Turing Dreams to Action: Advocacy for Postsecondary Education Options in Oregon & Beyond

Think College is a national organization dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving research and practice in inclusive higher education for people with intellectual disability.

www.ThinkCollege.net

The Think College website is a trusted source for information, training, and resources related to inclusive higher education for students with intellectual disability. The website includes:

- A searchable program directory to learn more about available college options
- A resource library that includes published research as well as field-created tools and resources
- Online learning modules on a variety of topics
- Research to practice briefs, e-newsletters, and journal articles
- Topical information on the critical issues
- A policy and legislation clearinghouse
**Higher Education Opportunity Act**

- Federal Legislation enacted August 14, 2008
- Reauthorizes the Higher Education Act of 1965
- Created Model Demonstration Projects – Transition Postsecondary Education Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSIDs)
- National Coordinating Center
- Financial Aid access for students with ID

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**Big Changes to FSA Eligibility**

- Student does not need a high school diploma or a GED
- Student does not need to pass an ability to benefit test
- Student does not need to be matriculating toward a degree
http://www.thinkcollege.net/training/rethinking-college-the-film
Types of Higher Education Programs

- Dual enrollment — students still in high school
- Adults only age 18+ who have exited high school
- Both dual enrollment & adults 18+ who have exited high school
- Individual students & families

What do I mean by access to higher education?

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Levels of College Course Access

- Full access to course catalogue
- Partial or limited access
- No access – all specially designed courses only for students w/ID

TPSID GRANTEES 2010–2015

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Student Trends

DEMOGRAPHICS

2,166 total number of students

43% females

57% males

22% dually enrolled

Campus Trends

NUMBER OF CAMPUSES

42% increase over 5 years
Housing Trends

**HOUSING**

15

Number of campuses (out of 29) that offered residential housing for students with ID.

**PAID EMPLOYMENT AT EXIT TRENDS**

- Students with a paid job within 90 days of exit
- Employment trends for adults with ID

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SOURCE: NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS
27%
Percent reduction in the number of individuals who were on SSI benefits upon exit from the program.

Why college matters for people with disabilities
www.thinkcollege.net

Debra Hart
debra.hart@umb.edu

Cate Weir
cathryn.weir@umb.edu

Angela Jarvis-Holland
angelajarvisholland@gmail.com