What We Know & Why We Need to Act Now

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Think College National Coordinating Center
Institute for Community Inclusion
University of Massachusetts Boston
Think College National Coordinating Center

Federally funded since 2010 to provide coordination, training & technical assistance to any college or university who wants to establish or improve postsecondary education opportunities for students with intellectual disability on their campus

www.thinkcollege.net
Higher education programs for students with intellectual disability in the U.S. 2004 to 2019

See https://thinkcollege.net/college-search
COLLEGE OPTIONS for PEOPLE with INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES, March 19 2019

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMS: 266

Think College
WWW.THINKCOLLEGE.NET
4,627
Florida Focus Group Draft Barrier Themes:

1. Staff/Faculty resistance
2. Family resistance
3. Procedural barriers
4. Financial barriers
5. Inconsistencies between IHE, Secondary ED, VR & DD
6. No clear path to postsecondary education from K-12
7. Transportation
CALL TO ACTION
TPSID Students 2017 - 2018

AGE
90% Between 18–25 years old

DISABLED
96% Either intellectual disability and/or autism
4% Autism (no intellectual disability)

GENDER
38% Female
62% Male

RACE/ETHNICITY
5%
11% Asian
27% Hispanic
59% Black or African-American
59% White

ENROLLMENT STATUS
Dually enrolled
82% Adult student
ACADEMICS
COURSE ACCESS

Inclusive vs. specialized course enrollments

TPSID Cohort Trend Data (2015–2018)

Changing Expectations. Increasing Opportunities.
### CHECKLIST FOR BUILDING INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition of Inclusive Higher Education (Section 1)</th>
<th>Inclusion is a human right. It involves belonging to a community, having access to equal opportunities, being free to choose one’s own life path, being actively engaged with and alongside others, and being valued for what one brings to the interaction.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Questions for Reflection</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
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</table>
| Do students with ID take the same courses in the general course catalogue as other students on campus?  
(Check no if students take at least one course specifically designed for students with ID or choose from a limited list of courses.) | | |
| Do students with ID choose their own courses, activities, jobs, and services with or without support?  
(Check no if program staff develop student schedules and opportunities.) | | |
| Are students with ID physically on the same campus as students without disabilities?  
(Check no if program is off campus or on a separate campus.) | | |
| Does enrollment of students with ID demonstrate natural proportions?  
(Check no if enrollment of students with ID at each campus setting exceeds the national average of 0.8%). | | |
| Do students with ID have access to all the activities and services available to other students?  
(Check no if some activities and/or student services are not accessible to students with ID.) | | |
| Are students with ID enrolled at the college or university? (Check no if students are enrolled in a separate program located on or off campus.) | | |
| Are students with ID governed by the same policies as students without disabilities?  
(Check no if separate or different policies for students with disabilities exist.) | | |
| Do students with ID participate in the IHE’s commencement/graduation ceremonies alongside their peers without disabilities?  
(Check no if students do not participate in commencement/graduation ceremonies or if a separate graduation celebration is provided to students.) | | |
| Do students with ID live in campus housing alongside peers without disabilities if the IHE has campus housing?  
(Check no if students with ID do not have access to campus housing or if they are in separate housing.) | | |
CALL TO ACTION
STUDENT LIFE
STUDENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE

- 11% Lived in IHE housing
- 21% Lived in non-IHE housing, not with family
- 68% Lived with family
CALL TO ACTION
EMPLOYMENT
Predictors of Employment at Exit
EMPLOYMENT

47% Employed while in college

31% Received services from Vocational Rehabilitation

56% Never held a paid job prior to enrollment

TPSID DATA 2017-2018
PREDICTORS OF PAID EMPLOYMENT AT EXIT

✓ Paid work prior to enrolling in TPSID
Paid work predicts paid work!!!

Students who obtained a paid job while enrolled were almost 15 times more likely to have a paid job at exit than those who did not.
What DIDN’T predict paid employment?

Unpaid career development experiences was not found to be a significant predictor of students obtaining paid employment during the program.
CALL TO ACTION
Predictors of Employment in Program

Positive predictor
• Number of years attended

Negative Predictor
• Number of specialized courses
Options for Credentials

• Program creates a new credential that **only** their students earn.
  • Aligned with an industry-recognized credential
  • Certificate of completion of a program of studies

• Program creates a new credential that **all students** can earn

• Offer **access to an existing credential** already approved by and awarded by the IHE
Earning a credential awarded by the IHE almost doubled the odds of having a paid job at exit.
Post-College Outcomes
**Outcome Findings**

**N=155**

**Students completing TPSID 2015–16 and 2016–17**

**EMPLOYMENT**

65% (N=100) of those who completed a TPSID program had a paid job one year after exit.

In comparison, 17% of adults with developmental disabilities in the general population had a paid job in the community in 2014–2015*.

Source: National Core Indicators, 2017

32% (N=49) were not working. These students reported they were doing other things such as...

- Looking for work (N=28)
- Attending postsecondary education at a non-TPSID program (N=19)
- Doing unpaid career development activities (N=25)

* 2014–2015 is the most recent year for which data are available.
satisfied or very satisfied with their social life

= 90.5%

(this excludes 19 students who did not answer this question)

In comparison, 40% of adults with developmental disabilities report feeling lonely.
Student Resource Guide

FREE

https://thinkcollege.net/sites/default/files/files/resources/FinalStudentResourceGuide.pdf
Think College
can help...

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