

SEPSEA NEWSLETTER

April 2023 Newsletter



ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Sign up today or renew your membership!

[Click here](#) to sign up for SEPSEA.

SUMMER CONFERENCE

For more info check out sepsea.org



HBCU SUMMIT

SAVE THE DATE:
August 9-11th, 2023
in Atlanta, Georgia





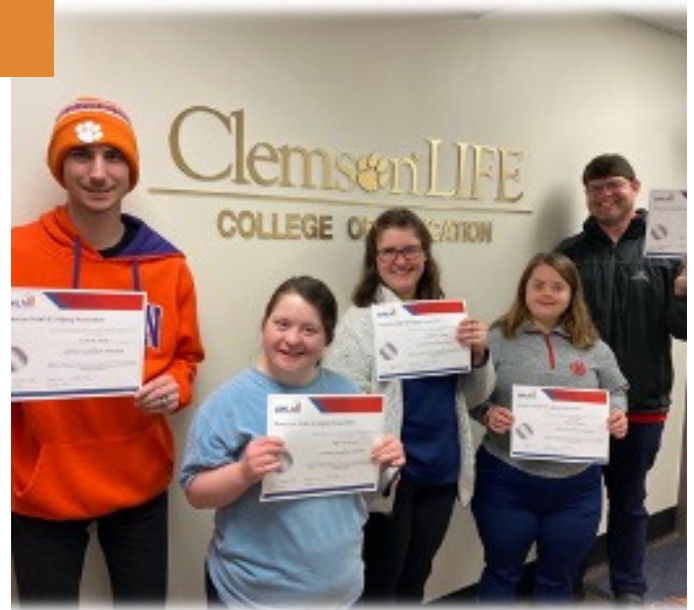
iDEAL

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

The IDEAL Program is located at Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. This program currently has 18 students, 15 of which live on campus in residential dorms. Their students gain work experience through on campus and off campus internships. Lipscomb will be hosting the upcoming SEPSEA conference!

CLEMSON LIFE

Applications for the ClemsonLIFE Program for the next academic school year go live in May. You can apply on their website. [Click here](#) to check out their website!



RESOURCES & RESEARCH

[Click here](#) to read about research on the Strategic Planning Tool that is currently being used to develop postsecondary programs in Florida.



NEWS FROM ARKANSAS

Arkansas has officially started a state alliance! All programs have come together to build their coalition. They are developing a mission, bylaws, etc. They had a great first meeting and will be meeting monthly! Keep an eye out for the great things Arkansas will be doing this coming year!

NEWS FROM ALABAMA

Want to learn more about inclusive higher education programs in Alabama? [Click here](#) to register for their upcoming virtual fair or to learn more.

IHE PROGRAMS IN ALABAMA
VIRTUAL FAIR | 2023

Learn about college options in Alabama for individuals with intellectual disabilities

MAY 10TH **10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST**

Register Here: <https://aub.ie/IHEProgramsAlabama>

Schedule:

- 10:00: Welcome & Overview, Jessica Milton
- 10:05: Bulldog Life: Sharon Brown
- 10:20: CrossingPoints: Amy Williamson
- 10:35: EAGLES: Betty Patten
- 10:50: Falcon Flight, Susan Skipper
- 11:05: Passage USA, Abigail Baxter
- 11:20: The Horizons School, Shon Jackson
- 11:35: Jacksonville State, Cynthia Connor
- 11:50: Conclusion, Jessica Milton

Logos for participating institutions: University of Montevallo, CrossingPoints, Auburn University College of Education, The Eagles Program, Bulldog Life, Horizons School, APAID, JSU TU, University of South Alabama Passage USA.

2023 College prep summit

MAY 3 2023

9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The University of Alabama Student Center Ballroom
751 Campus Drive West
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Forge your path.

Learn about inclusive postsecondary education program options for students with intellectual disabilities by speaking with college representatives from universities in Alabama and across the southeast.

Visit bit.ly/AlabamaCollegePrepSummit23 for more information and to register

May 3, 2023 College Prep Summit

There will be a keynote speaker, panels, and a college fair in the afternoon.

[Click here](#) to register.



THINK COLLEGE

Think College will host a state alliance capacity building institute (CBI) as a breakout session strand at the 2023 SEPSEA Conference.

IPSE AWARENESS

Public Awareness Week: This week-long event will offer daily virtual learning events. There's something for everyone, including information and resources for students, families, educators, transition professionals, and higher education personnel. Visit the event registration page for all the event dates, times, and descriptions.



'Get Ready for IPSE Day 2023'

This event is Friday April 28th from 12-1pm ET. Attendees will learn about resources to help you participate in the celebration and promote college access for students with intellectual disability on IPSE Day 2023 (May 1).

MEET OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Tom Smith,
University Professor
of Special Education,
University of
Arkansas

Brief BIO

Tom received his doctorate from Texas Tech University. He served as Dean of the College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Arkansas for seven years before returning to the special education faculty. While dean he initiated the university's EMPOWER post-secondary education program and remains the faculty advisor for the program.



E-MAIL

Tom Smith, Executive
Director
tecsmith@uark.edu



From the Executive Director

I have now been the Executive Director of SEPSEA for several months. During this time, I have had the opportunity to meet numerous times with our board of directors and executive board. I also attended the State of the Art conference in Syracuse, participated with Think College in numerous meetings, and represented SEPSEA at the DCDT and DADD conferences. The past several months have been a growing period for SEPSEA. The founders of SEPSEA laid a strong foundation for the organization to move forward, and as a result, we are truly becoming the professional development organization that was intended. Our Board of Directors and Executive Board have met several times and agreed on an agenda that will enable SEPSEA to provide critical professional development to existing and newly established IPSE programs and help develop new programs. Many SEPSEA committees have been meeting regularly to carry out specific committee assignments. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please let us know; committees are our mechanism for doing the SEPSEA work. Our website is being updated regularly, and we have transferred to Wild Apricot, a software program for membership and other organizational activities.

SEPSEA wants to support strong state alliances; our ultimate goal is for all four and two-year colleges and universities in the southeast to have IPSE programs. While this may be a difficult-to-achieve goal, we want to expand our region's network of programs as much as possible.

SEPSEA is moving from an institutional-based organization to an individual-based program, meaning that we will no longer have institutional membership; SEPSEA will comprise individual members. The SEPSEA board believes that an individual-based membership will be more robust and sustainable in carrying out the organization's work.

The SEPSEA Chair, Kristin Johnson, and I have also been involved with Think College in developing additional regional alliances. While our primary mission is to provide professional development for states and programs in the southeast, we are also working with other regional alliances to create a solid national support network. With the support of Think College, regional and state alliances, young adults with intellectual disabilities will have many opportunities to participate in IPSE programs.

Our annual SPESEA conference will be in Nashville May 18-19. Many thanks to Misty Parsley for chairing the conference committee as part of her responsibilities as vice chairperson for professional development. Please try to attend if possible; registration and lodging are available on the SEPSEA website. We are also working with Think College to host a summit focusing on historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). This meeting will be in Atlanta in August. We want to expand IPSE programs to HBCUs in the southeast.

As Executive Director, I work for the board and carry out any duties and responsibilities I am assigned. Please feel free to contact me about anything you need from SEPSEA. The Board of Directors look forward to providing you with as much support as you need to make your programs even more exemplary than they already are.

Tom Smith, Executive Director
tecsmith@uark.edu

