

AUGUST 2023



Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

News Brief

Welcome

New Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs



AMBITIONED

Osceola Technical College
Patty Collins, Program
Coordinator



**PINELLAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE
UNIQUE PROFESSIONALS**
Pinellas Technical College
Dallas Jackson,
Program Coordinator



OSPEREY FLOCK

University of North Florida
Deborah Reed,
Program Director

New FCSUA Staff



Christian Zimmerman
Technical
Assistance
Coordinator



Missy Glavey
Technical
Assistance
Coordinator



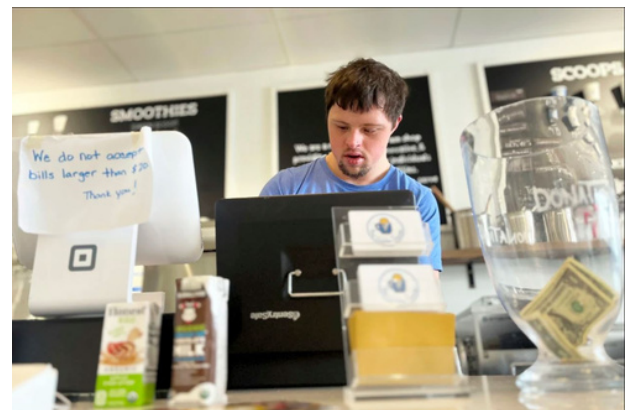
Alex Trilling
Web Content
Specialist II

EMPLOYMENT AMONG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HITS POST-PANDEMIC HIGH

In a recent interview with NBC News, The Able Trust CEO Allison Chase discussed the recent improvement in employment outcomes for job seekers with disabilities. According to new job numbers released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the employment-to-population ratio for individuals with disabilities nationwide now stands at a record high of 22.4%.

Click the button to read more about the ongoing efforts toward increased disability inclusion in the workplace.

[Read More.](#)



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



Cassandra Tavel
Florida International University

Cassandra Tavel is a recent graduate from FIU Embrace Education program at Florida International University with a credential in Hospitality.

When Cassandra first entered FIU Embrace Education, she was nervous to meet new people and be in a new environment. But she didn't let her fears hold her back; every day, she stepped out of her comfort zone by attending and working hard in her classes and meeting new people across campus.

Over time, Cassandra's confidence increased, and she rose to the occasion every time. She developed great relationships with her classmates, fellow FIU Embrace peers, teachers, and began to find ways to become involved on campus.

One memorable experience was being a part of the student delegation at the State of the Art Conference in Syracuse last year. This opportunity allowed her to travel independently and network and engage autonomously on various subject matters with her fellow FIU peers and other postsecondary programs across the nation.

Continued on the next page

PROGRAM INSIGHT

Inclusive Education Services **University of Central Florida**

Online Safety: Essential **Safegaurds for Responsible** **Internet Use**



Jamie Best, Ph.D
Program Director

With the launch of the new school year, students are preparing for another year of learning, socializing, and navigating the digital world. In a time where technology plays a key role in education and communication, it is imperative to address the significance of cyber safety and cyber bullying.

The digital age has changed the way students engage with the world around them. Social media platforms, online forums, and messaging apps have become a vital part of everyday life. However, this new era of connectivity presents its own set of challenges and opportunities. It is essential for educators, students, and the community to understand the risks and adopt strategies to protect themselves, promote a positive online presence and make cyber space a safer place for all.

[Read More](#)

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Continued from previous page

Another notable accomplishment was Cassandra's successful participation in the South Beach Wine and Food Festival (SOBEWFF) – a national, star-studded, four-day destination event that gathers the world's most renowned wine and spirit producers, chefs and culinary personalities in one location. During the festival, Cassandra worked at multiple events, providing support as assigned next to her fellow FIU's School of Hospitality and Tourism Management peers.

Cassandra's experience at FIU Embrace Education increased her knowledge in the field of hospitality, allowed her to make lifelong friends. She credits her ability to advocate for herself more effectively to her participation in the FIU Embrace Education program. Cassandra's career goals are to work with children or the elderly. She has been placed in a post-graduation internship at Baptist Hospital in the Early Childhood Center.



SUMMER GRADUATIONS



Congratulations to the summer 2023 graduates from the FIU Embrace Education program at Florida International University!



Congratulations to the summer 2023 graduates from the Academy for Community Inclusion program at Florida Atlantic University!

AUGUST 2023



FCSUA offers monthly webinars on the first Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. eastern time to support the development and continuation of FPCTPs.

Join us for our upcoming webinars:

Sept 5: How to Become an FPCTP, presented by Janice Seabrooks-Blackmore & Drew Andrews. [Register here.](#)

Oct. 3: TBD

Nov. 7: TBD



The video recordings from previous webinars are located on FCSUA's YouTube channel.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2023 FLORIDA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAM PLANNING INSTITUTE



We can't wait to see you next year!



FPCTP team leaders, you will receive an email with more information about registration for the MidYear.

AUGUST 2023



The Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network – Collaborative CTE Workgroup Update

The Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network – Collaborative CTE Workgroup had its second annual face-to-face meeting on July 10th in Orlando. Workgroup members from eight states participated in the meeting, bringing together a wealth of experience and expertise in both CTE and inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE). After a brief update from Clare Papay, Co-PI of the project, the group shared content and resources for developing learning modules for CTE IPSE program development. More information will be released soon about this exciting resource coming from TCIHEN.

[Read More](#)



Think College - College Search

Think College's College Search tool is the only directory of college and university programs for students with intellectual disabilities in the US. Let's keep Florida's FPCTP information up to date!

Enter your program information today! Need your survey link?
Contact Shelby at shelby.bates@umb.edu.

Think Higher, Think College

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

The "Think Higher. Think College." campaign is designed to build awareness and expand access to college for students with intellectual disabilities. Our goals are to increase knowledge of inclusive college options, share information about the benefits and outcomes of students with intellectual disabilities attending college, and offer people ways to spread the message: "Think Higher. Think College." Visit the "Think College" [website](#) for more information on the campaign.



AUGUST 2023

Professional Development Opportunities

Read, Attend, Present



ASSOCIATION FOR
CAREER & TECHNICAL
EDUCATION®

National Postsecondary CTE Summit 2023

Sept 20-22, 2023, Denver CO

[More information here](#)

Best Practices and Innovations in CTE Conference 2023

Sept 27-29, 2023 Salt Lake City UT

[More information here](#)

ACTE Career Tech Vision 2023

Nov 29-Dec 2 Phoenix AZ

[More information here](#)

Virtual professional development and free
supportive resources for [CTE professionals](#).



Council for
Exceptional
Children

FLORIDA

2023 Florida Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference: Bridging the Gap

October 5-7, 2023, Lake Mary.

[Register Here](#)



DIVISION ON CAREER
DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSITION
COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
LIVING • LEARNING • WORKING

Division of Career Development and Transition International Annual Conference

October 18-21, 2023. Reno, NV

[Register Here](#)



State of the Art (SOTA) Conference

October 25-26, 2023

Colorado Springs, CO.,

[Register Here](#)



Association of Florida Colleges 74th Annual Meeting and Conference.

November 1-3, 2023 Orlando FL

[Register Here](#)

Professional Development Opportunities Read, Attend, Present



AUCD 2023 Conference
November 5-8 | Washington, DC



Brady Bulletin is a research-to-practice bulletin for programs to support meaningful postsecondary comprehensive transition programs. This research bulletin is created by the Academy for Community Inclusion at Florida Atlantic University. Visit [FCSUA's website](#) to read the current issue.

**Association of University Centers on Disabilities
2023 Conference**
[Register here](#)



Florida AHEAD Fall Meeting October 12-13, 2023 Gainesville FL
For more information contact jenna04@ufl.edu.

Florida AHEAD: EIT Committee September 28, 2023 1:00 Topic:
Alternative Format Production. [Register here](#)

THE ABLE TRUST

In this latest report, The Able Trust provides a data update to Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, employers, partners, the non-profit community, and others who are engaged in helping Floridians with a disability find meaningful employment:

- Increase in employment of Floridians with disabilities over the last five years
- National and county level population numbers,
- Employment data including information on full and part-time work,
- Occupational and industry concentrations, and
- Educational attainment.

[Click here to download the report.](#)

Upcoming Observations Dates

- Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) October, 2023
- DEAM kick-off with The Able Trust
- Disability Mentoring Day October 18, 2023 [For more information.](#)
- Florida Disability History and Awareness Weeks October 1-14, 2023 [For more information.](#)



Email Us

We'd love to hear from you on what is happening at your institution. Please send stories and photos to fcsua@ucf.edu, ATTN: FCSUA News Brief.

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