

ANNUAL DIRECTIONS 2015 COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR EVENT APPROACHING FOR STUDENTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION



In an effort to help encourage and provide guidance for parents transitioning their students out of high school and into vocational or collegiate opportunities after graduation, District 211 is part of a team of local educational institutions participating in Directions College and Career Fair 2015.

The event, which will take place on Sept. 29 from 5:45 – 8:30 p.m. at the Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebbert Rd., in Arlington Heights, is sponsored by Township High School District 211, High School District 214, Barrington Community Unit School District 220, St. Viator High School, William Rainey Harper College, and Northwest Educational Council for Student Success.

All students who have received any type of special education programming, as well as their families, are encouraged to attend. Representatives from colleges and post-secondary institutions will be available to distribute literature and discuss their programs.

“Township High School District 211 is excited to once again be part of bringing the Directions College and Career Fair to the northwest suburbs,” said Renée Erickson, director of special education in District 211. “Directions College and Career Fair is a great opportunity for students with special education needs, and their families, to explore post-secondary education and training options as they plan for the future. With over 50 post-secondary education and training organizations participating, this is set to be the greatest event this group has hosted to date.”

The evening will begin with a keynote from Dr. Mark Harris, the director of Student Disability Services at the University of Iowa. He will be speaking about some of the top mistakes parents make during the transition to college.

Parents and students are encouraged to attend the College and Career Fair that will take place during the event. From 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., attendees can view a panel discussion with representatives from four-year colleges and universities, community colleges, career training programs, and Life Skills training programs.

To register in advance, obtain further information or for special accommodations, please visit the [website](#).

DISTRICT 211 HIGGINS EDUCATION CENTER OFFERS CENTRALIZED LOCATION FOR MULTIPLE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS



The District 211 Higgins Education Center, 1030 W. Higgins Rd., is undergoing renovations to house programs that were either outside of District 211 boundaries or did not have a permanent structure. The building will offer greater efficiency of support, administration, transportation services, and utilization of the District's facilities.

District 211 offers several special education programs that meet the needs of its students and community, and for the first time many of those programs will be housed in one centralized building.

The District 211 Higgins Education Center, 1030 W. Higgins Rd., is undergoing renovations to house programs that were either outside of District 211 boundaries or did not have a permanent structure. The building will offer greater efficiency of support, administration, transportation services, and utilization of the District's facilities.

"The centralized location of the Higgins Education Center will allow us to serve our students within the District and local community, as well have access to a greater number of District resources," said Renée Erickson, director of Special Education at District 211. "We are grateful for the District's commitment to providing educational opportunities and transition programming to students, as locally as possible."

In August 2015, the building will be home to the Adult Transitions Program-South program, currently located on the grounds of Hoffman Estates High School, District 211 Academy-South, and New Endeavors, a new program designed to serve students who demonstrate behaviors and characteristics along the autism spectrum.

Relocating these programs to the newly renovated building will provide added space and offer multiple benefits as a result of the proximity to the facilities at Hoffman Estates High School. The Academy-South program is currently housed in a leased facility outside of the District 211 boundaries. The ATP Program-South has been accommodated in a pair of repurposed trailers in the east parking lot of Hoffman Estates High School since 2009. Many of the students who will enter the New Endeavors program may have previously been educationally placed outside the District, into either the Miner School program through Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO) or private therapeutic day schools.

“We are very excited about the opportunity before us to build upon our existing practices and programs and to bring multiple programs under one roof,” Erickson said. “While each program within the Higgins Education Center will serve a specific population of students, the opportunity to bring students together as part of a new and unique school community is just thrilling.”

BUSINESSES HONORED FOR PARTNERSHIPS, WORKSITES PROVIDED TO D211 STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Several community businesses were recently recognized for their partnership with District 211 to provide worksites for students with special needs.

The businesses were honored by the Board of Education at its Feb.12 meeting. There are 23 local businesses that partner with District 211, and through these partnerships the District is able to provide students with true-to-life work experiences that help prepare students for their lives after high school.

“The transition from high school to young adulthood can be nerve-racking and complex for students with disabilities,” said Renée Erickson, director of Special Education at District 211. “To assist these students, the District provides an individualized service that often involves the District’s transition services team, led by Patrick Abraham. The transition services team works to develop partnerships with many local businesses and create extraordinary opportunities for students to engage in real-life work experiences, where they can learn, practice, and master workplace skills.”

Erickson said that over the past five years, more than 2,000 students have benefitted from these business connections. This school year, opportunities were created for more than 250 District 211 students.

“It is with deepest gratitude,” Erickson said, “that District 211 recognizes and thanks our local business partners for their partnership and commitment to our students.”

The following businesses received Board recognition: ·

- Buehler YMCA
- Cintas
- Countryside Association
- eWorks
- GFS Marketplace
- Good Shepherd Health & Fitness Center
- Harper College – Food Service Training Program
- Home Goods of Schaumburg
- Home Goods of Palatine
- IKEA
- Learning Loft
- Lifetime Fitness
- Nordstrom Rack
- Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center
- Richelieu Hardware
- Rosewood Care Center
- Savers
- Subway
- T.J. Maxx of Palatine
- T.J. Maxx of Hoffman Estates
- Transition Industries
- Walgreens
- Willow Creek Care Center

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In an effort to help encourage and provide guidance for parents transitioning their students out of high school and into vocational or collegiate opportunities after graduation, District 211 is part of a team of local educational institutions participating in Directions Fair, which will take place on September 30 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebbert Rd., in Arlington Heights.

The event is sponsored by District 211, Township High School District 214, Barrington Community Unit School District 220, William Rainey Harper College, and St. Viator High School.

Directions Fair is scheduled on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2014 with registration beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the evening's events will be presented from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebbert Rd. in Arlington Heights. All students who have received any type of special education programming, as well as their families, are encouraged to attend.

“The time we have with our students is limited and invaluable, and all steps taken to prepare them for their futures are critical,” said Renee Erickson, Director of Special Education at District 211. “Directions night provides District 211 with the great opportunity to partner with our neighboring districts and post-secondary institutions, and to support students and parents in taking the next step in planning for the future.”

The evening will begin with a keynote from Nicole Mangiaracina, a Fremd High School graduate who attended Harper College and now studies at Elmhurst College. Harper College helped Mangiaracina transition and adjust to college while dealing with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and other subsequent health challenges so that her educational goals were not sidelined.

Following her presentation, attendees can choose from four breakout sessions, including Career Training Programs, Four-Year Colleges and Universities, Life Skills Training Programs, and Community College Options.

The evening will also include a college and career fair with representatives for colleges and post-secondary institutions available to meet with students and their families and provide additional literature about their programming resources for prospective students.

For further information or information about special accommodations, please visit the Directions Fair [website](#).