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# Webinar Recording & Handouts

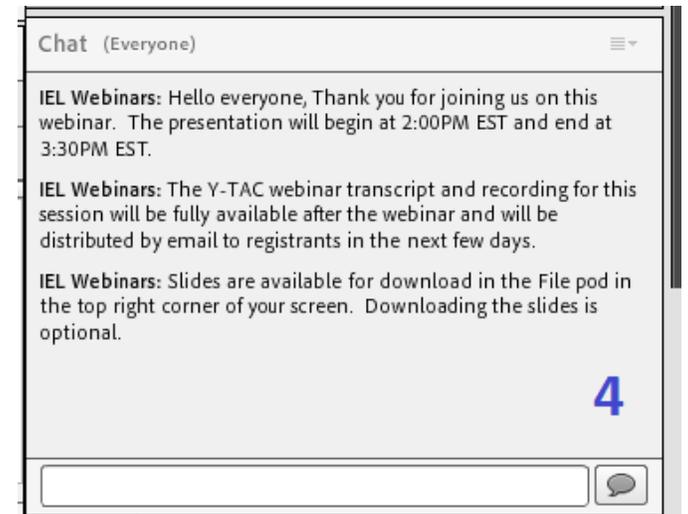
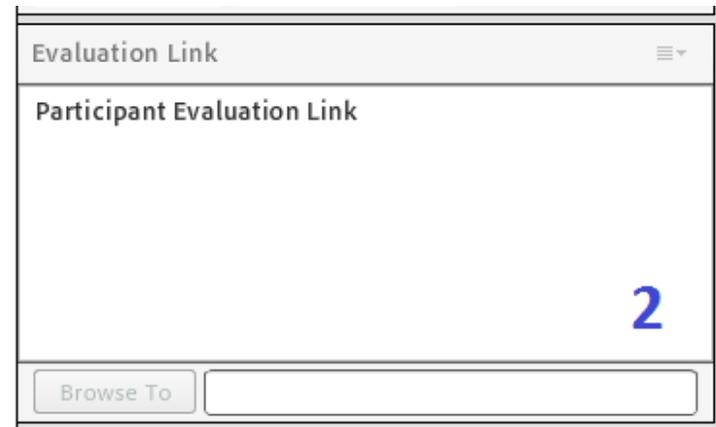
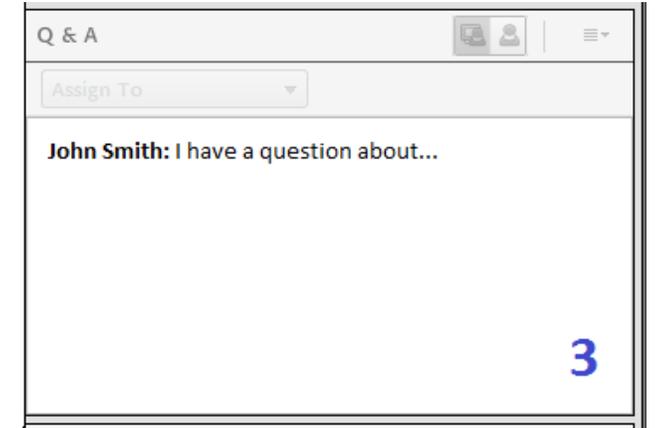
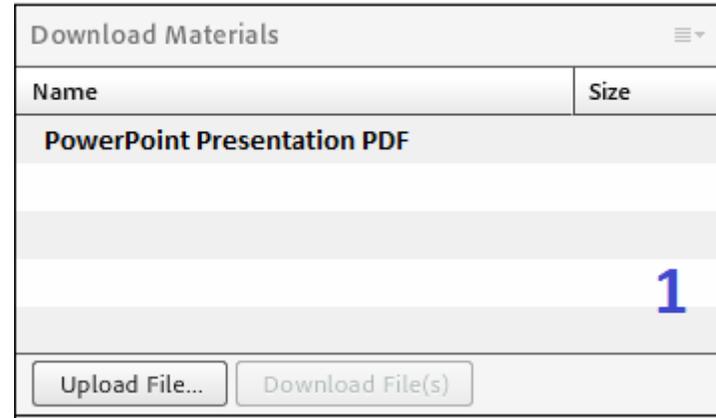
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- This webinar is being recorded.
- The webinar recording, powerpoint, and transcript will be emailed to participants within 3 business days.
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VOCATIONAL  
REHABILITATION



YOUTH TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE CENTER

# WIOA Title I Youth and Potential for VR Partnership

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2019 Winter Webinar Series

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

# Presenters

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- **Thomas Showalter**, Executive Director, National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC)
- **Kate O'Sullivan**, Senior Advisor, NYEC
- **Alyssa Klein**, Transition Specialist, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
- **Michelle Ufford**, Executive Director, Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training (NEMOJT)
- **Kim Osmani**, Technical Assistance Liaison, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Youth Technical Assistance Center (Y-TAC)

# Evaluation

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Our evaluation is designed to ensure that we are providing high quality training and technical assistance that offers information that will be useful in designing and implementing services for and with youth.

## **We need your assistance in understanding:**

- The quality and relevance of our professional development session,
- Whether and how useful you believe the knowledge and skills you learned will support your work with youth, and
- What additional professional development opportunities you desire in providing high quality services for and with youth.

## **Webinar Evaluation**

# Continuing Education Credit

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CRC Approval is pending. Y-TAC will follow up with more information once approved.

- Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC) may receive a CRCC Form and Completion Certificate for this webinar
- To receive CRC credit for this webinar
  1. Attend the entire live webinar,
  2. At the end of the webinar, complete the participant evaluation, and
  3. Email Jessica Fuentes-Diaz at [fuentesdiazj@iel.org](mailto:fuentesdiazj@iel.org) to request the CRCC Form and Completion Certificate.



# Y-TAC Introduction

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# The VR Youth Technical Assistance Center (Y-TAC)

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**Led by the Institute for Educational Leadership's (IEL)**

**Center for Workforce Development (CWD) in Partnership With:**

- Cornell University's K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan Institute on Employment and Disability in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR);
- Boston University's School of Education; and,
- Key Subject Matter Experts (SME) from across the country.



## ***Equip Leaders to Better Prepare Children & Youth for College, Careers, & Citizenship***

The Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) encourages leaders to work across institutional boundaries, to increase their knowledge, and expand their networks focusing on educational, youth, parent, and family engagement and leadership. IEL is focused on building a society that uses all of its resources effectively to provide an equal opportunity for all children and youth to learn, develop, and become contributing citizens of our democracy. IEL equips leaders and their communities to build better futures for all of our children and youth in these key areas:

- Equity & Impact,
- Leadership & Engagement, and
- Transition, Disability, & Employment.

**[iel@iel.org](mailto:iel@iel.org)**

**[www.iel.org](http://www.iel.org)**

**[202-822-8405](tel:202-822-8405)**

# Key Services of Y-TAC

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## **Y-TAC provides training and technical assistance to State VR Agencies**

- To help them find and engage youth with disabilities (YwD) who are not in special education; and
- To help them find and engage as well as YwD who are no longer in school and not employed.

# Other Youth-Focused Technical Assistance (TA) Centers

- The Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC)
- The National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT)
- The Promoting the Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income (PROMISE) TA Center
- The National Collaboration on Workforce and Disability (NCWD)





# WIOA Title I Youth and Potential for VR Partnership

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Thomas Showalter, Executive Director, National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC)

Kate O'Sullivan, Senior Advisor, NYEC

# National Youth Employment Coalition

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- Builds capacity on professional and organizational levels
- Collects and shares best practices
- A unique line of communication between the field and policymakers
- Aggregator and curator of proven, emerging, and promising practices
- Y-TAC Partner
- Learn more at [www.nyec.org](http://www.nyec.org)

# Upcoming Guide: Workforce-VR Partnership

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- *WIOA Title I Partnership Development for Vocational Rehabilitation*
  - Informed by 20+ interviews with VR and workforce professionals in 14 states
  - Anticipated release: Spring 2019
- Designed to help VR professionals:
  - Understand and partner with the Title I workforce system, and
  - Learn proven strategies for working with out-of-school (OSY) 16-24 year-olds.
    - Many youth with disabilities qualify as OSY under Title I.

# Webinars re: Upcoming Guide

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- Webinars highlighting lessons from *WIOA Title I Partnership Development for Vocational Rehabilitation*
  - TODAY - WIOA Title I for VR Professionals: Shared Goals and Potential for Partnership
  - TOMORROW (2/28) - [Serving Out-of-School Youth for VR Professionals: Outreach, Engagement, and Support](#)
  - Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – [Establishing Interagency Partnerships: Framework and Examples](#)



# WIOA Title I 101

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- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- **Title I: Workforce Development System**
  - State and local workforce development boards
  - Formula funds for adults, dislocated workers, and youth
- Title II: Adult Education
- Title III: Wagner-Peyser System
- **Title IV: Rehab Act**



# The Basics of WIOA Title I

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- Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB)
  - Called by different names
  - Develop and oversee WIOA activities for a local workforce area
  - Business majority
  - VR is a required partner
  - Youth committee (optional)
- LWDB run American Job Centers (may have different names).
- VR offices or units may or may not be contiguous with local workforce areas.

# How Can Title I Benefit Youth with Disabilities?

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- Eligibility: Most VR youth clients are eligible for Title I services
  - YWD, not in school = automatically eligible as OSY
  - YWD, in school = family of one
- Services: Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS), general VR for 18-24 year-olds, and Title I youth activities support and complement each other
  - [Title I/VR Service comparison](#)
- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) = similar to Title I's Individual Service Strategy (ISS)

# How Can Title I Help VR Achieve its Goals for Youth?

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- Title I youth services (WIOA Youth) focus on out-of-school youth (OSY)
  - Many 16-24-year-old VR clients who are not in school are eligible for WIOA services; help Title I providers meet 75% OSY requirement
  - WIOA Youth can be braided with Pre-ETS work-based activities
- Common Performance Measures Across WIOA Titles
  - Potential openings for coordinated goal-setting
- Shared Infrastructure Costs: Potential Leverage
  - Use VR's financial contribution to one-stop system to increase accessibility, coordination, and supports for youth with disabilities



# VR - Title I Youth Partnership in Practice: Minnesota

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Alyssa Klein, Transition Specialist, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Minnesota  
Department of Employment and Economic Development

Michelle Ufford, Executive Director, Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training  
(NEMOJT)



# MN VRS and WIOA Title I Youth Pre-ETS Partnerships

February 27, 2019

# Minnesota's Workforce System

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- Administered through MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
  - VRS is a division of DEED
- 16 LWDAs
- Approximately 50 CareerForce locations (one-stop centers) where WIOA Title I and VR are co-located
  - CareerForce is Minnesota's new unified workforce system brand
  - [CareerForceMN.com](http://CareerForceMN.com)



# MN Vocational Rehabilitation Services

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- Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) help people with disabilities learn skills, find and keep a job, and live as independently as possible.
- In federal FY 2018, VRS helped and served:
  - 16,046 people with disabilities,
  - 2,577 people with disabilities achieve successful employment,
  - 8,618 transition-aged students and young adults, and
  - 1,008 transition-aged students and young adults achieve successful employment.



# Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

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- Job exploration counseling
- Work-based learning experiences
- Counseling on postsecondary education options
- Workplace readiness training
- Instruction in self-advocacy

# MN VRS Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

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- Contracts for providing Pre-ETS to “potentially eligible” students: 9/12 providers are LWDA/ WIOA Title I Providers
  - 2017 RFP: Resulted in 9 contractors, 8 are LWDA/ WIOA Title I Providers
  - 2018 RFP: 3 new contractors added, 1 is LWDA/ WIOA Title I Provider
- <https://mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/disabilities/youth/pre-ets/>

# Highlights from Pre-ETS Partnerships

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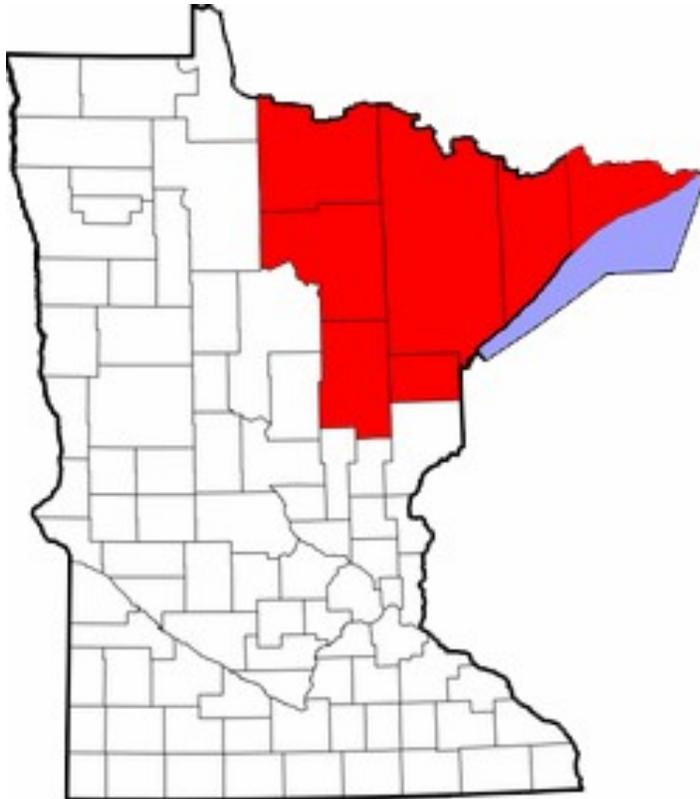


- Collaboration: “We have always been partners, but this has brought us closer. Have learned things about our systems that we didn’t know existed.”
- Able to have a “no wrong door” approach in schools
- Co-enrollment in WIOA Youth or Minnesota Youth Program (state work readiness/ work experience program)
  - Students can get paid work experiences.
  - Students can get more intensive supports without applying for VRS.
  - Alternatively, some students also apply for VRS and then all funding streams can be blended.

# Northeast Minnesota in Context



7 counties comprise the 'Arrowhead' region of Minnesota



- Rural; largest city in region is Duluth (86,066 people 26% of region's population)
- Labor force participation for individuals with disabilities is 41.6% compared to 51.4% in Minnesota
- Individuals with disabilities face a 13.9% unemployment rate compared to a regional unemployment rate of 5.1%

# Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training (NEMOJT)

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- Regional administrator of public workforce development programs since 1974
- WIOA Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth
- Minnesota Youth Program
- Minnesota Dislocated Worker Program
- Minnesota Family Investment Program—  
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)



# Northeast Career EdVenture

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- Pilot project originally funded by the state in 2012
- Provides career guidance and exploration resources to over 40 school districts
- Developed curriculum, activities, and presentations on a variety of topics for any classroom
- Inspired the legislature to allow a portion of MN Youth funds for these activities statewide



AN INITIATIVE OF THE NORTHEAST  
MINNESOTA OFFICE OF JOB TRAINING

# Well Positioned to Deliver Pre-ETS Resources

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## Career EdVenture Services

*Career Assessments*

*Career Exploration & Planning*

*Financial Literacy*

*Job Search Strategies*

*Navigating Business Culture*

*College & Postsecondary Planning*

## Pre-ETS Services

*Job Exploration Counseling*

*Work-Based Learning Experiences*

*Postsecondary Planning*

*Workplace Readiness Training*

*Instruction in Self-Advocacy*

# Pre-ETS in Northeast Minnesota

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Training & technical assistance provided by Alyssa Klein and staff from VRS:

- Scope of transition services and how Pre-ETS fits in
- Overview of Title IV of WIOA
- The definition of a 'student with a disability' and Pre-ETS eligibility
- Detailed explanation of the 5 Pre-ETS activities
- What expenses are/aren't allowed for reimbursement
- Data practices

# Pre-ETS in Northeast Minnesota

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Additional training also provided by our local Special Education Cooperative:

- The IEP process
- Categories of disabilities recognized in Minnesota to qualify for Special Education
- Tips and strategies for working with students with autism, developmental cognitive disabilities (DCD), emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD), specific learning disabilities (SLD), and 'other health disability' qualifications
- The importance of confidentiality
- How to establish effective relationships with students with disabilities

# Sample Pre-ETS Activities

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- Including Pre-ETS students in Title I summer work experience kick-off events
- Inviting employers to Pre-ETS sessions to talk about employer expectations and conduct mock interviews
- Assisting Pre-ETS students attain a postsecondary credential through Title I funding
- Using [www.Explore-Work.com](http://www.Explore-Work.com) to help students explore the world of work

*“We are training with career development as a main focus, but we are able to witness the soft skills grow as we have more and more teachable moments and modeling exercises with the class.”*

*-- Thor Bergland  
NEMOJT Youth  
Counselor and  
Pre-ETS facilitator*

# Looking Forward

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- Providing summer work experience to Pre-ETS students in cooperation with local VRS counselors
- Developing a document to establish clear expectations for Pre-ETS services (teacher presence, suggested pre- and post-service activities, ensuring adequate time to prepare/meet with teacher ahead of time)
- Anticipate responding to future RFPs to continue work

# Contact Information

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- Alyssa Klein  
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- Michelle Ufford  
Executive Director  
Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training (NEMOJT)  
[michelle.ufford@nemojt.org](mailto:michelle.ufford@nemojt.org)

- The pre-employment transition services provided under the VR program are funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education with a state match. For federal fiscal year 2019, the total amount of federal grant funds used for these services is \$6,232,519 (78.7 percent) and Minnesota state appropriations of \$1,686,819 (21.3 percent).

# Presenter Contact Information

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# CONTACT US

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Website: [www.y-tac.org](http://www.y-tac.org)

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# Evaluation

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1. What is the most meaningful and useful information you learned in this session?
2. How will this information and these materials/activities help improve your knowledge and skills in working with all youth, including youth with disabilities and traditionally underserved youth in the juvenile justice and foster care systems?
3. What additional information would you like to learn about this topic or other topics related to your work with youth?
4. How can we improve the quality of today's presentation?
5. On a scale of 0 to 10, how likely are you to recommend this webinar to a friend or colleague (with 10 being the most likely)?

## Webinar Evaluation

The Y-TAC is a project of the Institute for Educational Leadership, supported by the U. S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration.

This document was developed by the Vocational Rehabilitation Youth Technical Assistance Center (Y-TAC), funded by a grant/contract/cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitative Services Administration (Award # H264H150006). The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the U.S. Department of Education. Nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply the endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education.

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