



# Think Higher. Think College.

A panel discussion  
with FPCTP Students

February 6, 2024  
3-4pm EST



 ThinkCollege  
**INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK**  
INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UMASS BOSTON

# What is Think College?

[www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)

Think College is a national technical assistance, training, research, and evaluation center dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving higher education options for students with intellectual disability.

We work through several specific projects:

 ThinkCollege  
NATIONAL  
COORDINATING  
CENTER

 ThinkCollege  
**INCLUSIVE  
HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
NETWORK**  
INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UMASS BOSTON

 ThinkCollege  
**FUTURE  
QUEST  
ISLAND  
EXPLORATIONS**

 **TRANSITION  
LEADERSHIP  
CERTIFICATION**  
**UMASS  
BOSTON** SCHOOL FOR GLOBAL  
INCLUSION AND  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

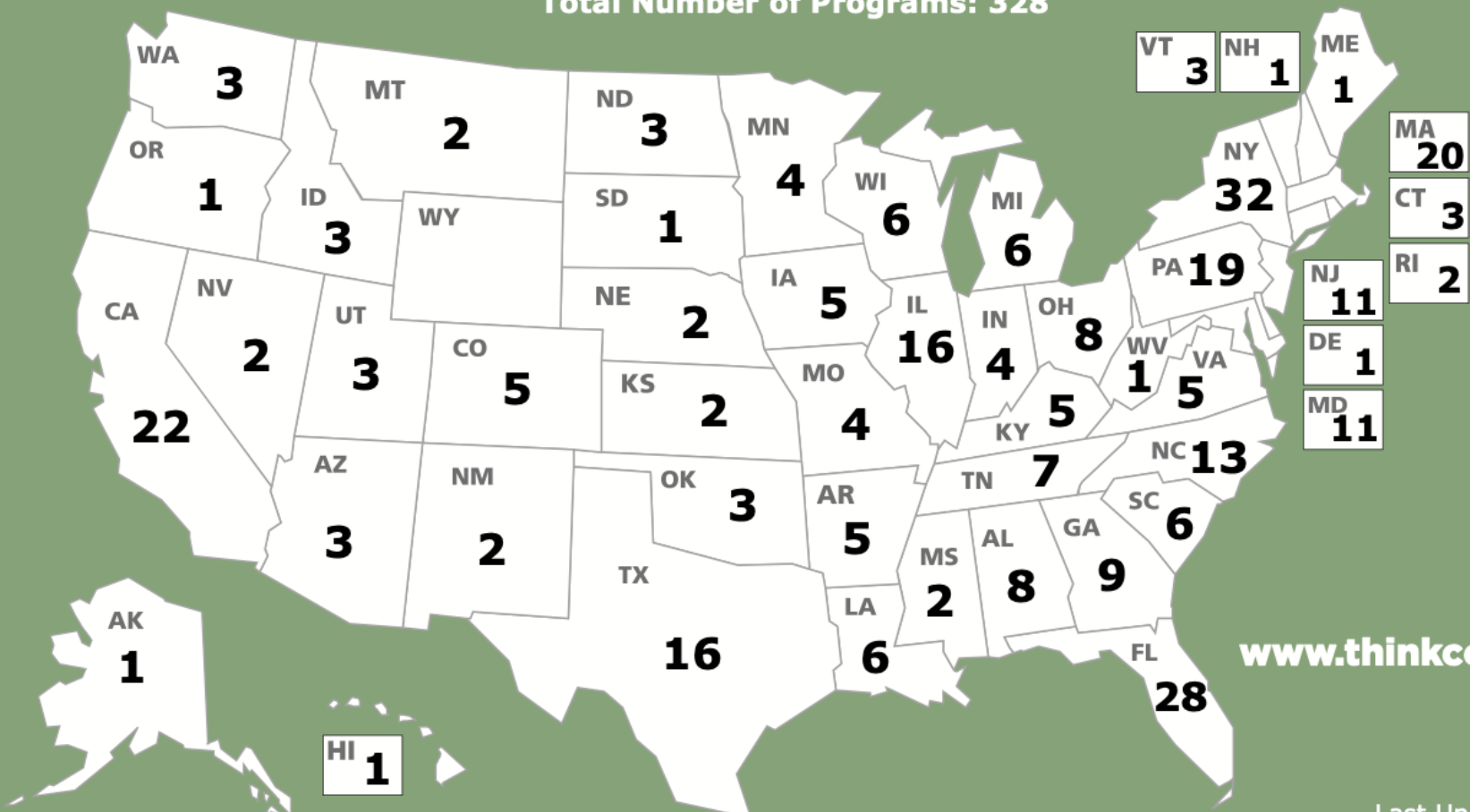
  
Think Higher. Think College.



 ThinkCollege  
**INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK**  
INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UMASS BOSTON

# College Options for Students with Intellectual Disability, October 2023

Total Number of Programs: 328



Think College

[www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)

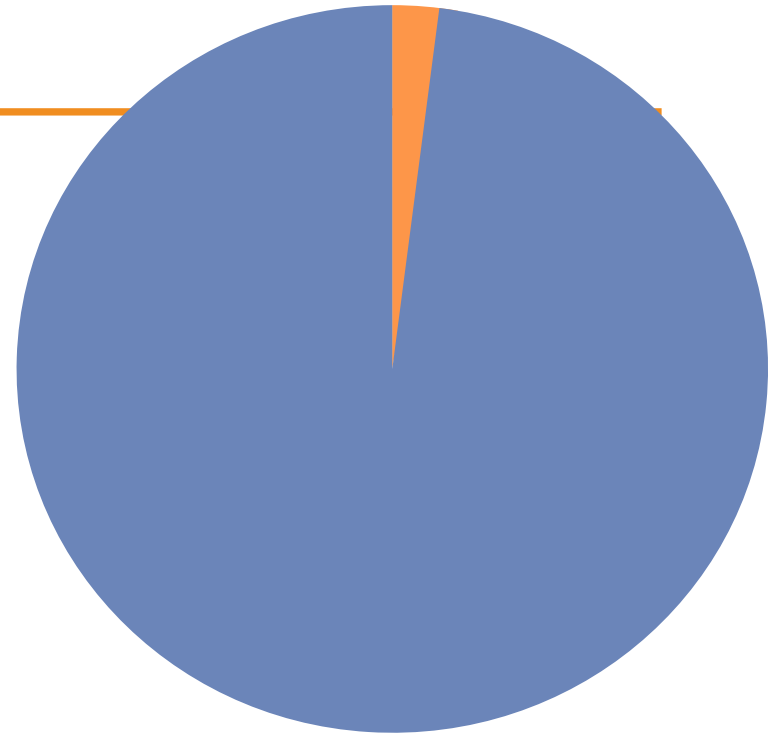
Last Updated: 10/2/23

# This year...

- There are more than 420,000 school age students with intellectual disability in the United States<sup>1</sup>
- Fewer than 2% are likely to attend college after high school

1. National Core Indicators, 2022

Students with ID attending college 2%



Students with ID who do not attend college 98%

# For the 98% of adults with intellectual disability who don't go to college - the current reality

---

- Only 15% have paid employment in the community<sup>2</sup>
- 42% attend a day program or sheltered workshop<sup>2</sup>
- 44% report they often or sometimes feel lonely<sup>2</sup>
- 29.3% live below the poverty line<sup>3</sup>

2. National Core Indicators, 2022

3. Winsor et al., 2022

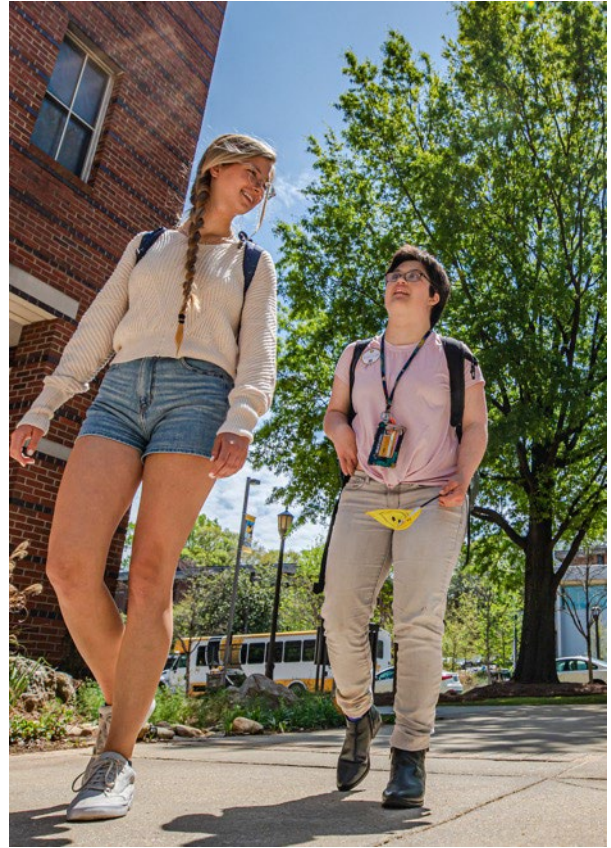


# For the 2% who attend postsecondary education, the outcomes are promising...

- 59% find competitive, integrated employment 1 year after exit<sup>4</sup>
- 87% of students were enrolled in a credential program<sup>4\*</sup>
- 100% of programs provided peer mentor support to students<sup>4\*</sup>

4. Grigal et al., 2022, 5. Smith et al., 2018

\*based on TPSID model demonstration sites, not representative of all programs in the US





**What if every young adult with intellectual disability in the United States saw college as an option?**



Think Higher.  
Think College.



Think Higher. Think College.



ThinkCollege  
**INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK**  
INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UMASS BOSTON



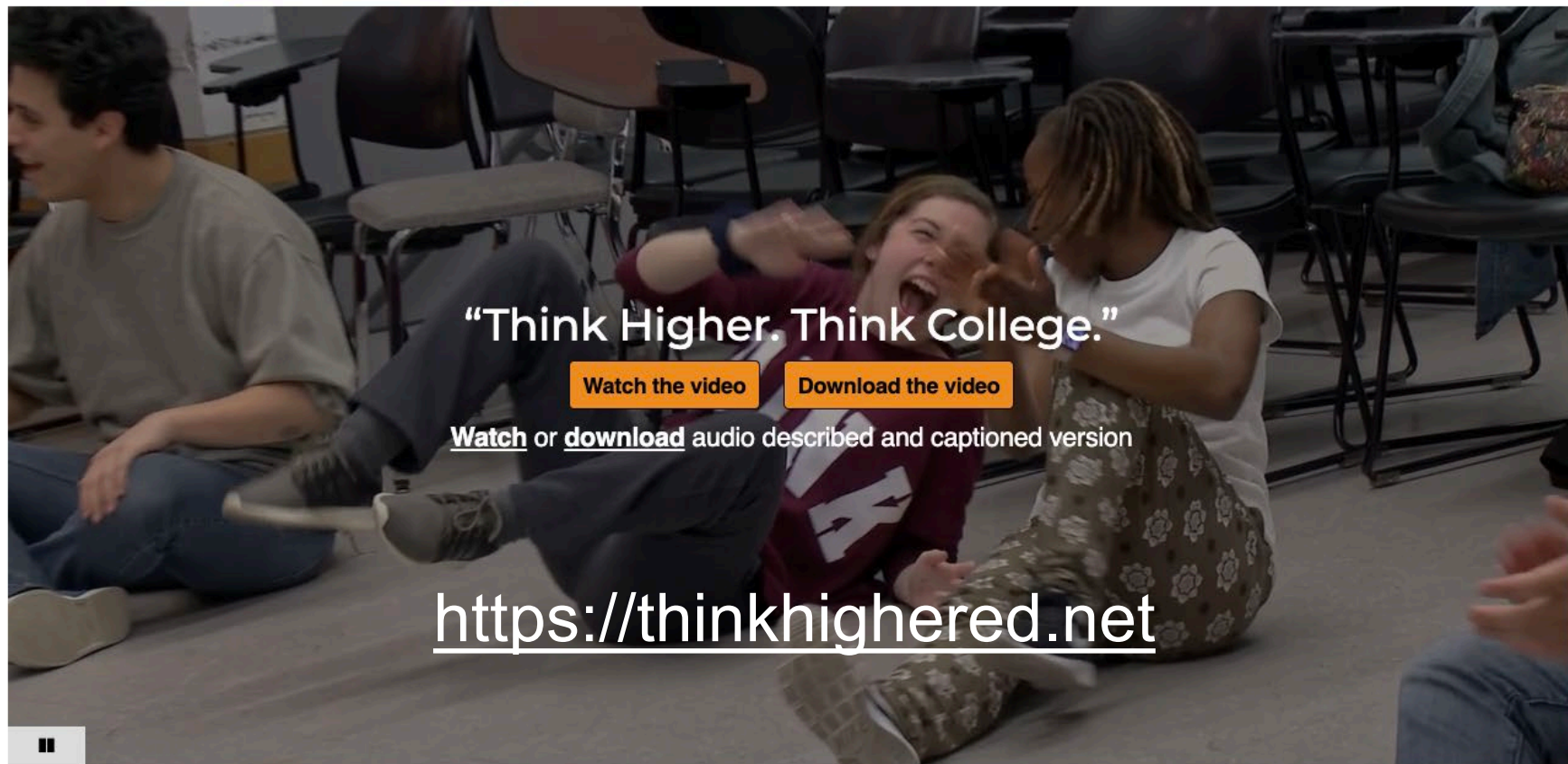
During or after the video, share in the chat any moments or quotes that caught your attention or impacted you.





Think **Higher.** Think **College.**

[Home](#) [About](#) [Resources](#) [Events](#) [Partners](#) [Contact](#)



“Think Higher. Think College.”

[Watch the video](#)

[Download the video](#)

[Watch](#) or [download](#) audio described and captioned version

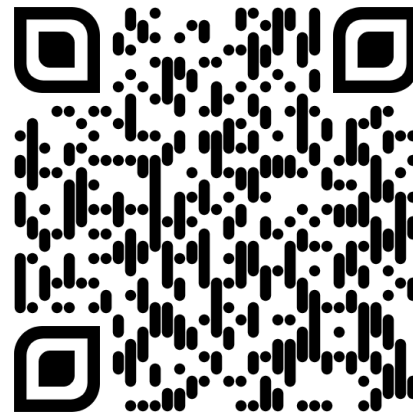
<https://thinkhighered.net>





Think **Higher.**  
Think **College.**

Sign up to stay  
in the loop



Sign up link will also  
be shared in the chat

<https://tcollege.me/join>



Think **Higher.** Think **College.**



 ThinkCollege  
**INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK**  
INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UMASS BOSTON

# Printable Resources



A Resource Guide for Inclusive Postsecondary Education for Students with Intellectual Disability

Exploring College for Students with Intellectual Disability: Families Make it Happen

College is for YOU!

Transition to College: Educators Can Make it Happen!

Higher Education Leaders Make College Possible for Students with Intellectual Disability

Social Media and Dissemination Toolkit



# Take Action!



- Show the video to anyone and everyone!
- Send campaign materials to families or educators
- Share publications and video at transition conferences or college fair
- Share during an IEP/person-centered planning meetings
- Add link to [www.thinkhighered.net](http://www.thinkhighered.net) on your website
- Spread the word on social media
- Download the [poster](#) and hang it in your office or classroom

The "Think Higher. Think College." campaign is raising awareness of opportunities for students with intellectual disability to access higher education. The campaign video, website, and resources can help spark understanding, promote conversations, and encourage viewers to learn more and share the idea in their own communities that college is possible for students with intellectual disability.

Here are some ways you can share these resources with your community, educators, schools, and families.

**Online**

- » Download our social media kit at [https://bit.ly/THTC\\_Social\\_Media\\_Kit](https://bit.ly/THTC_Social_Media_Kit) for everything you'll need to promote inclusive postsecondary education on social media
- » Share the website <https://thinkhighered.net/> on social media
- » Include the [campaign logo](#) and a link to <https://thinkhighered.net/> in your newsletter and on your organization webpage
- » Use these hashtags: #THTC #ThinkHigher #ThinkCollege #ThinkHigherThinkCollege

**In Person**

Share the video, website, and resources:

- » At meetings or events for middle and high school students and staff, including guidance counselors, special educators, vocational rehabilitation professionals, and transition staff
- » During transition fairs, college fairs, and local and regional education conferences
- » With college and university staff and faculty who may be new to including students with intellectual disability on campus
- » With current college students with intellectual disability and their families, and ask them to share with their networks

Find resources to share, including the campaign video in three formats (4-minute video with captions, 6-minute video with captions and audio description, and 1-minute video with captions) at <https://thinkhighered.net/resources/>

 **Think College**  
**INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK**  
INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UMASS BOSTON

Screenshot



# What will you do?



Share your plans for using the "Think Higher. Think College." campaign video and resources in the chat!

How'd we do?  
Give us  
feedback!



The survey link will also be  
shared in the chat:

<https://tcollege.me/Webinar013024>



Think **Higher.**  
Think **College.**



# WHERE OUR CAMPAIGN COMES IN

designed to build awareness and expand access to college for students with intellectual disability.

Our campaign goals are to:

- **Increase knowledge** of inclusive college options
- **Share information** about the benefits and outcomes of students with intellectual disability attending college
- Offer people ways to **spread the message**: “Think Higher. Think College.”