

**Project 10 Topical Briefs**

are published on a monthly basis. Each issue focuses on a specific topic or theme and also highlights current and upcoming information and events related to secondary transition. This month the *Topical Brief* is focused on **Postsecondary Education.**



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**March 2016 is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**



**reThinking College: A Film About College Students with Intellectual Disabilities**

"We're going to see a whole different generation of people with intellectual disabilities thriving and achieving heights that no one 40 years ago would have thought possible."



<http://www.thinkcollege.net/rethinking-college>

**The National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** is motivating agencies and organizations across the country to sponsor activities that raise awareness about the value of inclusive community life. The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), and National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) are partnering to launch a social media campaign (Side-by-Side) to highlight the many ways in which people with and without developmental disabilities come together to form strong, diverse communities. Visit the NACDD website for more information at <http://nacdd.org/home/>.

**Program Highlights from Florida Colleges and Career and Technical Centers**

# Postsecondary Education Legislation Will Increase Options for Students with Intellectual Disabilities



Senate Bill 672, supported and championed by Senate President, Andy Gardiner, was signed into law on January 21, 2016 and will positively impact the development and expansion of postsecondary education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities. This new law, effective July 1, 2016, will accomplish the following:

1. Provide funding in the amount of \$1.5 million to establish a Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities at the University of Central Florida which will function as a statewide coordinating center to review and approve postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities. Additional funding in the amount of \$3 million will be available for institutions seeking to develop a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP).
2. Enable the Center for Students with Unique Abilities to coordinate and disseminate information about programs and services for students with disabilities and their families.
3. Provide \$3.5 million in funding for FPCTP student scholarships.

The postsecondary programs developed through this law will enable more students with intellectual disabilities to access postsecondary educational experiences which will increase opportunities for students to find employment and live independently.

## Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education

**Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ)** is one of four partner institutions in the Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education. FSCJ's "Project Achieve" is a unique postsecondary program that provides a comprehensive, inclusion-model vocational training program in which students earn workforce certificates. This year, with the repeal of the Special Diploma, high school graduates entering Project Achieve will also be eligible to pursue Technical Certificates and certain Degree programs. The program is a collaboration of FSCJ, Duval County Public Schools, the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council.

In August 2015, Project Achieve graduated 11 students from seven of FSCJ's Workforce Certificate programs including Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing, Automotive Service Technology, Facials Specialty, Applied Welding Technologies, Family Child Care Training, Building Trades and Construction Design Technology, and Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating Technology. In addition to the Workforce Certificate program participation, Project Achieve students also receive additional instruction in academics, career readiness and self-determination.

New to Project Achieve this year is a Career Education certificate that gives students the option of pursuing a Workforce Certificate in career specific skills, while also enrolling in up to 12 hours of college credit courses in order to strengthen the specific career skills related to their program goals. This new certificate provides students with new options for their postsecondary experience and enrollment is at an all-time high.

For more information: Call (904) 633-8456 or email [ProjectAchieve@fscj.edu](mailto:ProjectAchieve@fscj.edu).



**The Transition to Postsecondary Institutions  
(TOPS) Career and Technical Center Model**



## Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education

The University of Central Florida (UCF) partnered with the University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP), Florida International University (FIU), and Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) to form the Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education, who have been awarded a \$2.5 million, five-year federal grant to assist students with intellectual disabilities successfully transition into higher education. The U.S. Department of Education has awarded funding from the Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) into Higher Education program to the Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education.

USFSP served as the lead institution in a consortium that was awarded TPSID funding during the 2010 cycle. Much of the experience and knowledge obtained and momentum generated about inclusive higher education over the past five years will be transitioned to this new partnership, which includes extending existing support while also improving and enhancing existing and developing new programs.

The consortium will create and expand high-quality transition and postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

Additionally, the consortium will:

- Collaborate with all Florida postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities and other key stakeholders to align curriculum and credentialing among the institutions; and
- Develop a base of meaningful research in this area and disseminate the research through peer-reviewed articles, conference presentations, and training.

"We are honored that our partner institutions in Florida and the U.S. Department of Education have expressed their confidence in UCF to lead this extremely important project," said Maribeth Ehasz, UCF's vice president for Student Development and Enrollment Services. "The focus of our program is on outreach, professional development, and evaluation about students with intellectual disabilities and improving their academic success."

To achieve these goals, the Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education will partner with the Florida Department of Education's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and its Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services. The consortium will also collaborate with other partners to design and deliver professional development, an annual symposium,

2015-2016 at Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College is launching a new program to provide academic support for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The program aims to provide support for students enrolled in three programs- Commercial Art Technology, 3D Animation, and Baking and Pastry Arts. The Project Coordinator and five facilitators provide co-teaching during classes, accommodations through a Section 504 Plan, case-management support, tutoring, and instruction in employment skills, resume building and interviewing skills. The program is in its early stages and, in the future, plans to work with area resources to provide services such as job coaching, work experience and job placement.

For more information, email Vivian Vieta at [vvieta@dadeschools.net](mailto:vvieta@dadeschools.net).

### Program Highlights from Florida Universities

#### **Project 10 STING RAY (Students Transitioning Into the Next Generation, Recognizing Alternatives for Youth) at University of South Florida St. Petersburg**

is a partnership of the Pinellas County School District, Project 10, the USFSP, the Florida Department of Education, and the Florida Governor's

Commission on Disabilities. It offers young adults with



intellectual disabilities, ages 18 to 22, an opportunity to experience life on a college campus while developing self-determination, independent living, and employability skills. Since 2010, STING RAY's mission is to provide an innovative and transformational postsecondary learning experience that empowers young adults with intellectual disabilities to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to become independent and productive citizens. STING RAY uses a research-based individualized, person-centered, adaptive curriculum built upon the student's individual needs, strengths and interests. The curriculum is a "clock hour" structure with five Domain Clusters: Career Development and Employment, Academic Enrichment, Campus and Community Engagement, Independent Living, and Self-Determination. Please visit <http://ftpsid.info/DetailPage.php?PageID=68> for more information.

State Impact, a reporting project of National Public Radio (NPR), interviewed students and staff from STING RAY last spring. You can

and strategic program evaluation, and to ensure reporting to and collaboration with the national transition coordinating center.

"UCF strives to be a leader in creating the most inclusive college experiences for students with intellectual disabilities," said Adam Meyer, UCF's acting director of Inclusive Education Services and director of Student Accessibility Services. "The TPSID grant is a great opportunity for UCF and our partner schools to make a significant impact in the state with respect to how these programs operate."

For more information, please visit [www.FLTPSID.info](http://www.FLTPSID.info).

## Existing Florida Postsecondary Sites Matrix

Postsecondary Institution	Ages Served	Program Length	Access Limitations	Student Housing	How To Apply	Details
Florida Atlantic University Transitioning Ovals Program	18-22	2-4 years	Yes, Palm Beach	No	Complete FAU Transitioning Ovals Program application	<a href="#">View Details</a>

The existing Florida postsecondary sites matrix is available at <http://fltpsid.info/Postsecondary.php>.

The Florida postsecondary institutions listed on the matrix have existing programs for students with intellectual disabilities. Their programs provide age-appropriate opportunities for learning, employment preparation, recreational and leisure activities, social interactions, and facilitate the development of natural supports. The postsecondary institutions that operate the programs are eligible for technical assistance through the Florida Consortium on Postsecondary Education and Intellectual Disabilities. Interested parties are encouraged to contact a representative listed below for application and enrollment criteria as well as additional information on each program.

For more on inclusive higher education in Florida, please visit [www.FLTPSID.info](http://www.FLTPSID.info).

listen to and read the article [here](#).

## Inclusive Education Services at University of Central Florida

More than 63,000 students enrolled at UCF in the fall 2015 semester, the most in the school's 52-year history. Among them were six students with intellectual disabilities who became the founding class of the new Inclusive Education Services. This is a milestone achievement for UCF, which continues to pursue the lofty goal to offer the best undergraduate education in Florida by becoming more inclusive and diverse.

The new class of students are fully immersed in a comprehensive postsecondary educational experience. Along with taking two college level courses, they are living in on campus housing and participating in work study opportunities. They also have full access to all student resources, clubs and activities available to all students at UCF.



## Project Panther LIFE: Learning Is For Everyone at Florida International University

is a certificate, non-degree program of study which allows students with Intellectual Disabilities to access and participate in a variety of FIU courses, varied job shadowing opportunities throughout campus, supervised employment internship experiences in the community, and other required program and community activities through a system of supports from academic mentors, peer coaches, faculty, and project personnel. Project Panther LIFE is a continued partnership between FIU, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and Parent to Parent of Miami (P to P), Inc.



Two students in FIU's Panther LIFE share their college experiences.

### Shared Resources

Resources for Building or Improving Programs



**Student Reflections**  
View Other Students

## Postsecondary Education Resources

### A Parent and Teacher Guide to Section 504

<http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7690/urllt/0070055-504bro.pdf>

(PDF) Frequently Asked Questions - A short guide to Section 504 with the most frequently asked questions.

### BEES Memo Re Dual Enrollment & TPSID

<http://www.ftpsid.info/files/DualEnrollmentandTPSID.pdf>

This memo discusses issues related to the dual enrollment of students participating in TPSID programs, specifically whether they are eligible for the waiver of tuition, fees, and books.

### Career and Technical Education Course Substitution Guidelines

<http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7571/urllt/CTEsubstitutions.pdf>

This informational document provides guidelines for determining appropriate CTE course substitutions.

### Memorandum: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Procedures

[http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7571/urllt/WIOA\\_memo.pdf](http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7571/urllt/WIOA_memo.pdf)

This memorandum outlines how the Florida Department of Education's (FDOE) BEES, Division of Blind services (DBS) and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) will share the goal of improving the post-school outcomes of students with disabilities. This joint memo is being issued to ensure that all parties share a similar understanding of the expectations for school districts and local DBS and VR staff and of the processes and services offered by DBS and VR.

### Section 504 - Accommodation Plan for Postsecondary Adult/Vocational Education Students

<http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7690/urllt/0070058-504.pdf>

Information about Section 504 accommodation plans for students with disabilities who participate in a public school's general education program or postsecondary vocational education program.

### Senate Bill 672 Signed into Law January 21, 2016

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2016/0672>

This Senate bill, recently signed into law, establishes a Center for Students with Unique Abilities; provides funding for institutions seeking to develop a Comprehensive Transition Program; and provides scholarships for students with disabilities to access postsecondary education programs.

### Technical Assistance Paper: High School Graduation Options for Students with Disabilities

<http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7322/dps-2015-34.pdf>

This technical assistance paper describes the high school graduation option for students with disabilities following the adoption of Rule 6A-1.00963, Florida Administrative Code, High School Graduation Requirements for Students with Disabilities.

## Upcoming Events

VISIONS XXIII: A Transition Planning Institute

April 27-29, 2016  
Westin

save the date

April 27-29, 2016  
 Lake Mary Westin  
 Lake Mary, FL

# VISIONS XXIII



Are you connected?

A Transition Planning Institute

Sponsored by Florida Division on  
 Career Development and Transition (FLDCDT)  
[www.FloridaDCDT.org](http://www.FloridaDCDT.org)

The registration form for the upcoming VISIONS Conference sponsored by Florida DCDT and BEESS is available at the following link:

<http://floridadcdt.org/visions-annual-conference.html>.

The conference this year will be held at the Westin Lake Mary - Orlando North from Wednesday, April 27, 2016 until Friday, April 29, 2016. The room rate this year is only \$129.00 per night and there is free parking.

**Attention District Interagency Councils:**

Project 10 will be hosting a Pre-Conference Workshop for district interagency councils from 9:00 a.m -12:00 p.m. on Wednesday (4/27).

Please click [here](#) to RSVP for this pre-conference workshop.

Please visit [www.FloridaDCDT.org](http://www.FloridaDCDT.org) for more information!

**The 6th Annual Hartwick Symposium**

The Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education is planning for the 6th Annual Hartwick Symposium on Postsecondary Education and Intellectual Disabilities.

The symposium will be held in September 2016.

More information will be forthcoming!



2016  
EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES  
&  
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT INSTITUTE

**Destination Graduation:**  
*Together Ensuring Every Student Succeeds*

**September 19 – 21, 2016**  
**The Florida Hotel and Conference Center**  
**Orlando, Florida**

**HOT TOPICS**

\*Alternative Education \*Building Family, School and Community Partnerships  
\*Data-Based Decision Making and Management  
\*Dropout Recovery \*Exceptional Student Education (ESE) \*Engaging Instructional Practices  
\*Improving Graduation Rates \*Legislative Updates  
\*Matching Interventions to Student Needs \* Positive Behavior Practices/Supports  
\*Restorative Justice Initiatives \* School Disengagement and Dropout Interventions  
\*Social-Emotional Learning/Positive Mental Health  
\*Services for At-Risk Student Populations and more....


 Presented by:
 

## Upcoming Webinars



### Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC) Employment Webinar Series

<http://flfcic.fmhi.usf.edu/program-areas/employment.html>

Join the FCIC on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 5:00pm -

6:00pm EST for an opportunity to participate in a series of webinars geared to build capacity on an array of employment related topics. The webinars are a tool used to share information and resources for self-advocates, family members, and other community partners to make informed choices and decisions about services, supports, policies, and best practices to ensure their requests and service provisions are based on individual goals and outcomes.

- April 20, 2016: Effective Strategies for Online Applications
- May 18, 2016: Self-Advocates' Panel Discussion on Employment Supports

### ThinkCollege Spring Webinar Series

<http://www.thinkcollege.net/training/webinars>

Think College sponsors webinars on a variety of topics related to postsecondary education for students with intellectual disability. See the list below for the upcoming live webinars.

- March 30, 2016: Roles and Responsibilities in Dual Enrollment Program Development
- April 6, 2016: Sharing Lessons Learned
- April 20, 2016: Staff Training for Positive Employment Outcomes
- May 9, 2016: Employment Partnerships



**think COLLEGE!**

College Options for People  
with Intellectual Disabilities

## Third Party Cooperative Arrangements (TPCAs) webinar

March 30, 2016

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm ET

Registration information available at:

<https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/4437508356443405314>

During this webinar, TPCA information such as contractual components and stakeholder roles and responsibilities will be reviewed and participants will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is looking to partner with interested school districts who would like to improve outcomes for their students with the most significant disabilities. TPCAs are partnerships between Florida VR and School Districts that provide students an opportunity to engage in community-based work experiences throughout the school year. These experiences, supported by an Employment Specialist, include intensive supports, participation in experiential learning and developing and refining work skills, positive attitudes and successful work behaviors needed to obtain and maintain employment. Twenty districts in Florida already partner with VR to offer this exciting program and we hope to partner with more during the upcoming 2016-2017 school year.

**NTACT provides online events for practitioners and other transition stakeholders. Below is information about a few upcoming NTACT Webinars and Ask the Expert events.**

### Early Warning System Foundations: Practice of Developing & Implementing Early Warning and Intervention Systems

April 14, 2016, 2:00 -3:00 PM ET



Registration information available at:

<https://zoom.us/webinar/register/568dd8cf597c24ecc5b9141539e44ee6>

### Risky Business: Risk Factors for Dropping Out & the NTACT Risk Calculator

April 21, 2016, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET

Online discussion April 21 - May 5

Registration information available at:

<https://zoom.us/webinar/register/c600c48d6e39ffb1cde7dc3c8da9331e>

### Employment First Florida Grassroots Group

April 19, 2016, 03:00 - 04:00 PM ET

[Register now](#)

Join the Employment First FL Grassroots Group April 2016 online meeting It will provide an overview of the Abilities Work Help Desk and Web Portal.

The Abilities Work Help Desk is a resource available to businesses who are looking to hire qualified Floridians with disabilities. The Abilities Work Web Portal, presented by Diane Vacca, is a new tool that employers can use to find out information about hiring Floridians with disabilities. Please join us to find out more about these two valuable resources and how they can work for you. You can find out more information about these two resources at <http://www.rehabworks.org/abilitieswork.shtm>.

[Join Our Mailing List](#)



About Project 10 Topical Briefs:



TPCA are offered by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), in collaboration with the Bureau of Exceptional Student Education and Student Services (BEES) and Local Education Agencies (LEA). Each agency promotes the use of evidence-based practices and is committed to assisting students with disabilities successfully transition from school to postsecondary education, training and meaningful careers. Work experience while in high school, especially paid work experience, is the best known predictor that a student will become employed and live independently after high school.

TPCA are written agreements between VR and LEA, and are designed to provide paid and non-paid community-based work experiences (CBWE). The school district refers to CBWE as community-based vocational education and is often provided as part of the student's curriculum.

The TPCA will serve students with the most significant disabilities who also require VR Supported Employment (SE) services in order to obtain employment. Students who will require ongoing supports in order to maintain employment, including those participating in school district extended programs, will need to be determined eligible for VR SE services and have an Individualized Plan of Employment (IPE) developed with and approved by a VR counselor.

The TPCA will:

- Serve students ages 16 or older, VR eligible and with a VR SE IPE
- Have services delivered by one or two employment specialists (i.e., job coaches)
- Require school districts to provide matching funds from non-federal, general revenue sources to align with VR formula funding to leverage and build fiscal resources
- Use each employment specialist to serve at least six students during a school year
- Provide funding, based on service deliverables to be performed by the employment specialist

VR again offered the Third Party Cooperative Arrangements (TPCA) for the 2015-16 school year. All school districts were given the opportunity to renew current arrangements or apply for a new TPCA. The 2015-16 TPCA will go into effect once approved, but no earlier than July 1, 2015.

*Click image above for previous Topical Brief issue on TPCAs*



Project 10 *Topical Briefs* provide short information summaries and resource links related to secondary transition.  
***Have a question? Want to find or recommend a resource? Have some great news to share?***

Send us an email at  
[project10@stpete.usf.edu](mailto:project10@stpete.usf.edu)

For back issues of Project 10 Topical Briefs, visit the newsletter page on the Project 10 website at  
<http://www.project10.info/Newsletter.php>.

**Project 10:**

**Transition Education Network**

assists Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes.

**Project 10: Transition Education Network  
University of South Florida St. Petersburg**

Questions or comments?

Email us at  
[project10@stpete.usf.edu](mailto:project10@stpete.usf.edu)  
[www.Project10.info](http://www.Project10.info)