



Lunch & Learn, April 20, 2020

Inclusive College Programs for Students with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities

**Facilitated by: Katherine Vroman, PhD
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Virtual Meeting Norms



- Keep your phone or computer on mute unless asking questions
- If you have a question use the participant feature and raise your hand
- Questions and comments can be typed in the comment section
- We will leave 20-30 minutes to answer questions at the end

Agenda

- Inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) - what is it?
- An exciting moment for IPSE (legislatively...)
- What makes a college program “inclusive”?
- Admissions considerations
- Your go-to resource: Think College (www.thinkcollege.net)
- IPSE in New Jersey
- How to prepare?
- Questions and discussion

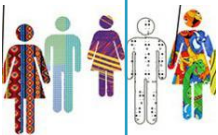


Defining inclusive PSE

“Alternative pathway” programs

*For students with IDD labels who **might not gain admission** to a 2- or 4-year college/university via traditional avenues*

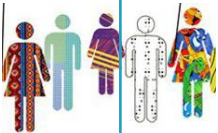
- Some offer **Dual enrollment/Concurrent enrollment** (for students 18-21 who are still in high school)
- A mix of **inclusive and separate** class settings
 - To be considered a “**Comprehensive Transition Program**” at least half classes and work experiences must be inclusive
- Possibility for **on-campus housing**
- Typically **not degree-granting** (but many offer a “certificate”), and students take courses on an audit basis
- Federal **financial aid** is possible
- Many include **career development/internship** component



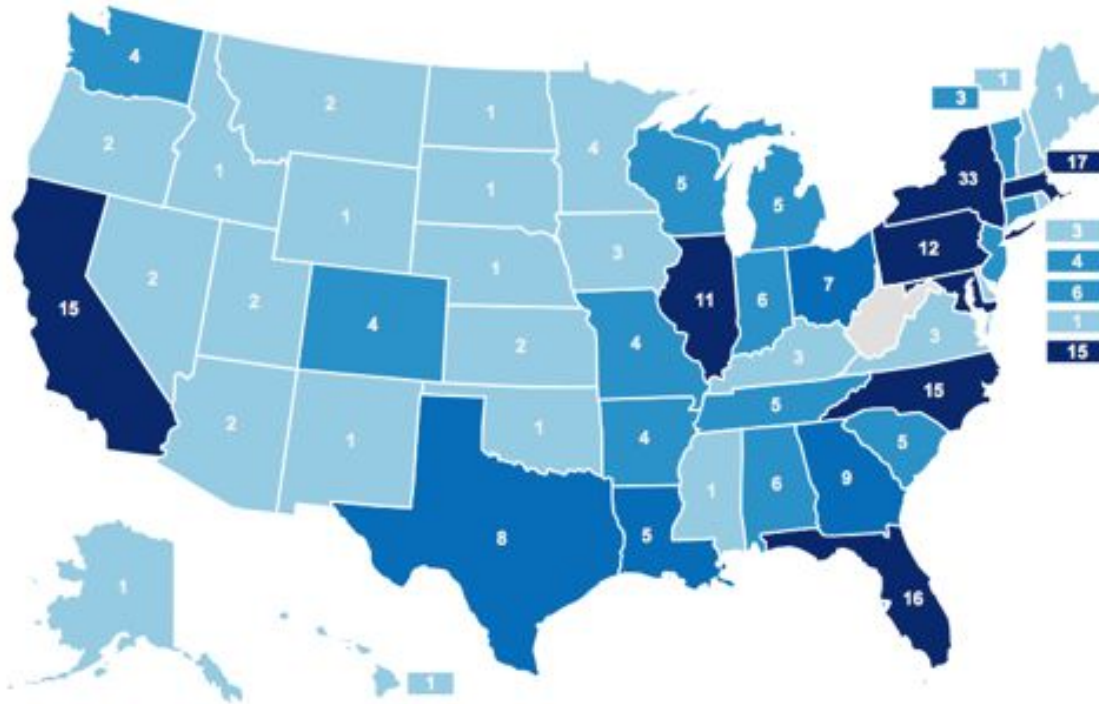
An exciting moment for Inclusive PSE

- **Legislative** and policy precedence
 - Higher Education Opportunity Act 2008, ABLE Act 2014, Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act, 2014
- Almost 300 programs for students with IDD labels across the country and **8 in New Jersey** (more later!)
- Growing body of **research literature** showing **positive student outcomes**
 - Better outcomes in employment, social engagement, community living (Butler, Sheppard-Jones, Whaley, Harrison, & Osness, 2016; Grigal, Hart, Smith, Domin, Sulewski, & Weir, 2016; Hartz, 2014; Moore & Schelling, 2015).
 - ****Different sense of Self; expanded social networks; sense of disability pride and affinity (Vroman, 2019)**

“And then you can prove them wrong...”



An exciting moment for Inclusive PSE



Almost **300 programs** nationally and **8 in New Jersey!**

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS



Not “if” but HOW...



What makes a college experience “inclusive”?

Think College Standards, Quality Indicators, and Benchmarks

1. Academic Access
2. Career Development
3. Campus Membership
4. Self-Determination
5. Alignment with College Systems and Practices
6. Coordination and Collaboration
7. Sustainability
8. Ongoing Evaluation

(Grigal, Hart, & Weir, 2012)



What are considerations for admission - Varies!

- Student has a documented intellectual disability
- Has the desire and motivation to participate in a college experience
- Can use technology (cell phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) at a basic level
- Age is between 18-25 years old upon admission
- Can self-administer medications
- Exhibits behaviors appropriate for a college setting
- Able to communicate with others and express needs
- Has parents who will support their independence
- ***Take all of this with a grain of salt! All students are different...***

(PACER Center, Accessed from

<https://www.pacer.org/transition/learning-center/postsecondary/college-options.asp>)



Your go-to resource: *Think College!*

Think College (www.thinkcollege.net)

- Resources, tools, FAQs, research, training and TA, etc.

[College Search](#) - A tool to find and compare programs

[Family Resources](#) - FAQs, How to prepare, Facebook group for parents, “Rethinking College” 25-minute documentary; “Ask Think College”

[Paying for college](#) - Planning, financial aid, paying via multiple sources, etc.



Inclusive PSE programs in New Jersey

Adult Center for Transition at RCSJ

Rowan College of South Jersey (Gloucester Campus)

SEWELL, NJ

Career and Community Studies

The College of New Jersey

EWING, NJ

College Steps (County College of Morris)

County College of Morris

RANDOLPH, NJ

College Steps (Kean University)

Kean University

UNION, NJ

DREAM Program

Mercer County Community College

WEST WINDSOR, NJ

Garden State Pathways Program

Camden County College

BLACKWOOD, NJ

Garden State Pathways to Independence:
Transitions to Higher Education and Employment
for Students with ID

Bergen Community College

PARAMUS, NJ

Keep Achieving at Brookdale

Brookdale Community College

TINTON FALLS, NJ



Where/How do we begin?

[Tips for IEP Teams to Help Students and Families Prepare for Inclusive Postsecondary Education](#)

- This handout, created by the PACER Center, is for families preparing for their child with disabilities to go to college. The helpful checklist and related resources will guide the selection of transition goals and activities that will likely be key factors in making the possibility of college a reality.

[Transition IEP Goals and Activities to Prepare for Inclusive Postsecondary Education](#)

- This table provides numerous IEP goals and related activities that can be used in a transition IEP to support students in developing skills that will help prepare them for inclusive postsecondary education.

[Preparing Your Son or Daughter for College: Suggestions for Parents of Children with Intellectual Disability](#)

- Directors of the University Participant program at Western Carolina University have put together a list of the top ten things parents can do to help prepare their sons and daughters for college.



Resources for self-advocates

[“Rethinking College”](#) (short documentary about students’ college experiences)

[“Through the same door”](#) (Micah Fialka-Feldman’s story)

[“Intelligent Lives”](#) (Profiles of young adults with IDD labels and their life paths)

[Voices of Experience: Students Share College Search Advice](#)



Questions?

