

Florida Center for Students with
UNIQUE ABILITIES

Realizing the Dream: Creating Pathways to Success through Postsecondary Education

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Florida's Opportunity

- ▶ The Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act (FS 1004.6495)
- ▶ Signed into law January 21, 2016

The Act Establishes

- ▶ The Center
 - The Center's charge
 - Executive Director's charge
- ▶ Criteria for approval as a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP)
 - Institutional eligibility and responsibilities
 - Student eligibility

The Act Establishes - cont'd

- ▶ FPCTP Scholarship
 - Eligibility
 - Funding level
- ▶ Program start-up and enhancement grants
- ▶ Accountability

FCSUA's Charge

- ▶ Disseminate information to stakeholders, particularly students and their families
 - Programs, services, supports and other information about your programs across the state
 - Mentoring, networking, employment opportunities

FCSUA's Charge - cont'd

- ▶ Develop and implement an application, submission, and approval process for becoming a FPCTP
- ▶ Administer the development and enhancement grants
- ▶ Collect, analyze, and report evaluation information regarding program and student outcomes

FCSUA's Charge - cont'd

- ▶ Develop, implement, and evaluate the FPCTP Scholarship to eligible students via their postsecondary education institution
- ▶ Make recommendations to state government regarding policy changes and funding needs

Eligible Institutions

- ▶ State university
- ▶ Florida College System institution
- ▶ Career center
- ▶ Charter technical career center
- ▶ An independent college or university that is located and chartered in this state, is not for profit, is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and is eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program.

Eligible Students

- ▶ Be a "student with an intellectual disability" as that term is defined in 20 U.S.C. s. 1140(2), including, but not limited to, a transitional student (age 18 - 26)
- ▶ Physically attend the eligible institution
- ▶ Submit to the eligible institution documentation regarding his or her intellectual disability, such as
 - a current individualized plan for employment associated with a review completed pursuant to s. 413.20(3)
 - or a diagnosis from a physician who is licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459
 - or a psychologist licensed under chapter 490

FPCTP Application: Key Pieces

- ▶ Focus on employment outcomes
- ▶ Inclusive contexts
- ▶ No less than half-time enrollment
- ▶ Meaningful credential, industry certification
- ▶ Requires definition of *satisfactory academic performance*
- ▶ Requires federal comprehensive transition program application

FPCTP Scholarships

- ▶ Scholarships available for eligible students attending the approved FPCTPs
- ▶ 42 scholarships awarded to date @ \$7,000 each
 - FAU - 22 students
 - UCF - 17 students
 - FKCC - 3 students

FPCTP Grants

- ▶ Start-up
 - Establish a new program
- ▶ Enhancement
 - Add FPCTP “standards” to an existing program
 - Expand or improve an approved FPCTP

Grants Approved!

- ▶ Inaugural FPCTP grant awards of \$300,000 each
- ▶ Tentative approval for
 - FAU - Academy for Community Inclusion
 - UCF - Inclusive Educational Services
 - Broward County PS - Grow Your Future
 - Miami-Dade PS - Project TOPS

Opportunity Creators

- ▶ Martha Compton - Florida Panhandle Technical College
- ▶ Linda Mussillo - Santa Fe College
- ▶ Adam Meyer - UCF

Opportunity Creators

- ▶ Christy Bradford and Enid Valdez - Broward County Public Schools
- ▶ Vivian Vieta and Sara Walkup - Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- ▶ Karla Malsheimer - FKCC
- ▶ Gwen Carey, Michael Brady, Mary Lou Duffy - FAU

Key Partners

- ▶ Vocational rehabilitation services
- ▶ The Able Trust

Opportunities in the Works

Balance flexibility, options, variety

with

Accountability

Opportunities in the Works

- ▶ FCSUA is developing accountability standards and process
 - Program standards
 - Minimum standard for determining students' *satisfactory academic progress* (SAP)
 - Performance indicators
 - Student demographic database
 - Reporting schedule
 - Report format

Opportunities in the Works

- ▶ Development of a Center advisory board
- ▶ Review of programs implemented this year
- ▶ Website expansion and updating
- ▶ Professional development opportunities
- ▶ Technical assistance for program development and evaluation
- ▶ Outreach to secondary schools

Opportunities in the Works

- ▶ Collaboration with Project 10
- ▶ Development of strategic planning system and process
- ▶ Technical assistance workshops to stimulate program development

Make the Dreams Reality!

- ▶ Empower students and families
- ▶ Create and provide choices for postsecondary education
- ▶ Offer a range of opportunities across Florida
- ▶ Become the routine, not the exception

Contact Us

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