

DEC. 2023



Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

News Brief

PROGRAM SNAPSHOTS

Project ACCESS,
College of the Florida Keys



Students learn about nutrition, food safety and sanitation during a cooking demonstration.

Members of the Special Olympics Club on the Key West Campus practice their bocce and corn hole skills.



Submit photos of your students' on-campus activities and experiences to Drexler B. James at drexler.james@ucf.edu.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Meet Johnathan Moyer
from Project STAGE



Johnathan Moyer is a student in Project STAGE at Indian River State College. Moyer is enrolled in the digital degree program and is scheduled to complete the program spring 2024.

During his time in the program, Moyer developed a passion for English and Speech classes. Through these classes, Moyer overcome his fear and struggles with public speaking.

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STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

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“His dedication to his education has been evident through his persistence, work ethic and dedication in his classes,” said program coordinator JoAnn Pagano. “He is the type of student that, when called upon, would never shy away from an obligation. He is always willing to assist where needed. His fellow students respect him and have relied on his contributions on multiple occasions. He is truly an example of a shining star.”

Moyer also developed a passion for photography while in school and aims to use his skills and education to work in the Digital Design field, Digital Construction or Graphic Design Media Industry.

ABLE TRUST WEBINARS



The Able Trust hosted a series of webinars in October for Disability Employment Awareness Month, covering topics such as workplace culture, employee engagement, and more.

If you missed any of the webinars, or would like to watch them again, visit the Able Trust's [website](#) and watch them.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

SEU Link Southeastern University

Research-Based Practices to Improve Students' Independent Living and Self-Advocacy



**Kelly Southmayd, MS
SEU Link Program Director**

As program director of the SEU Link Program, I am blessed to see dramatic changes in our students from the first semester to the final semester. Some of those changes are easy to measure, such as whether a student becomes employed after graduation. Other skills, such as independent living and self-advocacy, are more difficult to calculate. In order to measure the effectiveness of our 2-year postsecondary transition program on independent living and self-advocacy skills, we developed a survey for students, their parents, and their peer mentors. Data were collected at 3 points in time: the beginning of the first year, the end of the first year and the end of the second year. Participants rated the students' skills in 3 contexts: campus, community and employment. Each item was measured on a 5-point Likert scale (Always, Usually, Unsure, Sometimes, or Never).

[Continue reading here](#)

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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:

Jan. 9: Updates: A Year in Review

Feb 6: Career and Technical Education Awareness Month: Interviews with FPCTP Students



Video recordings from previous webinars are located on FCSUA's YouTube channel

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

We would like to say congratulations to our Fall 2023 graduates! We are proud of your accomplishments! Share your graduation pictures by emailing Iris Neil at iris.neil@ucf.edu or Drexler B. James at drexler.james@ucf.edu.





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

To support the development of inclusive postsecondary CTE programs across the country, the FCSUA Technical Assistance Team facilitated collaboration between two Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs (FPCTPs) at technical colleges and South Carolina's Department of Education. Christian Zimmerman, one of our Technical Assistance Coordinators, spearheaded tours with Drs. Greg Little and Mary Workman.

The tour began in Miami, where they were welcomed by Dr. Vivian Vieta and her team at Robert Morgan Educational Center & Technical College. Vivian arranged an amazing breakfast for the group, compliments of their phenomenal Chefs and their Culinary Program.

[Continue reading here](#)

Is your FPCTP information up-to-date on Think College's College Search Tool?



Think College's College Search tool is the only directory of college and university programs for students with an intellectual disability in the US. Starting in early January, we asked programs currently listed in the directory to update their information. We are happy to announce 75% of these programs have updated their information and we are eager to hear from the final 25%. Help us by updating your program information by (or before) February 24!

Need your survey link? Contact Shelby at shelby.bates@umb.edu.

Professional Development Opportunities

Read, Attend, Present



Seeking students to participate in promotional videos for the Southeast Postsecondary Education Alliance (SEPSEA), for SEPSEA Video & HBCU (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) Video. Please email the following information (student name, program name, program phone number, program email address, student hometown location, 10-30 second video on why college is important to you and why you think college is amazing) to southeastpse@gmail.com by **5 p.m. CST, January 8, 2024**. Please write in the subject line SEPSEA VIDEO, HBCU VIDEO, or BOTH VIDEOS.



The Family Cafe is currently seeking presentation proposals for The 26th Annual Family Cafe, which will be held on June 14-16, 2024 in Orlando. The Annual Family Cafe brings together thousands of people with disabilities and their family members for three days of education, training, and networking each year. Fill out [the online Presentation Proposal Form](#). Presentation proposals are due by **January 5, 2024**.



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.

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Professional Development Opportunities

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2024 31st Statewide Center for Autism & Related Disabilities Conference

January 12-14, 2024

**Florida Hotel & Conference Center at
the Florida Mall
8001 Orange Blossom Trail,
Orlando, FL 32809**



2024 FCPN Annual Symposium

**Jan. 10-12, 2024
Jensen Beach, FL.**



NEFEC's CTE College and Career Fair

**8 a.m. - 2 p.m.,
February 8, 2024
Governor Charlie E Johns
Conference Center
1610 N. Temple Ave.,
Starke, FL 32091**



FL CASE Winter Symposium

**Jan. 30 - Feb. 1,
2024
Orlando, FL.**