The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA, the Center), located in the College of Community Innovation and Education at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL., was established following the passing of the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act (the Act; F1004.6495), effective July 1, 2016. The Act charged the Center and its executive director with implementation of the Act, as well as charged the Center with meeting the accountability requirements specified therein, including submission of an annual report by October 1 each year.

This executive summary provides highlights of the Center’s work and impact during the past year, from Oct. 1, 2021 – Sept. 30, 2022, as well as Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs (FPCTPs) and student characteristics. The FPCTP data regarding student and program characteristics derive from the approved programs’ annual reports submitted to the Center in August 2022, reflecting the 2021-22 academic year (AY) from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.
To date, we have 19 approved FPCTPs across 25 campuses: 6 at universities, 6 at state colleges and 7 at career technical colleges. These FPCTPs serve 216 students.

All FPCTPs submitted required program and student information reports, accounting for 216 students enrolled in FPCTPs in 2021-22, which is a 28% increase in enrollment from 2020-21.

Three FPCTPs submitted renewal applications and were approved for an additional five years.

As required in the Act, all FPCTP institutions submitted their federal comprehensive transition and postsecondary (CTP) program applications to the U.S. Department of Education.

Three continuing grants were awarded, each for three years, and four no-cost extensions were granted. Thirteen of the approved institutions continued with their previously awarded grants.

FPCTPs report their catchment areas for identifying potential eligible students with intellectual disabilities to enroll in their programs ranged from 4 to 20,000.

Two hundred and twelve students scholarships were awarded to students, totaling more than $1.2 million in funding provided to FPCTPs for student support. This is 29% more awards than the previous year.

Of the 216 students enrolled in FPCTPs, 17 left, which yielded a 92% retention rate.

Of the remaining students continuing in the FPCTPs, 195 maintained a 90% satisfactory academic progress (SAP), and 56 completed their programs during this reporting year.

Students were enrolled in 193 inclusive courses. This means students were enrolled in courses, with their peers without disabilities, that were audit, or regular credit-bearing, and not unique for their program.
FCSUA's website, at fcsua.org, continues to inform stakeholders, including students, families, postsecondary education institutions, K-12 educators, and community partners about available resources. Activity on our website included 10,967 unique users visit. There were a total of 14,607 visits with more than 37,795 page views.

Our website at fcsua.org includes an interactive map of Florida that features the locations of currently approved FPCTPs, other postsecondary education programs in the state for students with intellectual disabilities, and a list of the institutions eligible to establish a FPCTP.

FCSUA’s YouTube channel features monthly webinar presentations, as well as recordings corresponding to the Florida Postsecondary Education Program Planning Institutes (FLPEPPI). Our channel was visited 3,788 times, which is a 37% increase of 1,025 more visits than the last year.

Three FCSUA News Brief were distributed to over 1,200 contacts through the FCSUA Community and posted on the FCSUA Events page. These News Briefs covered strategies used by programs to increase employment, mental health supports for students, technical assistance with the FCSUA Community, student accomplishments and employer recognitions.

FCSUA currently has 241 Instagram followers, 827 Facebook followers, and 409 Twitter followers. Our Instagram posts reached 1,518 Instagram members, whereas Facebook posts reached 42,388 members. During this reporting year, Twitter posts averaged 1,500 profile visits and 2,000 tweet impressions each month. Overall, our Facebook reach increased by 158%, Instagram reach increased 96.4% and Twitter profile visits increased by 100%.

Be sure to follow us on social media to stay informed and updated on what is happening!
FCSUA
Infrastructure and Workflow

- The Center continued to keep stakeholders informed about our services and met the needs of FPCTPs through conference presentations and participations (52), online webinars (9), onsite visits (18), and meetings with institutions across the state (45).

- These conferences, webinars, meetings, visits, breakout sessions, presentations and workshops provided educational and administrative support to FTCTPs across the state.

- Two FLPEPPIs were hosted. The 2021 Virtual FLPEPPI occurred November 16–19, 2021, and the in-person 2022 FLPEPPI took place July 11–15, 2022. At each FLPEPPI, IHE teams participate in strategic planning that focuses on the four domains of the Taxonomy for Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs to develop yearly plans toward continuous program improvement, or to establish a FPCTP. The four domains are: (1) student-focused, (2) program and institution-focused, (3) faculty and staff-focused, and (4) concept and systems development.
FPCTP
Student Demographics
Overview

A brief overview of demographic data regarding the 216 students for whom information was reported.

- There were 58% male students and 42% female students.

- Race was reported as: White/Caucasian (66%), Black/African-American (26%), Asian (1%), Other/Unknown (7%).

- Twenty-five percent (25%) of students identified their ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino.

- Students lived with parents (80%), lived in campus housing associated with IHE (14%), lived alone, with a spouse, domestic partner, roommate(s) or supervised living arrangement (6%).

- Students’ age prior to entering FTCPT ranged from 17–53, with 19 being the most common age.

- Students spent between 0–27 years out of K-12 before entering FTCPT. Of the total, 154 students were out of K-12 between 0–2 years. Most commonly, students were out of K-12 for 0 years before entering a program.

- Students’ most recent K-12 setting at the time of program enrollment included public school (75%) and private school (17%). Some attended charter schools (4%), self-contained school (2%), home school (<1%), and unknown (1%)

- Fifty-nine percent (59%) of students had work experience during this reporting period.

- To date, 190 students have completed their FPCTP.
CONCLUSION

During 2021-22, FCSUA continued to implement major elements of the Act. Continuing through the post-COVID-19 pandemic, and transition to in-person activities, we maintained support to existing FPCTPs to improve and expand opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities. We also maintained an active agenda of working with key partners to disseminate information to IHEs and other constituents about the Act, the FPCTPs, and available support and resources from FCSUA.

While faced with numerous challenges related to personnel shifts, the FPCTPs maintained a steady course of providing high-quality programs to their students. Additionally, they implemented innovative recruitment and support strategies that yielded an increase in student enrollment and program completion.

Students are being prepared to exit programs to competitive integrated employment in career clusters of their choice. Furthermore, while in FPCTPs, students are receiving more of their postsecondary education in inclusive environments with their peers without disabilities and earning credentials that are industry-recognized. Based on FPCTP program reports, we anticipate a continued increase in student enrollment and completion in the next reporting year. Additionally, based on IHE responses to the Center’s professional development and outreach efforts, we also expect to see an increase in the number of approved FPCTPs across the state.
| Institution                              | Program                                                                 | Campus Locations                        |
|-----------------------------------------|-Qaeda NEST (Navigating Education for Student Transition)                  | Pembroke Pines/Coconut Creek             |
| Florida Atlantic University             | Academy for Community Inclusion (ACI)                                   | Jupiter/Boca Raton                      |
| Florida Gulf Coast University           | Soaring Eagle Academy at FGCU                                          | Ft. Myers                               |
| Florida International University        | FIU Embrace Education                                                  | Miami                                   |
| Indian River State College              | Project STAGE (Students Transitioning to Academics and Gainful Employment) | Ft. Pierce and Vero Beach               |
| Lee County Technical Colleges          | HIRE (How I Reach Employment)                                          | Ft. Myers/Cape Coral                    |
| Lively Technical College                | SOAR (Success for Occupational Area Readiness) Program                 | Tallahassee                             |
| McFatter Technical College              | Grow Your Future                                                       | Davie                                   |
| Okaloosa Technical College              | Okaloosa UP (Unique Professionals)                                     | Ft. Walton Beach                        |
| Orange Technical College – Westside Campus | Build Your Future                                                 | Winter Garden                           |
| Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College | Project TOPS (Transition to Postsecondary institutionS) | Miami                                   |
| Santa Fe College                       | Project SAINT (Student Access and INclusion Together)                   | Gainesville                             |
| Sheridan Technical College              | Build Your Future                                                       | Hollywood                               |
| Southeastern University                 | SEU Link                                                               | Lakeland                                |
| St. Petersburg College                  | Titans UP (Unique Partnership) Program                                 | St. Petersburg                          |
| Tallahassee Community College           | Eagle Connections                                                      | Tallahassee                             |
| The College of the Florida Keys         | Project ACCESS (Accessing Community College Educational experiences, Social experiences and Skills for careers) | Key West/Key Largo                      |
| University of Central Florida           | IES (Inclusive Education Services)                                      | Orlando                                 |
| University of South Florida             | UMatter                                                               | St. Petersburg                          |
FCSUA Quick Facts 2021-22

Race

- **65%** White
- **25%** Black
- **1%** Asian
- **7%** Other

Hispanic/Latino

- **25%** Hispanic
- **75%** Non-Hispanic

Gender

- **58%** male students
- **42%** female students

Work Experience

- **59%** of students gained work experience in competitive, supported, unpaid and other settings during their time in the FPCTP in the 2021-22 academic year.

Residential

- Approximately **20%** of students lived on college campuses, alone, on their own with a spouse, domestic partner(s) or with roommate(s).
To date, 190 students have completed their FPCTP. In 2021-22, there were 216 students enrolled in a FPCTP program. There were 124 first-year students enrolled in the 2021-22 academic year. To date, 190 students have completed their FPCTP.

Scholarship

$1.2 Million

- Amount awarded in scholarships during the 2021-22 academic year.

- The number of inclusive courses (courses with peers without disabilities) students enrolled in during the last 3 academic years.
CONTACT US

Phone: 407-823-5225
Email: fcsua@ucf.edu
Visit fcsua.org for more information