Next Steps at Vanderbilt: Update

Transition to Education & Work: Connecting for Life
An Interdisciplinary Community Education Workshop
February 26th, 2016
Memphis, TN
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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)

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
**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)

**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

**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
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

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!

For More Information
Visit Next Steps at Vanderbilt website
www.nextsteps.vanderbilt.edu
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