



September 24, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The **CHOICES Committee** is a consortium of counselors and special educators representing high schools in the northern suburbs of Chicago. Each October, our consortium presents **CHOICES: A Post-Secondary Planning Night for Students with Special Needs**. This year's program will take place beginning at 6:00 p.m. on **Monday, October 22, 2018** at **Deerfield High School** in Deerfield, Illinois. **Please visit the Choices website for directions to Deerfield High School and for additional details about the October 22nd program.**

[www.postsecondarychoices.org](http://www.postsecondarychoices.org)

If you have any additional questions, please contact Diane Spillman at [dspillman@maine207.org](mailto:dspillman@maine207.org)

**CHOICES** has provided students, parents and educators with important information to assist in post-secondary transition planning. Last fall, approximately sixty colleges, universities and transition programs sent support services representatives to the Choices Fair. More than 900 students and parents, as well as local high school special educators, attended the event. This year, our program will again offer a series of informational sessions.

#### Breakout Informational Sessions

##### 6 – 6:40 p.m. (Choose one)

Managing the Stress of Transition to College (North Cafe)

Accessing Disability Services at a Large Public University (Auditorium)

##### 6:50 – 7:30 p.m. (Choose one)

Planning for Success at College for Students on the Autism Spectrum (North Cafe)

The Nuts and Bolts of the Application Process (Auditorium)

As usual, one of the evening's highlights will be the availability of student disability service and admission representatives from higher education institutions and transition programs from across the country. In addition, we have an amazing post-high school reference guide available to each family attending the fair.

Over the years, this event has become one of the premier conferences of its kind in the United States. We sincerely hope you will make time to attend the CHOICES Conference on **Monday, October 22nd at Deerfield High School.**

**The CHOICES Committee**

**Ron Gatchalian**

Glenbrook North High School

**Stephanie Gordon**

Deerfield High School

**Sandy Horan**

Lake Forest High School

**Aby Karottu**

Niles Township High School

**Paul Harris**

Highland Park High School

**Elizabeth Hannon**

Lake Forest High School

**Julie Manning Smith**

Glenbrook South High School

**Nicole Johnson**

Evanston Township High School

**Diane Spillman**

Maine Township High School

**Gretchen Stauder**

New Trier High School

**Terese Sullivan**

Adlai Stevenson High School

**Liz Wietrzak**

Vernon Hills High School

**Natalie Komo**

Niles Township High Schools

**Stephanie Henrichs**

Libertyville High School

**Diane Wojcik**

New Trier High School



**Choices**



A POST SECONDARY PLANNING FAIR FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Monday, October 22, 2018

6:00 - 9:00 PM

Breakout Sessions

6:00 – 6:40 PM

6:50 – 7:30 PM

College Fair

7:00 – 9:00 PM

DHS Exhibition Gym

**Breakout Informational Sessions**

**6 – 6:40 p.m. (Choose one)**

**Disability Services at a Large Public University**

**Auditorium**

**Randall Ward, DRC Director or Kara James, DRC Senior Asst. Director, Purdue University**

*Transition from high school disability services and support to a large college and the disclosure of a disability.*

**Managing the Stress of Transition to College**

**North Cafe**

**Pamm Ambrose, Illinois State University**

*From Baseball to Cricket-- It's a New Ballgame: The Transition from High School to College. Learn about the different expectations between high school and college and how you can prepare and manage a seamless transition.*

**6:50 – 7:30 p.m. (Choose one)**

**Planning for Success at College for Students on the Autism Spectrum**

**North Cafe**

**Roger Pugh, Ph.D. Achieve Director, Southern Illinois University**

*The focus of this presentation will be on helping students with autism understand and access appropriate supports on a college campus. Learn strategies to help students increase independence in preparation for the college transition.*

**The College Search & Application Process for Students with Disabilities**

**Auditorium**

**Gretchen Stauder, Post-High School Counselor, New Trier High School**

**Diane Spillman, School Counselor, Maine South High School**

*This presentation will cover the basic process of researching and applying to college, including what parts of the application process are similar and different for persons with disabilities.*

Questions about the fair? Check our website!

[www.postsecondarychoices.org](http://www.postsecondarychoices.org)