

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit and PTMA Successful Partnerships

PTMA has been a resource for our 22 school districts in Montgomery County in providing hands-on training for students with disabilities learning to improve their independence through the use of Public Transportation. By providing affordable, direct training for students at increasing levels of challenge, PTMA has partnered with individual school districts in group trainings for both local and longer distance travel training.



Transition to Adult Life

Agency Information Night

Supported by the Montgomery County
Transition Coordinating Council, Transition

to Adult Life Agency Information Night is held each year to help families and youth with disabilities gain information which will help them make the transition from school to the world beyond. With more than 200 visitors and 45 local and national vendors including PTMA, this year's affair was one of our most successful to date.



Our newest collaborative effort titled **IDEAS4U - Interview Day Employment Awareness Showcase** was held in the Spring of 2011 with over 100 students participating. Each student was scheduled for two professional interviews in a field of their choosing followed by 3 breakout sessions: **Boscov's Department**

Store featuring a “What Not to Wear” fashion show; our local CareerLink offered job search information and PTMA brought along a SEPTA bus and provided travel training tips and a live “tour” for many who had never before been on a bus! Students also had the opportunity to hear guest speaker, Keith Russell, ABC Sportscaster and discuss his road to independence.

A Statewide Performance Grant for Autism and Secondary Transition was awarded to Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for the 2010-2011 school year with the purpose of enhancing independence for individuals living with Autism. The primary focus of this grant was the use of technology including iPod Touch and FlipVideo Camera to promote greater independence in the community

for students with Autism. Although there were many components to the grant outcomes, one was the use of iPod Touch and Conover Company's Functional Skills Program for travel training. Students used pre-loaded instructional videos prior to travel and created their own videos training using FlipVideo and iPod video cameras.

Coming Soon... Travel Training for Job Coaches! In August of 2011 PTMA will provide basic training for job coaches who work with high school students with disabilities. Many of these coaches have *heard about* public transportation but have never before *used* public transportation. PTMA will offer a trip within the community including a tour of the

Norristown Transportation Center with the goal of inspiring the coaches to learn more about independent travel and be better able to share it with students.