, administrators, paraprofessionals, and related service staff looking for professional development on important topics in special education.

SAVE THE DATE

RMU Trees Network Special Education Conference

Leading the Way: Innovation and Inclusion

Monday, October 13, 2025

A free, virtual conference with sessions on:

- Dispute Resolution
- AI and Writing
- Reading and Dyslexia
- Collaboration and Resolution
- Teacher Mental Health and Wellness
- Behavior Strategies
- Pathways to Graduation
- Differentiation
- Personal Finances in the High School

To register:

<https://forms.gle/fWfho1qq3cw5JDap7>



For additional information, contact:
donne@rmu.edu or hiltzd@rmu.edu

Interagency Coordinating Councils

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (§1435 and §303.600) mandates that each state establish a State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC). These are advisory boards that assist the state early intervention systems to ensure that a comprehensive delivery system of integrated early intervention programs are available to infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities. The 15 members are appointed by the PA governor and meet bimonthly.

In addition, PA has Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICC). These are groups of families, professionals, and community members who work to improve the identification and delivery of early intervention services. They typically meet quarterly. The LICC welcomes all families and professionals who have an interest in early intervention. ***Below is contact information for several of our area Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICC) or Early Intervention Programs.***

- **Allegheny County LICC** - (412) 995-5000 x 487
<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Services/Human-Services-DHS/DHS-Advisory-Boards/Local-Interagency-Coordinating-Council>
- **Beaver County LICC** - (724) 624-7303
<https://www.bc-systemofcare.org/early-intervention/>
- **Butler County (Early Intervention Program)** - (724) 284-5114
<https://www.butlercountypa.gov/423/Early-Intervention-Program>
- **Washington County (LICC)** - (724) 228-6893
<https://www.washingtoncountypahumanservices.com/about>
- **Westmoreland County LICC** - (724) 837-1808 <https://wcsi.org/advocacy-outreach/>

Upcoming Events Around the Area

The RMU Trees Network is a member of the Special Needs Consortium, a group of service providers in the Pittsburgh area. The consortium exists to provide a forum where all service providers can network and opportunities can be shared, promoted, and advocated for to increase awareness of resources available to the community. For a full listing of member events, visit their [website](https://www.specialneedsconsortium.org/upcoming-events) (<https://www.specialneedsconsortium.org/upcoming-events>). We hope you will find something of interest to you.

July 9th 1:00pm-2:30pm LAMP Accessible Movie Afternoon: *The Wild Robot!*

Looking for something to do with the kids this summer? The Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians - LAMP is having a free showing of the Oscar nominated film, *The Wild Robot!* Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Registration is not required, but is suggested. You can RSVP or request more information by contacting the library at info@mylamp.org or 800-242-0586. LAMP is located at 4724 Baum Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (Oakland).

July 10th 6:00pm – 7:00pm Music Therapy at Moondog's – Band Together Clubhouse

378 Freeport Rd, Blawnox, PA RSVP required

<https://bandtogetherpgh.org/event/music-therapy-moondogs-6/>

July 10th 7:05pm (First Pitch) DSAP Family Connections Night at the Wild Things!

DSAP is hosting a party at EQT Park with the Wild Things! Join before the baseball game against the Evansville Otters in the EQT Pavilion for food and fun and then catch the game! Registration:

<https://downsyndromeassociationofpittsburgh-bloom.kindful.com/e/family-connections-night-with-the-wild-things>

July 13th 2:00pm-5:00pm Live Autism Friendly Open Mic at Band Together Clubhouse

378 Freeport Rd, Blawnox, PA RSVP Required

<https://bandtogetherpgh.org/event/live-autism-friendly-open-mic-band-together-clubhouse-32/>

July 13th -18th starting at 3pm Sunday to 12:00 PM on Friday, Summer Camp at The Woodlands - Teen & Young Adult Sports Camp

This inclusive getaway for youth camps are all about physical activity programming as well as the emotional life of competing and being part of a team. Instructors are trained to work with people of all abilities and have vast knowledge of adapted equipment and adapted teaching methods for: bowling, hand cycles, volleyball, baseball, volleyball and more! Each overnight summer camp costs \$1,400. The Woodlands accepts out of pocket or private pay, ESY, and waiver funding. They also have a scholarship program called the "WonderFund" to assist with cost, available upon request. To apply or for more information, contact Leia Patsilevas, 724-935-5470 or lpatsilevas@woodlandsfoundation.org

July 15th 7:00pm Let's Talk Transition

For Parents who want a clear understanding of navigating Transition - Ages 14 and Up. Speakers: Kimberly Mollish - Autism Caring Center Board Member, Rick Lipa - Transition Coordinator at the Children's Institute. 7051 Steubenville Pike Suite A1 Oakdale Pa 15071 www.autismcaringcenter.com - to register

July 22nd 8:30AM Special Needs Consortium Networking Meeting

Goodwill Of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Robert S. Foltz Building

118 52nd Street, Pittsburgh PA 15201

RSVP: snc@specialneedsconsortium.org

July 29 - August 1 ICAN Talk AAC Summer Camp

ICAN Talk AAC Summer Camp is a 3.5 day program of interactive, fun-filled activities designed specifically for children and adults who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems to communicate. Their program gives these individuals opportunities to communicate with other AAC users, develop their language skills, and use their AAC devices in new and exciting ways. The camp includes an AAC training seminar for parents, excursions to local attraction, and optional one-on-one consultations with clinical experts in AAC. For questions please contact Chistine at clepore@aacinstitute.org. Camper applications are also posted online at www.aacinstitute.org

July 28th – August 8th 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM Monday-Friday

Evolve Coaching - Future Camp

A two week, creative and performing arts summer camp for autistic and neurodivergent individuals, ages 12+. Registration: <https://www.evolve-coaching.org/arts-programming>

FREE August Summer Camp - Open Up

Mondays-Thursdays 8:30-11:30AM

Session 1: August 4-7; Session 2: August 11-14; Session 3: August 18-21

Students in grades K-5 will participate in an inclusive and engaging yoga class, play imaginative games intended to promote mindful social interactions, and make crafts they can use to help support a mindfulness practice at home. Visit their website to learn more and apply: www.open-up.org/club-camp

Studio Forget-Me-Not!

Studio Forget-Me-Not! actively cultivates perspectives, both within ourselves and within our community, by fostering artistic expression and growth. They provide an inclusive art space where individuals with diverse abilities can engage in boundless artistic exploration through a wide array of classes. At Studio Forget-Me-Not!, they prioritize celebrating abilities over limitations, offering the necessary support for everyone to thrive. Dedicated to surpassing traditional artistic norms, they embark on vibrant and joyful explorations across various mediums, ensuring a dynamic and enriching experience for all. studioforgetmenot.org

OPEN UP Mindfulness Classes (free)

Open Up's mission is to teach mindfulness tools through movement practices and interactive arts while centering people living with disabilities. They want all people to be able to have ease of access in finding avenues for increasing their sense of overall well being. They believe that all people should be able to experience joy in community with others. They have inclusive movement classes at our studio and can be found in schools and community spaces around the city and beyond. <https://www.open-up.org/>

Resources for Parents and Educators

The Network provides resources for parents and teachers and these resources can be found at the [RMU Trees Network Website](http://donne94.wixsite.com/rmu-trees-network) (<https://donne94.wixsite.com/rmu-trees-network>). Information on the Network and the previous newsletters are posted on the RMU website <https://www.rmu.edu/academics/provost/trees>. In each newsletter we provide links to resources related to the topics discussed in our parent meetings and workshops as well as other information that may be helpful to families, schools, and the community. **Below are some links and a few additional resources about Employment Options, which was the topic of our June workshop.**



- **Aspire Adult Training** - Aspire is an Adult Training Facility for individuals ages 18-59 years-old with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. This Pennsylvania licensed and CARF accredited program fosters the development of job readiness skills and provides guidance in the areas of daily living and independent living skills. <https://www.goodwillswpa.org/life-changing-services/disability-services/adult-disability-services/community-participation-supports/adult-training-facility-aspire/>
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- **JumpStart Success** - JumpStart Success (JSS) is YouthWorks' signature job readiness and career exploration training curriculum for teenagers and young adults. Aligned with the PA Academic Standards for Career Education and Work, which ensures that our region's youth are equipped with the core competencies associated with entry-level positions as well as the tools to navigate their individualized career plans.

<https://www.goodwillswpa.org/life-changing-services/employment-services/youth-workforce-development/jumpstart-success/>

- **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Individualized Employment Services** - The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation provides individualized services to assist people with disabilities to pursue, obtain, and maintain satisfactory employment. An OVR counselor can help you select an employment goal and develop a comprehensive strategy so that you can find the type of job that meets your needs. OVR placement services are provided at no cost to eligible individuals with disabilities.

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dli/programs-services/disability-and-vocational-rehabilitation/individualized-employment-services0.html>

- **YouthWorks** - YouthWorks provides career building experiences to the most vulnerable youth to help develop their potential and achieve social and economic upward mobility. Since its inception, YouthWorks has served over 23,000 youth throughout the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County through career exploration, work readiness training, and employment opportunities.

<https://www.goodwillswpa.org/life-changing-services/employment-services/youth-workforce-development/>

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[RMU Trees Website](https://donne94.wixsite.com/rmu-trees-network) (<https://donne94.wixsite.com/rmu-trees-network>)

[RMU Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RMUtrees/) (<https://www.facebook.com/RMUtrees/>)

