



What Think College Can Do For You

Susanna Miller-Raines, MSW

March 20, 2023



What is Think College?

Think College is a national technical assistance, research, and evaluation center dedicated to developing, expanding and improving higher education options for students with intellectual disability.



Think College's Two Centers

National Coordinating Center

Evaluation of TPSIDs

Accreditation

Technical Assistance

Dissemination

Searchable Resources

Community Building

Inclusive Higher Education Network

Public Awareness

State & Regional Alliance

Career & Technical Ed

Employment Partnerships

Training Development

Membership Organization

www.thinkcollege.net



Donate

Search Entire Site



- HOME
- STUDENTS & FAMILIES
- PROJECTS
- TA & TRAINING
- RESOURCES
- ABOUT



Think College is dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving research and practice in inclusive higher education for students with intellectual disability.

CURRENT THINK COLLEGE PROJECTS





The only national database of college programs for students with intellectual disability.

The screenshot shows the Think College website's "College Search" page. At the top, the URL "www.thinkcollege.net/college-search" is visible. The page header includes the Think College logo and navigation links: HOME, STUDENTS & FAMILIES, PROJECTS, TA & TRAINING, RESOURCES, and ABOUT. A mouse cursor is pointing at the "PROJECTS" link. The main content area is titled "College Search" and contains a map of the United States where states are shaded in various shades of blue, representing the number of programs available in each state. Below the map is a legend titled "NUMBER OF PROGRAMS" with categories: 0, 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10+. On the left side of the page, there are sections for "RECENTLY ADDED" (listing institutions like Sinclair Community College and San Francisco State University) and a "SEARCH" section with filters for "LOCATION" (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona) and "PROGRAM FEATURES" (Serves Students in High School, Offers Financial Aid, Offers Housing, Program not limited by students' school districts).

What can we do for you?



Community Colleges Affinity Group



Chelsea VanHorn Stinnett
Training Development and
Technical Assistance Coordinator,
Think College
chelsea.stinnett@umb.edu



Jennifer Woegens
Director, Elevate at Arapahoe
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The screenshot shows the ThinkCollege website header with navigation links: HOME, STUDENTS & FAMILIES, PROJECTS, TA & TRAINING, RESOURCES, and ABOUT. A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area is titled "Community College Affinity Group" and includes a description of the group's purpose: "The purpose of the Community College Affinity Group is to give an opportunity to existing and potential inclusive postsecondary education programs and partners to provide peer to peer learning and support around community colleges and inclusive postsecondary education. Anyone working with community colleges or those who are simply curious about how these programs can work, are welcome." Below this is a "MEETING SCHEDULE" section with two entries: "Zoom Meeting Registration" on April 12, 2023, and "Program Development" on July 27, 2023. A "PAST MEETINGS" section lists "Academic Access for Students with Intellectual Disability at Community Colleges" from January 12, 2023, and "Kick-off Meeting" from October 12, 2022. A "CO-FACILITATORS" section features portraits and names of Jennifer Woegens and Chelsea VanHorn Stinnett.

<https://thinkcollege.net/ta-training/affinity-groups/community-college>

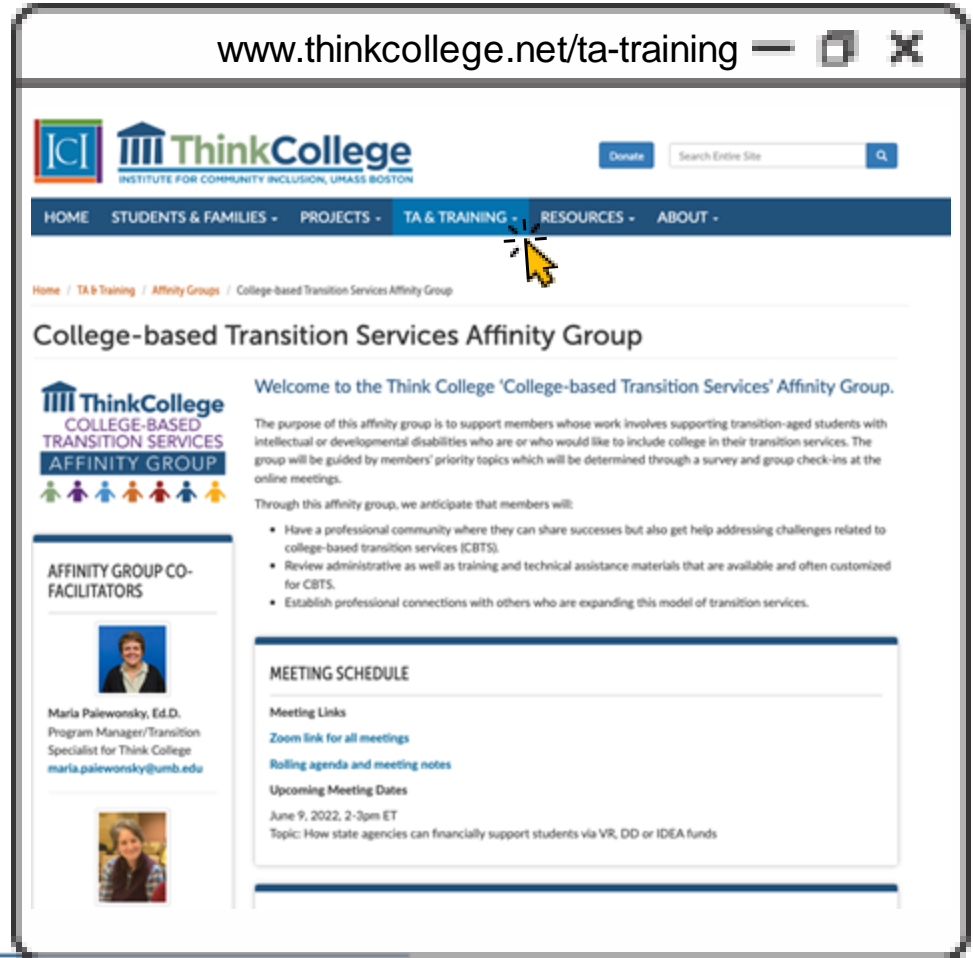
College-based Transition Services Affinity Group



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Ashley Luce
Program Coordinator, Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative (MAICEI)
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www.thinkcollege.net/ta-training

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HOME STUDENTS & FAMILIES PROJECTS TA & TRAINING RESOURCES ABOUT

Home / TA & Training / Affinity Groups / College-based Transition Services Affinity Group

College-based Transition Services Affinity Group


Welcome to the Think College 'College-based Transition Services' Affinity Group.


The purpose of this affinity group is to support members whose work involves supporting transition-aged students with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are or who would like to include college in their transition services. The group will be guided by members' priority topics which will be determined through a survey and group check-ins at the online meetings.

Through this affinity group, we anticipate that members will:

- Have a professional community where they can share successes but also get help addressing challenges related to college-based transition services (CBTS).
- Review administrative as well as training and technical assistance materials that are available and often customized for CBTS.
- Establish professional connections with others who are expanding this model of transition services.

AFFINITY GROUP CO-FACILITATORS


Maria Paiewonsky, Ed.D.
Program Manager/Transition Specialist for Think College
maria.paiewonsky@umb.edu



MEETING SCHEDULE

Meeting Links

- [Zoom link for all meetings](#)
- [Rolling agenda and meeting notes](#)

Upcoming Meeting Dates

June 9, 2022, 2-3pm ET
Topic: How state agencies can financially support students via VR, DD or IDEA funds

Home / TA & Training / Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance

The Think College National Coordinating Center provides technical assistance services related to postsecondary education options for students with intellectual disabilities (ICI) to college and program staff, K-12 educators, families, students and others. At this time, most services are available at no cost.

Send us a question or request. We have 16 consultants with expertise in inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) for students with intellectual disability who are available to assist professionals, families and students on a wide range of issues related to inclusive postsecondary education. [Email our Help Desk](#) and we will assign the provider with the best level of expertise related to your questions. If you want to speak to a specific provider from the list below, please let us know in your request.

Our Technical Assistance Providers



Cate Weir, M.Ed.

Focus areas: Program development and improvement, finding the right college, Comprehensive Transition Program application, program accreditation standards, funding options, strategic planning



Kathleen Becht, Ph.D.

Focus areas: Program development and improvement, credential development, family support, literacy, academic access, state level coordination



Clare Papay, Ph.D.

Focus areas: Comprehensive Transition Program applications, program development, research and data collection



Debra Hart, M.S.

Focus areas: National policy, strategic planning, program development, grant writing



Meg Grigal, Ph.D.

Focus areas: National policy, program development, research, employment supports and outcomes



Lori Cooney, M.Ed.

Focus areas: Universal Design for Learning, technology supports

Technical Assistance

We are here for you! These Think College experts are here to field your questions and provide the best guidance and troubleshooting available.

Technical Assistance Resources



HELP DESK



AFFINITY GROUPS



TARGETED TA

College Faculty & Staff

Our students have difficulty paying for the program.

Should I be connecting with VR?

I've heard something about accreditation...

Our employment outcomes could be better.

We aren't approved as a CTP.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFO TO HELP ME?!



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INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UMASS BOSTON

Resources by Topic

Home / Resources / Resources by Topic

Resources by Topic

Here you will find curated resources on some of the most critical topics in inclusive postsecondary education. Each page features selected key resources, a link to additional resources we have on the topic in our Resource Library, related external links and Frequently Asked Questions on the topic. We see these pages as a great place to get started when exploring a topic. We welcome feedback and suggestions for additional resources or FAQ.

Academic Access

Inclusion is more than being "in." That's true on the college campus, too. College faculty and staff need support to deliver instruction to students with intellectual disability. Inclusive access to academics in college improves learning outcomes, and it also improves employment outcomes, increased community engagement, meaningful learning

Accreditation

The National Coordinating Center is responsible to convene a workgroup to develop model program accreditation standards for college programs for students with ID. This work is ongoing but once completed, these accreditation standards will mean a certain level of quality can be expected from college programs serving

Campus Housing

Though an integral part of the college experience, not all college programs for students with ID offer housing options for their students. Just as the programs themselves are diverse, so are the housing options, with completely inclusive arrangements to more-specialized options. Learn the steps to establish campus housing

Bonus: Each page also includes a direct link to a technical assistance

These pages feature hand selected resources and information on some popular topics

Home / Resources / Resources by Topic / Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational rehabilitation, or VR, programs exist in each state and territory. VR agencies support find and keep competitive, integrated employment.

This VR mission aligns well with inclusive higher education programs, which support people with intellectual disability to increase their independence, find and keep fulfilling jobs, and boost the

FEATURED RESOURCES

- Postsecondary Education Pays Off
- The Effect of Postsecondary Education on Employment, Income, and SSI for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- Postsecondary Education Support and Earning Outcomes through Participation in Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- The Importance of Formal and Informal Communication Strategies in Maintaining Effective Partnerships Between Vocational Rehabilitation and Inclusive Higher Education Programs
- The Role and Impact of Vocational Rehabilitation

NEWS & FEATURES

Provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services in TPSID Programs

This Fact #20 describes ways that Transition Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID programs) engage with state vocational rehabilitation agencies to provide...[Read more](#)

Technical Assistance related to Vocational Rehabilitation

Russel J. Thelin, M.S., CVRC CRC, Senior Policy Fellow at ICI, is a technical assistance provider on

What is Educator Conn

This IRTEC examples of Vocational collaborators inclusive programs.

SORT BY
 Publication Date

SEARCH CLEAR
 Resource or Keyword

TOPICS

- ▶ Academic Access
- ▶ Campus Membership
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Paying for College
- ▶ Policy and Legislation
- ▶ Program Operations
- ▶ Program Planning
- ▶ Student Supports
- ▶ Transition

ADVANCED FILTERS

MEDIA TYPES

- Audio file (1)
- Document (523)
- Online Course / Webinar (86)
- Podcast (1)
- Video (26)
- Webpage (62)

PUBLICATION TYPES

- Academic / Peer-Reviewed Article (210)
- Book / Chapter (32)
- Conference Presentation (15)

Resource Library

Welcome to the Think College resource library!

Here you will find hundreds of carefully selected resources on a wide range of topics related to education for people with intellectual disabilities including transition, applying to and paying for and maintaining a college program, relevant legislation, competitive employment, living in the community, and more.

Do you know of a resource that would be appropriate for our library? Let us know! Email Rebecca

Displaying 1 - 10 of 771

NEW **Special meeting about (IPEDS) Integrated Postsecondary Education**

At this meeting with TPSIDs, Frank Smith and Meg Grigal from the Think College National Coord explained proposed changes to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS ...f

NEW **Perspectives of Peer Mentors Supporting Inclusive Higher Educa**

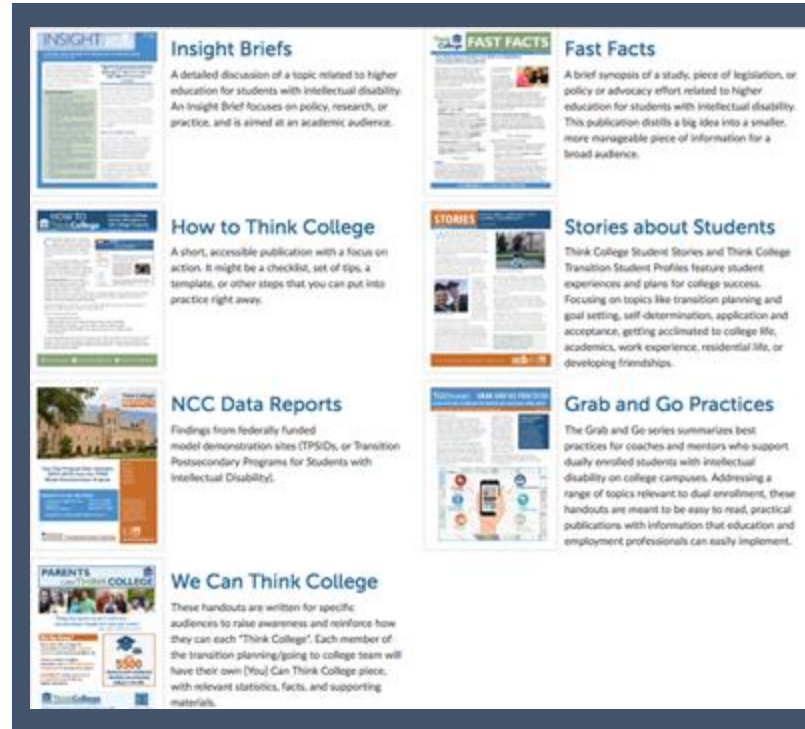
Questions remain about how best to support the involvement of students with intellectual and disabilities (IDD) in all aspects of campus life—both within and beyond the college ...Read more

NEW **Provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services in TPSID Progr**

- Most recent publications show up first on this landing page
- Can sort by publication date, alphabetical order, or relevance
- Use search box with a specific term to find what listings we have, or select from the list of topics
- Advanced filters: media type, publication type, or Think College Publications only

Think College Publications

- An in-depth look at an issue or topic
- Detailed look at how to do something
- Comprehensive review of NCC data
- Compelling handouts for different groups about Thinking College



- A quick look at some data or issue
- Stories by or about college students with ID
- Handy guides to allow for easy under-standing and application

Events and Webinars: Upcoming

Think College provides training that disseminates research and promising practices related to postsecondary education for students with disabilities, including webinars, conference presentations, capacity-building institutes and research summits.

Note: All times below are U.S. Eastern time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PAST EVENTS

EVENT CATEGORIES

- Any -

APPLY

Title	Date	Location
2019 SEPSEA Capacity Building Institute	May 16, 2019 to May 17, 2019	Charleston, SC
Creating Inclusive (Campus) Communities Begins in the Classroom	May 29, 2019 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM	Zoom webinar
Fourth Annual Regional Summit Post-Secondary Inclusive College Programs	May 30, 2019 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM	The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ
Money on The Table: Sharing Program Income with Vocational Rehabilitation through Ticket to Work and Partnership Plus	Jun 5, 2019 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM	Zoom webinar
Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative (MAICEI): Emerging Trends 2019	Jun 7, 2019 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM	Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center, Computer Dr, Westborough, MA 01581 5511
Developing Partnerships for Successful Inclusive Campus Housing	Jun 12, 2019 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM	Zoom webinar
National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) Annual Convention	Jun 27, 2019 2:45 PM to Jun 30, 2019 2:45 PM	David L. Lawrence Convention Center, PA

If you follow Think College on social media or get our newsletter, you know we like to keep busy!

Here's where you'll find the list of what's going on, and when:
<https://thinkcollege.net/ta-training/events>



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See the Data

Think College
REPORTS

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COHORT 3
TPSID MODEL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
(YEAR 1, 2020-2021)**

Meg Grigal, Debra Hart, Clare Papay, Belkis Choiseul-Praslin, & Rebecca Lazo

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Read the Stories

Home | Resources | Think College Publications

Think College Publications

Think College is proud to be the leader in research and dissemination in inclusive higher education. We have publications to increase your understanding, inspire your research, and improve your practice of expanding postsecondary education options for students with intellectual disability.

We produce a range of publications on topics related to transition, inclusive higher education, employment, and other topics relevant to your work. See our variety of publication types below, or search the entire resource library.

- Insight Briefs**
A detailed discussion of a topic related to higher education for students with intellectual disability. An Insight Brief focuses on policy, research, or practice, and is aimed at an academic audience.
- Fast Facts**
A brief synopsis of a study, piece of legislation, or policy or advocacy effort related to higher education for students with intellectual disability. This publication distills a big idea into a smaller, more manageable piece of information for a broad audience.
- How to Think College**
A short, accessible publication with a focus on action. It might be a checklist, set of tips, a template, or other steps that you can put into practice right away.
- Stories about Students**
Think College Student Stories and Think College Transition Student Profiles feature student experiences and plans for college success. Focusing on topics like transition planning and goal setting, self-determination, application and acceptance, getting acclimated to college life, academics, work experience, residential life, or developing friendships.
- Think College Reports**
Findings from Think College research projects, such as the National Coordinating Center, Moving Transition Forward, and others.
- Grab and Go Practices**
The Grab and Go series summarizes best practices for coaches and mentors who support dually enrolled students with intellectual disability on college campuses. Addressing a range of topics relevant to dual enrollment, these handouts are meant to be easy to read, practical publications with information that education and employment professionals can easily implement.
- We Can Think College**
These handouts are written for specific audiences to raise awareness and reinforce how they can each "Think College". Each member of the transition planning/going to college team will have their own (find) Can Think College piece, with relevant statistics, facts, and supporting materials.
- Plain Language Series**
Publications in the Plain Language Series are written so that they are easy to read, understand, and use. They use icons or images to help with understanding.

<https://thinkcollege.net/resources/think-college-publications>

Program Accreditation Standards

 ThinkCollege
NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER



**Program
Accreditation
Standards
Finalized**

The final Program Accreditation Standards, along with associated guidance and evidence required for review are available for download from our website.

Website:

https://thinkcollege.net/sites/default/files/files/TCreport_accred_modelstandards_2021.pdf

Trying to build VR partnerships at inclusive higher education programs?



Russell Thelin, MS, LVRC, CRC
Focus areas: Vocational rehabilitation, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act



Neil McNeil
Senior Program and Policy Specialist
MA, Rehabilitation Counseling



Expanding Career and Technical Education & Employment Opportunities through Collaborative Workgroups



Drew Andrews, EdD, Assistant Director and Technical Assistance Coordinator
The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA) at the University of Central Florida



Jaclyn Camden, Interim Associate Director
Center on Transition Innovations
Director of the ACE-IT in College Rehabilitation Research & Training Center
The Virginia Commonwealth University

Policy



Where can I find
information about
legislation?



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Focus on Policy

In this section of the website, find out...

- Who to contact with questions about college options for students with ID
- If there is a higher education consortium in your state
- Up-to-date policy and legislation information.



Denise Rozell

Director of Policy Innovation,
Education and Employment
Team, at Association of
University Centers on
Disability (AUCD)



Liz Weintraub

Senior Advocacy Specialist at
Association of University
Centers on Disabilities, or
AUCD

What's Happening in Your State



Student Advocacy & Policy

Connect college students with ID to existing IDD and cross-disability, self-advocacy and other advocacy/disability rights groups.

Developing Think College Ambassadors, an advocacy speaker's bureau.

Strategy sessions w/ state and regional alliance leaders to support policy-related solutions to barriers.

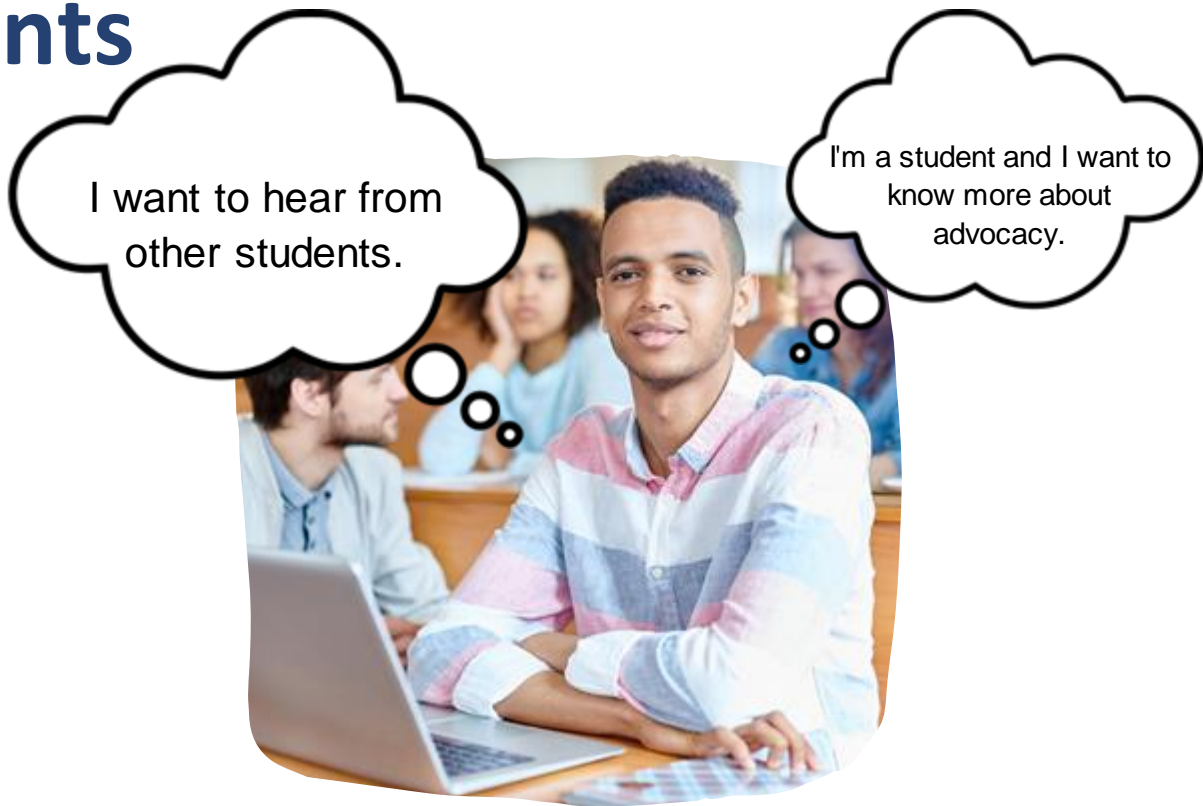


ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES

THE LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY & RESEARCH NETWORK



Students



We asked 5 former college students what you (and your family) should think about as you start your own college journey. Meet the students here, and keep reading to find out what they wanted you to know!

MEET THE STUDENTS

- MADDON**
Maddie is working towards a Fine-Professional Education Certificate. She loves working in the classroom with 2- to 3-year-old children. Being a teacher, she takes care not only to be fun, but also to enjoy her work by taking time to do things that she likes to do.
- KATHIE**
Kathie is finishing up her Certificate of Completion. She writes her own inspirational messages published on her social media pages. She wants to be a motivational speaker and advocate for people with disabilities.
- MARIA**
Maria earned her Fine-Professional Education Certificate. She is continuing to take courses in college, and is passionate about working with children in an after-school program. She has been a long time volunteer and is engaged to be married.
- GEORGE**
George's funny and insightful, by grow up in a small town and will eventually live in a big city where he can enjoy the city life. He is working towards a degree in Communication Studies. In his free time, George enjoys listening to music and watching movies.
- SANTI**
Santi is working towards a degree in teacher education. He writes articles for the college magazines. Santi teaches children during the summer how to play soccer, and he wants to be a coach in the future.



STUDENT COLLEGE RESOURCE GUIDE

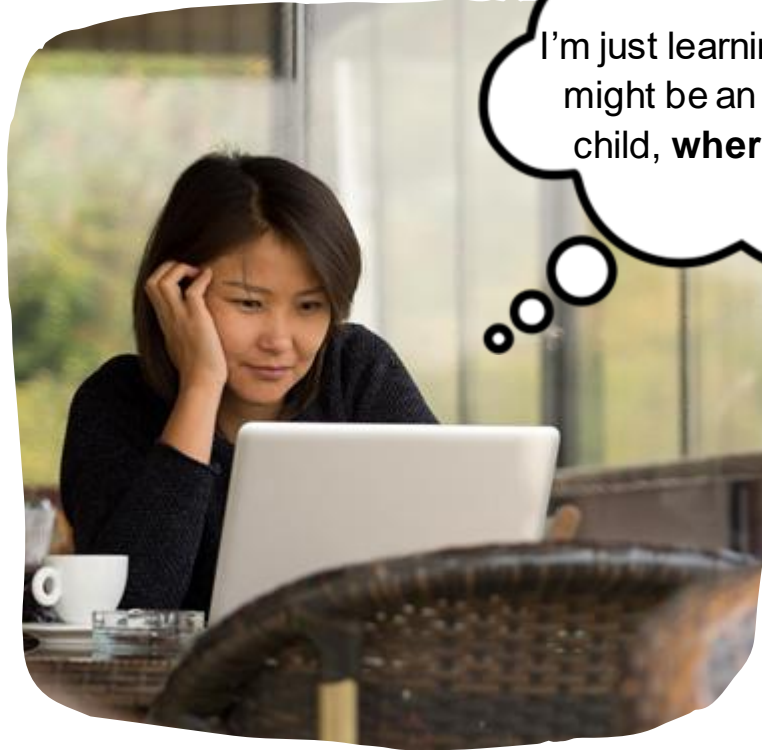
Thinking about college can be overwhelming, there are so many decisions and so many options. It can feel like the biggest decision of your life. But it's really just a lot of little choices. This student guide puts together some information that we hope will help. Remember, you have to do what's right for you. Trust yourself!



Resources for students

The Emerging Advocates group meets quarterly to discuss advocacy, self-advocacy, and policy.

Families



I'm just learning that college might be an option for my child, **where do I start?**

Get Family Information

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HOME STUDENTS & FAMILIES PROJECTS TA & TRAINING RESOURCES ABOUT

Home / Students & Families / Information and Resources for Families

Information and Resources for Families

Families play a pivotal role in preparing their sons and daughters for college. They also are there to support them while in college and to assist them in their transition out of college and into the rest of their lives. Think College has pulled together resources to give families some of the tools and information they need to support, encourage, and inform their daughters and sons as they seek out and pursue higher education.

FEATURED RESOURCES

- NEW** Preparing for the Transfer of Rights: Taking a Closer Look at Guardianship and its Alternatives
- NEW** Exploring Alternatives to Guardianship: A Brief for Youth
- NEW** Transfer of Rights: Hope Parents, Families, and Caregivers of Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Can Prepare for this Exciting Opportunity
- NEW** Podcast: Spotlight Series: A Focus on Education with Cate Weir & Debra Hart
- A Video about Being an Independent Adult: The Colby Act

NEWS & FEATURES

- Think College has a new student intern!**
It's going to be so much fun to teach our new intern about the ins-and-outs of writing and product development, and to learn from her about attending an inclusive college program! [Read more](#)
- COLBY'S "Colby Year"**
A Video about Being an Independent Adult: The Colby Act
What does it mean to be independent? Just ask Colby! This video is about a college student named Colby. [Read more](#)
- Program Accreditation Standards Finalized**
Assuring Quality in Inclusive Higher Education: Program Accreditation Standards for Higher Education Programs enrolling students with intellectual disability (ID). [Read more](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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HOME STUDENTS & FAMILIES PROJECTS TA & TRAINING RESOURCES ABOUT

Home / Students & Families / Family Resources

Family Resources

As the parent or family member of a young adult with intellectual disability, you may have heard a bit about Think College or seen videos or articles describing how students with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities are attending colleges and universities all over the United States.

We put this page together to respond to the most frequently asked questions that families have when first exploring and learning about college options. [Just to know](#) if you have more questions after reviewing these resources. We hope this page is a good start, and we are happy to help you find else you need as you learn more.

Pro Tip: Families and students alike LOVE learning more about the options by looking at the college program listings in [College Search](#).

What is Think College?

Is College Possible?

These resources illustrate students with ID accessing college.

- Read some [Think College Stories](#) that share the perspectives of successful college students with intellectual disability.
- Share info about college options for students with ID with teachers, parents and students with our [Webinar](#).

How to Prepare

Students in middle school and high school can be working on preparing for college!

- Suggested IEP Goals that help students get ready for college
- Suggestions for Parents to help students prepare for college
- Twenty Powerful Strategies to prepare for college
- Use this [Orientation Guide for](#)

How to Apply

When students are applying to attend a college program for students with ID, there is typically a different admissions process than the one used by degree-seeking students.

Unlike students who are applying to college through the standard admissions process, students will **NOT** need a regular high school diploma or SAT or ACT scores. [They WILL!](#)

Join our Families Facebook page!!



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Families Think College FB page



State & Regional Programs



I'm looking to connect
with others in my
state or region.

North Carolina PSE Alliance



- Based out of Carolina Institute on Developmental Disabilities at UNC Chapel Hill
- Anna Ward, Coordinator
- Working to expand PSE options for people with IDD in NC
- Community of other IPSE programs

<http://www.cidd.unc.edu/psea/>

anna.ward@cidd.unc.edu

Southeast Postsecondary Education Alliance

- Regional Membership Organization
 - Professional Development
 - Research
 - Public Policy
 - Communication
- 2023 Conference
 - May 17-19, 2023
 - Nashville, TN

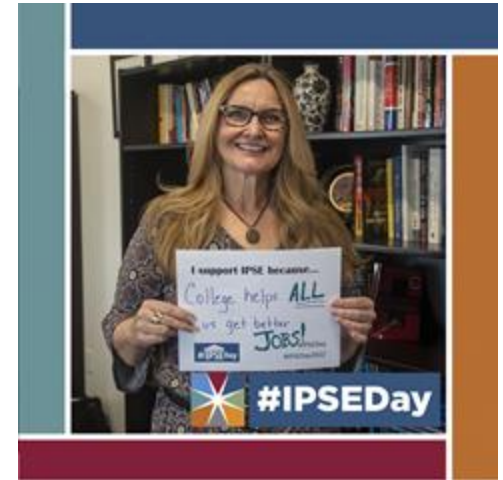
www.sepsea.org



IPSE Day 2023 - May 1, 2023



A day to raise awareness and spread the word about inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) options for students with intellectual disability.



Campaign Launch Overview

Think College Awareness Week



Webinar to premiere
campaign video, website,
new resources

**Mon
4/24**

Webinar for Transition
Educators

**Tues
4/25**

Presentation for
Students + Families

**Wed
4/26**

Higher Education
Professionals

**Thurs
4/27**

Town Hall, Community
Conversations

**Fri
4/28**

IPSE Day 2023: Events
across the U.S.

**Mon
5/01**

Community Colleges Affinity Group



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u

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HOME STUDENTS & FAMILIES - PROJECTS - TA & TRAINING - RESOURCES - ABOUT -

Home / TA & Training / Affinity Groups / Community College Affinity Group

Community College Affinity Group

The purpose of the Community College Affinity Group is to give an opportunity to existing and potential inclusive postsecondary education programs and partners to provide peer to peer learning and support around community colleges and inclusive postsecondary education. Anyone working with community colleges or those who are simply curious about how these programs can work, are welcome.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Zoom Meeting Registration
April 12, 2023, 4-5pm ET

- Program Development:** A current program director at a community college will provide their insight on program development and refinement at a community college. There will be a general discussion amongst participants about which resources are needed/need to be updated to reflect the needs of community colleges, specifically.

July 27, 2023, 4-5pm ET

PAST MEETINGS

Academic Access for Students with Intellectual Disability at Community Colleges
Date: January 12, 2023
Summary: Jennifer Woegens reflected on her experience starting a program at Arapahoe Community College. Participants engaged in active discussion around program development questions and scenarios, unique to community college settings.

Kick-off Meeting
Date: October 12, 2022
Summary: This was the inaugural meeting of the Community College Affinity Group. We did introductions and then opened up the floor for participants to share questions they had, topics they were interested in, or resource needs.

ThinkCollege
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AFFINITY GROUP

AFFINITY GROUP CO-FACILITATORS

Jennifer Woegens
Director, Elevate at Arapahoe
Community College
jennifer.woegens@arapahoe.edu

Chelsea VanHorn Stinnett

<https://thinkcollege.net/ta-training/affinity-groups/community-college>



World Down Syndrome Day



Who can help with my questions?



All of us!!

Not sure who to contact? You can always email our Help Desk at ThinkCollegeTA@gmail.com where someone will respond to you in 24-48 hours!



THANK YOU!!!

Susanna Miller-Raines

susanna.millerraines@umb.edu

