


VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



## Next Steps at Vanderbilt: Update

Transition to Education & Work: Connecting for Life  
An Interdisciplinary Community Education Workshop  
February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Memphis, TN  
Lauren Bethune, Ph.D  
Assistant Director/Academic Development Director

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## Next Steps at Vanderbilt: Current

- First established program in Tennessee; began in 2010
- Two-year model comprehensive transition and postsecondary program; received funding to expand to a 4-year program
- Offers 1 VU class and 3 NS classes/seminars
- Student have on-campus and off-campus internships
- Unique opportunities:
  - Science Lab
  - Food Foray
  - Senior Trip
  - Monthly Service Projects
  - Art and Dance Classes
  - Next Chapter Book Clubs
- Circle of Support (Ambassadors)

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## Next Steps at Vanderbilt: Circle of Support

- 58 Ambassadors
- 3 grad students teaching Next Steps classes
- 3 work study grad students as job coaches
- 1 VU SPED grad student
- 1 MTSU SPED grad student doing practicum placement with Next Steps as a job coach
- 8 dietetic interns- NS rotation,
- 2 Social Work interns co-teaching, job coaching, leading monthly service projects




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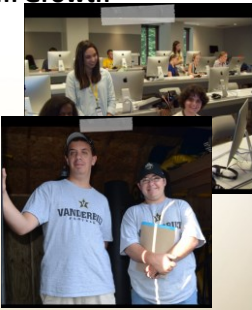
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### Program Growth

- Program Growth
  - 46 different Vanderbilt courses in each of four colleges within the university
  - 42 different internships on and near campus
  - Close to 60 "Ambassadors" providing support
- Alumni Success
  - 23 graduates
  - Employment rate (88% for program graduates)




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### Employment Recap: 2015 Graduates

- Fun Company Counselor – YMCA of Middle Tennessee
- Graphic Design Assistant – Vanderbilt Creative Services
- Research Assistant – Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
- Kitchen Assistant – McGugin Dining Hall
- Guest Relations Specialist – Country Music Hall of Fame
- Assistant Curator – Belmont Mansion

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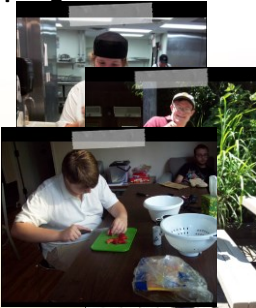
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### Internships Spring 2016

- McKays Bookstore (includes travel training)
- Special Olympics of TN
- Walgreen's REDI Program
- Summer Academy Preschool
- Arc of Davison Co. – e-Doc TN
- Dean of Commons Office
- Common Ground's Munchie Mart
- IT Help Desk
- Family Resource Center/VU Children's Hospital
- Sarratt Art Studio
- VU Rec Center
- VU Radio and Common Grounds




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### Expansion to Four-Year Program

- Will include option for 2 VU courses (including Common's Seminar Topical course);
- Refine our NS courses to become more inclusive;
- Provide portfolio of on-campus and off-campus residential options;
- Expand our range and depth of on-campus and off-campus internships;
- Increase involvement in student organizations and existing VU resources;
- Carry out rigorous and coordinated research to develop stronger PSE literature base;
- Support VU faculty more comprehensively;
- Invest in the growth of additional PSE programs

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### Lots of Changes Coming our Way

- Accepting 10 new students this coming Fall!
- Kick starting our academic expansion with option for an additional VU class in Spring 2017
- Residential component coming 2017!




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### For More Information

Visit Next Steps at Vanderbilt website  
[www.nextsteps.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.nextsteps.vanderbilt.edu)

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