College Night

Monday, April 10
5:30-7:30
Memorial Room, Alumni Hall

College Night, which occurs once a semester, is an informative event in which prospective students and parents learn about the different aspects of our program from staff, alumni, and current students. A panel of speakers talk about their experiences in the Next Steps at Vanderbilt program and guests have the opportunity to ask them questions. Next Steps representatives from all aspects of the program (social, academic, career, residential, financial aid, etc.) will also answer questions one-on-one after the conclusion of the panel.

To register, please fill out this form: https://goo.gl/forms/s0pPE9R31Ra2gmqm2

Highlighted Alumnus

Charles Sugg, also known as "Bud," graduated from Next Steps in April 2014. Bud currently works at the WAKM radio station as a "sport operator." Bud loves his job because he enjoys spending time with his coworkers and talking about sports. As a sport operator, Bud provides technical support for the radio show; he fixes microphones, answers the telephone, and helps set-up special events. In the future, Bud wants to work as a radio host at WAKM so that he can speak on the radio and share information about sports.

Important Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>College Night, 5:30-7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Classes End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Graduation Ceremony, 5-7PM, Wyatt Center Rotunda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>Open House, 2:00-3:30PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 11-16</td>
<td>Next Steps Summer Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>Open House, 5:30-7:00PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last semester's College Night panel included a current student, parent, alumnus, Ambassadore, Next Steps staff member, and Vanderbilt University professor.
On February 21, the Ambassadore Executive Board welcomed Chris Ulmer to campus. Chris Ulmer is the founder of "Special Books by Special Kids," a blog that celebrates neurodiversity. During the day, the Next Steps students and Ambassadores gave Chris a tour of campus and ate lunch with him. Three students (Nila, Darko, and Peach) interviewed with him on camera for his blog and social media accounts. Nila's interview has already gained over 450,000 views! Later in the evening, Chris Ulmer gave a speech called Engaging Neurodiverse Individuals: The Power of Acceptance and Positivity. The speech was shared with a sold out crowd of over 300 individuals, comprised of both Vanderbilt and Nashville community members.

The Next Steps students and staff would like to extend a special thank you to the Ambassadore Executive Board for their hard work in planning this amazing event! We would also like to thank Chris Ulmer for visiting our campus and meeting our students! For more information about Special Books by Special Kids, visit http://www.specialbooksbyspecialkids.org/.
Positive Change for Students with Visual Impairments

Next Steps staff has partnered with two current Vanderbilt students with visual disabilities, James Boehm and Stephanie Zundel, to pursue and implement assistive technology supports for current and future students. They each spend time on Monday to help a Next Steps’ student, Darko Osman, to learn how to use JAWS, a screen reader software. With their help Darko’s ability to learn the keyboard and type on his own has greatly improved. Through collaborative efforts this partnership has resulted in braille signage being added to Peabody College buildings and all of the intersections and crosswalks around Vanderbilt’s campus being labeled with tactile truncated domes, audible signals, and rumble strips for increased safety. In addition, Next Steps staff and the two Vanderbilt students have been communicating with Peabody Library staff to advocate for assistive technology software such as JAWS and Type Ability to be added to some library computers. Lines of communication between Next Steps and EAD have also strengthened therefore allowing the opportunity for exploration of more resources for students with disabilities.

James is an active member in his community and in the NFB (Nashville Federation of the Blind), serving as president of his local Nashville chapter. James started the Tennessee Association of Guide Dog Users and served as president of the division until taking a board position in 2016, in order to become more involved on a national level. James is working to obtain his Master’s in Education in Human Development Clinical Counseling.

Stephanie is majoring in Child Studies and minorin in Special Education. She was recently accepted into Vanderbilt Graduate School and will be studying School Counseling. Stephanie is also an avid runner and will be participating in the Boston Marathon in April. She is the Vice President of the Tennessee Association of Guide Dog users.
Campus life is an important part of the college experience for Next Steps students! Our students participate in the Vanderbilt community by joining clubs, playing sports, and attending campus events. This semester, some of our students have attended campus events, joined Best Buddies, started an inclusive Bible study group, and participated in intramural bowling, ultimate frisbee, volleyball, and soccer teams. The students have also spent their free time playing basketball with friends at the Vanderbilt Recreational Center.

SEPSEA Conference & College Fair

Would you like to know more about inclusive higher education programs like Next Steps at Vanderbilt? If so, mark your calendars to attend the Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance (SEPSEA) Capacity Building Institute on June 26 and 27. This conference will feature presentations on student perspectives, transition to college, programs of study, and administration, collaboration, and policy. All program administrators, educators, and self-advocates are encouraged to attend.

Additionally, a College Fair featuring several inclusive higher education programs from the southeastern region will take place on June 26. Next Steps and Lipscomb's IDEAL program will also co-host an information session about inclusive post-secondary opportunities in Nashville!

Conference Registration*
$125 Professionals
$75 Students/Families

*Community members can attend the College Fair and Nashville Program information session for free!

For more information on the conference and to register, please visit: https://vanderbilt.irisregistration.com/Home/Site?code=SIHE2017