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PROJECT 10 TOPICAL BRIEFS are published on a bi-monthly basis. Each issue focuses on a specific topic or theme, highlighting current and upcoming information and events related to secondary transition. This month the Topical Brief is focused on Florida College and Career Transition (CCT) Clubs: Supporting Positive Post-Secondary Outcomes for Students.



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# Background Story: Helping Students with Disabilities to Access Postsecondary Education

Postsecondary education is associated with better employment outcomes for all students and research shows that the same is true for students with disabilities. In 2014, a study focused on 19,050 youth with intellectual disability between the ages of 16 and 26 to compare employment and earnings outcomes between those who did and did not participate in postsecondary education (PSE). All students received Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services. The study showed that the youth who participated in PSE were exited VR services with higher rates of employment than the youth who did not participate in PSE. The youth who participated in PSE also earned higher wages than those who did not participate in PSE (Smith et al., 2018).

Outcomes for Youths with Intellectual Disability	Number of Youth	Employment	Weekly Wages
Did Not Receive PSE Services	16,672 (88%)	55.9%	\$200
Received PSE Services	577 (3%)	60.7%	\$288
Information Missing	1801 (9%)	-	-

However, the data shows that 88% of the youth did not participate in PSE services while only 3% did participate in PSE services. Access to PSE is greatly needed for more students with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual disability (ID). CCT Clubs encourage and support students to participate in postsecondary education which can increase their opportunities to find preferred employment at higher wages.



## Florida College and Career Transition (CCT) Clubs: Helping Students to Find PSE Opportunities

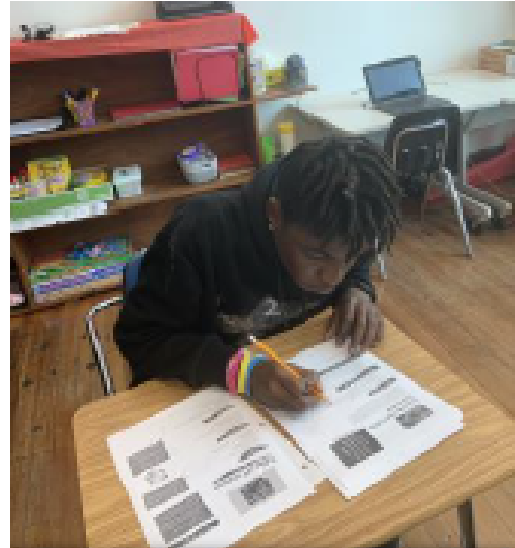
Florida CCT Clubs are supported by the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA) at the University of Central Florida (UCF). The purpose of the CCT Clubs is to increase awareness of Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program opportunities and help students with intellectual disabilities prepare for and access those opportunities across Florida. CCT Clubs and are inclusive, with membership representing these three



groups: (1) students with intellectual disabilities, (2) students with disabilities other than intellectual disabilities and (3) students without disabilities. Club advisors support students to learn and explore career pathways and postsecondary education options. Students work together to identify and explore college and career opportunities, engage in mentoring and participate in events and activities within the school, community and at local Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) to build college and career transition plans for all members.

## Seven CCT Club Student Learning Outcomes

Club activities are interactive and fun while also accomplishing crucial learning outcomes associated with postsecondary education. These seven learning outcomes are aimed at equipping students with the skills they need to identify their career preferences, find postsecondary education opportunities that prepare them for their profession of interest, complete the necessary steps to apply to postsecondary education institutions and develop the interpersonal and intrapersonal skills needed to thrive in an academic and/or employment setting. The seven student learning outcomes are listed below.



Students will:

1. Identify three careers or career fields in which they are interested, and the competencies needed to pursue those careers.
2. Identify pathways to each career through secondary and postsecondary education, training and/or other experiential learning.
3. Identify postsecondary education institutions that offer programs aligned with the careers they have identified and will compare the characteristics of each institution.
4. Identify the individual supports, if any, they need to access and succeed in each career and in the postsecondary education associated with each career.
5. Identify the three characteristics most important to them when choosing a career and a postsecondary education program.
6. Demonstrate the ability to accurately complete a postsecondary education application; prepare a resume and/or summary of performance relevant to college and career applications; and develop effective interviewing skills.
7. Develop and demonstrate employability and leadership skills aligned with their academic and career aspirations, such as teamwork, goal setting, organization, decision-making, task completion and communication.

When students accomplish these learning outcomes, they have the tools they need to transition to postsecondary education and, ultimately, to a career.

## Accomplishing Good Things While Having Good Fun

A high school club is the perfect setting to achieve the seven student learning outcomes because most of the activities involve interacting with others. As a

group, the students learn new skills and learn from each other. Club members may find their learning taking place:

- On their school campus or on a college campus.
- Using computers or participating in community service.
- Listening and talking to each other or listening and talking to a guest speaker.

Whether the club members are on a road trip, conducting virtual campus tours, investigating career options and requirements, preparing for or participating in mock interviews, volunteering in the community, or enjoying team building activities, they are preparing for postsecondary education and careers.



## Here's How to Create a CCT Club at YOUR School

FCSUA can provide funding in the amount of \$3,000 per year to cover CCT Club activities and a club sponsor beginning as early as September 1, 2021.

This is the perfect time to start a CCT Club at your school. See the dates below for information about application availability and due dates. To quote the film, *Field of Dreams*, "If you build it, they will come."

**Currently** - Find instructions and application packets for first-time applicants and renewal applicants posted on the [FCSUA website](https://fcsua.org).

**August 31, 2021** - First-time and renewal applications are due!

## References

Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities. (2021, April 28). *Florida college and career transition club*. [https://fcsua.org/K\\_clubs.php](https://fcsua.org/K_clubs.php)

Smith, F., Grigal, M., & Shepard, J. (2018). *Impact of postsecondary education on employment outcomes of youth with intellectual disability served by vocational rehabilitation*. Think College Fast Facts, Issue No. 18. Boston, MA: University of Massachusetts Boston, Institute for Community Inclusion. [https://thinkcollege.net/sites/default/files/files/resources/FF18\\_R.pdf](https://thinkcollege.net/sites/default/files/files/resources/FF18_R.pdf)

## Upcoming Events

### Learning Ally's Spotlight on Dyslexia Virtual Conference

Learning Ally's Spotlight on Dyslexia virtual conference gives teachers the opportunity to have an immediate impact in their instruction while earning up to 12 continuing education credits by attending a full day of dyslexia-focused professional learning. The conference will address indicators, screening and assessment, instructional strategies and research-driven technology and tools.

**Date/Time:** June 4, 2021 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.



### The 23rd Annual Family Café

The Annual Family Café brings together thousands of people with disabilities and their family members for three days of education, training and networking each year. With a great range of individual breakout sessions, a packed exhibit hall with dozens of vendors, a series of special events including keynote speakers and the Governors' Summit on Disabilities, the Annual Family Café offers attendees exposure to resources on a grand scale, unprecedented access to policy-making officials and a chance to network with other individuals with disabilities and their families. There is no registration fee for individuals with disabilities and their family members.

**Dates:** June 11-13, 2021

Click [here](#) to register.

### [Jan La Belle Scholarship](#)

The Jan La Belle Scholarship provides students with disabilities and opportunity to pursue their personal and career goals through attendance at a post-secondary institution.

Application deadline is June 30, 2021.

Eligible applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Applicant must be an individual with a disability.
- Applicant must be a Florida resident.
- Applicant must be an individual who will be entering a college or post-secondary educational program in Fall 2021

Click [here](#) to apply.

## Upcoming Webinars

### Fridays with FDLRS: Resources for Parents and Families

This final session will review with parents available state and federal resources that are just a click away.



A comprehensive resource database will be discussed and parents will be given an opportunity to ask for resources in specific areas.

**Date/Time:** May 21, 2021 11:30 a.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

### **Florida Speaker Series on Inclusive Postsecondary Education Options for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Florida**

This speaker series covers topics that support college access and success for students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

**Date/Time:** May 24, 2021 3:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

### **Legal Rights and Options for Youth Receiving Employment Services**

Find out what employment services are available for young people with disabilities and what rights youth have when receiving employment services. This session will discuss your options for a range of services, including employment services under Home and Community-Based Services waivers and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services.

**Date/Time:** June 2, 2021 1:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

### **Lessons Learned from a Decade of Data**

The Think College National Coordinating Center (NCC) has been collecting program and student data from Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability (TPSIDs) since 2010. Data, like how programs are staffed and what students do, provide insight into what can help students achieve their desired outcomes of academic inclusion and employment. Join this webinar to learn what has been discovered from 10 years of data collection and evaluation.

**Date/Time:** June 29, 2021 3:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.



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##### **About Project 10 Topical Briefs:**

Project 10 Topical Briefs provide informational summaries and resource links related to secondary transition.

**Have a question? Want to find or recommend a resource? Have some great news to share?**

Email us at [project10@stpete.usf.edu](mailto:project10@stpete.usf.edu).

For back issues of Project 10 Topical Briefs, visit our [Topical Briefs](#) page on the [Project 10](#) website.

#### **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)