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Since 1975, Dr. George Tilson has dedicated his career to the mission of helping communities build or enhance programs and services to children, youth and adults who have been marginalized, due to disability or other intersecting life challenges. He believes interventions are only successful if they empower people to find their unique talents and pursue their aspirations for employment, education, and full community membership, and if communities step up and provide opportunities. In May of 2013, George launched an independent consultation business, re-imagining what career and workforce development could really mean. He specializes in professional development and training, policy analysis, strategic planning, and program evaluation. George continues to assist individuals and their families with career planning, job seeking, and community engagement. With Dr. Carol Burbank and Keith Bosco, he has founded a new initiative called Opportunity Brokers Consortium, which aims to bring diverse thought partners across many fields of expertise to address systemic issues of equity and social justice.

George served for 24-years as senior vice president of TransCen, Inc., where he was a member of the team that conceptualized and inaugurated the *Bridges from school to work* program, sponsored by the Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities. He was the manager of the first *Bridges* site in the Washington, DC metro area, and subsequently served as the first national director when the program was replicated in 8 other cities across the country. He continues to provide technical assistance to the Marriott Foundation and the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation.

Over the years George has co-developed and directed 14 innovative demonstration and research projects related to school-to-adult-life transition, career counseling, job development, creative teaching, and universal design for instruction. He is co-author of the popular book *Working Relationships: Creating Career Opportunities for People with Disabilities Through Employer Partnerships* and is a contributing author to the first edition of *The Way to Work*. In 1991, George was co-author with Richard Pimentel and Louise Baker of *Making the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Work for You* (published by Milt Wright & Associates, Northridge, CA), which was one of the first comprehensive training manuals available for employers as they sought to understand and comply with this landmark legislation, now coming upon its 30th anniversary.

Nationally and internationally, he has provided training and consultation to corporations, human service organizations, school systems, self advocacy and parent groups, as well as government agencies. He served as an advisor to the Social Security Administration on its Youth Transition Demonstration research study. George is currently collaborating with the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) on a pilot project called PIPEline to Career Success for Students with Disabilities which aims to help those students access and successfully complete rigorous career and technical education programs. He has served as a visiting faculty member at The George Washington University, The University of Maryland, and the University of Kansas. In August of 2015 he participated as a subject matter expert at a meeting of the European Union Supported Employment Initiative, in Oslo, Norway. He was a featured speaker at the international DISES conference in Cape Town, South Africa in July of 2018.

For the first 10 years of his career, George was a classroom teacher. He received his advanced degrees from The George Washington University where his fields of study included secondary education transition and program evaluation. His undergraduate degree is from Trinity University in San Antonio.

On the avocation side, George is an avid hiker and a playwright/composer. His plays and musicals have been presented in New York City, Baltimore, Washington, DC, Indiana, Montana and England, where his play *Amelia*, about the pilot Earhart, was produced at the Electric Theatre in April of 2019. Commissioned by the Delaware Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens, his musical "Boundless!" was produced in Dover in October of 2018 and featured 24 performers with disabilities.

George believes that the arts can and should be integrated into all aspects of our lives; not just for our entertainment, but for our growth and transformation as human beings.