



Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

News Brief



In Memory of Dr. Michael Brady

Dr. Michael Brady unexpectedly passed away December 16, 2021. A memorial service was held January 28 at FAU.

Dr. Brady was a champion for those with significant disabilities. He was integral in the development of the Academy for Community Inclusion at FAU. Dr. Brady leaves a legacy behind in his work to promote graduate education in special education. He started the CTP Trends to provide the most recent research to FPCTPs. This quarterly newsletter has been renamed the Brady Bulletin.

A scholarship has been created to support the education of students who share Dr. Brady's passion for the education of people with disabilities. To continue to memorialize Dr. Brady and his life's work, FAU's College of Education is accepting donations for the Dr. Michael P. Brady Memorial Scholarship. [Visit FAU's College of Education Remembering Michael Brady webpage](#) to learn more about the scholarship.

Aloha and Moe i ka maluhia, Michael Brady.
(Rest in peace)

We will remember you. Your legacy will
continue.



The 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. Check FCSUA's [Research to Practice webpage](#) to read the most current issue.

[Read here](#)



Welcome New FPCTP faculty and staff!

Joanna Grice, is the Program Director, Okaloosa UP at Okaloosa Technical College.

Dr. Jaime Best is transitioning to be the new Director of IES at UCF as of July 2022.

Dr. Jayme Joslyn is the Director for the Eileen Hoffman Hafer U Matter program at the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg.

JoAnn Pagano is the Project Director of IRSC's Project STAGE.

Sheridan Technical College Build Your Future has added **Eileen Santiago** as a Facilitator and Recruiter.

Alma Santana is now leading the FPCTP at Orange Technical College.



THINK COLLEGE & PARTNERS
AWARDED NEW GRANT TO
INCREASE VISIBILITY OF
INCLUSIVE POSTSECONDARY ED



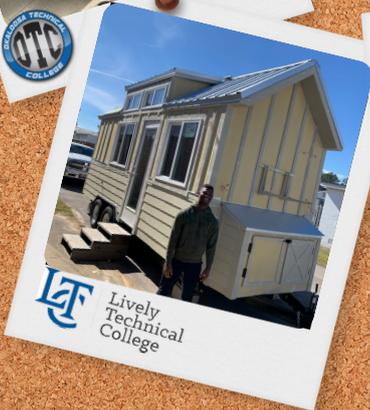
In case you haven't heard already, Dr. Danie Roberts-Dahm left USF U Matter Program and FLDOE Project TEN to join Think College as Project Coordinator for the Inclusive Higher Education Network. One of the goals of the Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network is to share best practices for improving inclusive postsecondary education, including assisting in the expansion of institutions of higher education offering access for students with intellectual disability. Currently, there are few targeted resources aimed at developing inclusive postsecondary education programs at career and technical education (CTE) institutions and programs.

The Think College Network is partnering with the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities to establish the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Collaborative Workgroup to change that! Dr. Danie Roberts-Dahm and Dr. Drew Andrews will be working together to address challenges facing inclusive postsecondary education for students with intellectual disabilities. Dr. Drew Andrews is the Principal Investigator for FCSUA. This partnership will expand the work of FCSUA to ensure all students with intellectual disabilities, who desire it, have access to inclusive higher education opportunities that lead to positive life outcomes.

Celebrating Career Technical Education Month

Look what FPCTP students at Technical Colleges are doing!

Students in Career Technical Colleges are earning credentials to reach their dreams. Currently there are eight technical colleges with FPCTPs. The credentials students earn range from digital design, culinary arts, construction, automotive technology and many more.



Inclusive Employer Award



Nominate a business for the annual Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities Employer Award. This award recognizes a business that hires FPCTP students and graduates in competitive employment. The company selected will imbue diversity and inclusion across all aspects of the business. Please submit your nomination by June 1, 2022.

The Inclusive Employer Award will be presented during the FL-PEPPI on July 14th.



Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs Highlights and Strategies

Do you have a success you would like to share with other FPCTPs? We would love to share! In each bi-monthly issue of FCSUA's News Brief we will share your success stories and the strategies you used to make it happen. Contact us to share your success story.



Christian Zimmerman, HIRE Program Coordinator

In the Fall, the How I Reach Employment (HIRE) Program in Lee County celebrated its first career placement for one of its graduates, with jobs awaiting two other graduates upon completion of their programs. To an outsider, this may appear to be par for the proverbial course; to those of us who work in the field, it is a monumental achievement. Here are a few things that we have done to help our students realize their dreams of securing employment in a career that they love:



1. Network....network....network: Did I mention network? Seriously though, to find a job for graduates I spent countless hours talking with local business owners and meeting with managers. It got to the point where I was pitching our program in the check-out line at Publix. Eventually, these efforts led to an invitation from the Chamber of Commerce to present the HIRE Program during their annual luncheon. The relationships forged over those two and half hours will provide internship and employment opportunities for the foreseeable future.



2. Increased awareness: Many employers are unaware of Disabled Access Credit, Barrier Removal Tax Deduction, and Work Opportunity Tax Credit. These federal programs provide tax incentives to business employing persons with disabilities. Employers qualify for at least ten thousand dollars per year in tax credits and other incentives when they employ a person with a disability. We were able to secure a job for one of our Culinary students after informing a local restaurant owner about all of the tax incentives available to him if he chose to employ an individual with a disability.



3. Career coaching: Many of our students lack fundamental soft skills. To remedy this, we work hand-in-hand with our career specialists to provide a variety of training sessions for our students. The sessions focus on: body language, eye contact, professional tone, resume writing. Our final step is a mock interview, conducted by our career specialist.

Join us for the March Webinar for more Successful Approaches to Employment Outcomes. Linda Mussillo, Program Director and Beverly Stoutamire will share the approaches used to have students successfully employed by the end of their program.

[Register Here](#)

PROGRESS REPORT REMINDER FOR FPCTP LEADERS

FPCTP Leaders, remember to complete a Progress Report (Step 4) in the online Strategic Planning Tool by the end of March. If you need assistance working through your feedback, please do not hesitate to contact Janice or Drew.



Professional Development Opportunities

Mar

1

3:00

FCSUA MONTHLY WEBINAR

Successful Approaches to Employment Outcomes



Linda Mussillo, MEd,
Program Administrator,
SAINT: Student Access and Inclusion
Santa Fe College



Beverly Stoutamire,
Job Developer,
Project SAINT and Adult Education
Santa Fe College

Employment outcomes are a primary goal of Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs. Project SAINT (Student Access and INclusion Together) will describe its approach to job placement including job development, internships, certifications, and class instruction.



You're invited **Lunch N Learn: Amazon All Abilities**
March 4, 2022 12 pm - 1 pm

Join FCIC Webinar Series as Amazon All Abilities shares an inside view of Amazon with a virtual tour, real life examples and statewide contacts.



Student Opportunity!

Students can apply today to be a Think College Policy Advocate to learn how to talk with legislators to create change. Applications are due March 7, 2022. [Click here for an application and more info.](#)

The Florida Association of People Supporting Employment (APSE), are looking for presenters.

[Click here for Presentation Proposal Form.](#)



Maximizing Employment for Individuals with Disabilities

4th STATEWIDE CONFERENCE
FOCUSED ON ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MAY 4-6, 2022
SAWGRASS MARRIOTT GOLF RESORT & SPA
1000 TPC BLVD., PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL 32082



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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