

**FEBRUARY 2023**



# Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

## News Brief

# Welcome!

The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA) welcomes our newest staff member, Amanda Warren!

Amanda joined the FCSUA team at the beginning of February as the Coordinator for Technical Assistance for the Florida Center for Students with



Unique Abilities (FCSUA) at the University of Central Florida providing support to developing and established Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs (FPCTP). Amanda earned a Master of Science in Family, Youth and Community Organizational Development from the University of Florida and Bachelor of Science in Biology with a Public Health minor from the University of South Florida.

Prior to joining FCSUA, Amanda was the program coordinator for an FPCTP at Tallahassee Community College for over four years. She also has experience with nonprofit management, youth development, and teaching. In her free time, Amanda enjoys spending time with family, exploring new places, reading, and being outside hiking or walking.

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Meet Hannah Kubinsky,  
from Southeastern  
University Link Program



Hannah Kubinsky is a 2nd year SEU Link student from Tampa. She is scheduled to graduate in April 2023. Her career goal is to work in a school or daycare. She completed her first Link internship at Pathways School for Excellence (on-campus lab school for middle/high school students with disabilities). She was then hired by them for a paid Work Study opportunity. Pathways staff members have noticed her positive attitude and joy that she brings and had these words to say, "Hannah treats all

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## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

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the Pathways students with respect, kindness, and love! She is willing to do anything that is asked of her and is extremely patient with any student she works with." They added, "It is obvious that she wants to be here and loves working with the students." Her direct supervisor summed up his comments with, "We are all extremely grateful for Hannah's help. She is a 10 out of 10!" She also is employed during summers and school breaks at a day camp in her hometown. Her passion for children shows and she says working with students brightens her days. Hannah began her final off-campus internship at The Cygnet School this semester.

Hannah is in her second year of living in the dorms. Hannah's residential mentor states that she is very independent and makes friends everywhere.

Hannah is very motivated to succeed and maintains a demanding schedule. She manages to take care of herself and excel academically. Hannah does not let failure drag her down. Instead, she builds a stronger mindset for the future. She puts forth her best effort in class participation and timely completion of assignments. Her confidence has increased over the past year. She asks for help when needed.

She is receptive to corrective feedback and makes improvements. She has come so far in professionalism in 2 years and strives to be her best. Perseverance is a trait which Hannah exemplifies. She does not give up when something is difficult to understand. She just keeps trying. Budgeting (her Fire Funds) was a difficult concept to grasp and now she does it beautifully. Hannah has learned to be proactive and contacts faculty and staff days and weeks in advance to prepare adequately for classes and other events.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

### Eileen Hoffman Hafer UMatter Program at University of South Florida

### Recruiting and Keeping Mentors



**Jayme Joslyn, EdD, Eileen Hoffman  
Hafer U Matter Program Director**

"The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves."

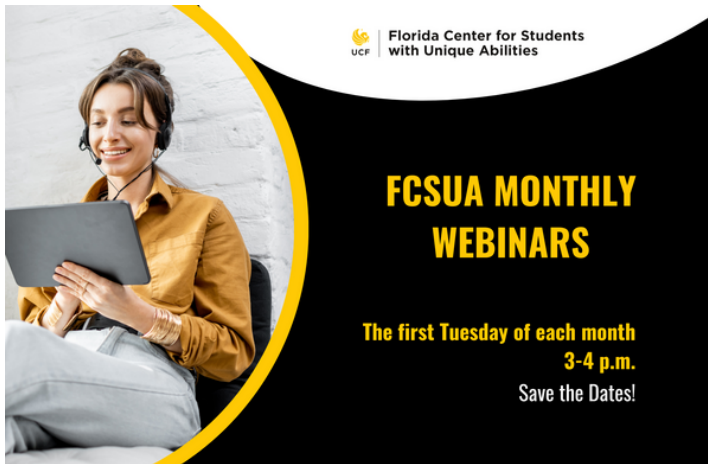
-Steven Spielberg

When the Eileen Hoffman Hafer U Matter Program was established in 2020 at the University of South Florida (USF) St. Petersburg campus, the first cohort of students began the following year. In order to support students academically and with independent living skills, the U Matter program needed to employ student mentors. Three main questions arose as we approached this milestone in the development of the program:

- How do we recruit mentors?
- What are the best strategies for training and supporting mentors?
- How can we retain mentors we hire?

UMatter's goal was to recruit/hire, train, and retain USF students who would have a positive impact on the U Matter students.

[Continue reading here....](#)



**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:**

**Mar 7:** Strategies for Thorough and Comprehensive Student Reports

**Apr 4:** Florida Developmental Disabilities council: Innovative Practices and Findings

**May 2:** Overview of the Able Trust



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

## College Matters Florida (CMF)

CMF is a project designed to promote higher education as an option for students with intellectual disability. In this short video, CMF interviewed administrators from Broward College, Santa Fe College, and the University of South Florida. The administrators spoke about the value of college for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and the positive impact their participation has on the campus community. It is a must-see video for any college considering starting an inclusive college program as well as for colleges not considering a program! Scroll to the bottom of the page to see the video **College Matters Florida: Administrator Perspectives** video



## Professional Development Opportunities Read, Attend, Present



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

### Visions 2023 Transition Conference

Jacksonville, FL

April 12-14, 2023

Early Bird registration ends March 3, 2023\*



### Southeast Postsecondary Education Alliance Conference

May 17-19, 2023

Nashville, TN

Early Bird registration ends

April 15, 2023



**Exhibit at the College Fair  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
Convention  
Orlando, FL  
Friday, July 21, 2023  
12 pm - 5 pm**

**The College Fair is an opportunity to  
showcase all of Florida's FPCTPs.**

The National Down Syndrome Congress Convention is the largest annual gathering of people with Down syndrome, their families, and professionals who serve the Down syndrome community. With approximately 3500 in attendance. [Register here](#)

**Save the Date!**



**Learn more about FACTE's  
Conference and Trade Show**



ASSOCIATION FOR  
CAREER & TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION®

### **ACTE's CareerTech Vision 2023 Conference**

November 29 - December 2,  
2023

**Call for Proposals Open  
through March 3, 2023**



**June 9-11, 2023**

**Orlando**

**Learn more about the Family Cafe  
Conference and register here.**



# Highlights MidYear Progress Update Institute



*Janice and Drew present while Drexler records.*



*Craig and Aimee from Broward College refuel for more planning!*



*New to the MidYear: (L to R) Cheryl from Okaloosa, Brook and Wyndy from Emerald Coast Technical Colleges.*



*Doris from McFatter ask questions to presenter.*

## Publication Announcement

### A Nominal Group Technique Study Identifying Evidence-Based and Promising Practices: Taxonomy for Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs

Taxonomy for Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs

Dr. Kohler, Dr. Gothberg, Dr. Andrews, Mrs. Mahon, Dr. Seabrooks-Blackmore

As more institutions of higher education offer comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities, there is a need for a systematic process for strategically planning for such programs. This article identifies strategies and practices and presents how these were categorized and incorporated into a planning tool that is now being used to assist colleges and universities in developing postsecondary programs in Florida. [Read more about the research and background behind the Strategic Planning Tool being used by FPCTPs today!](#)

## 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 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 say 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](mailto:shelby.bates@umb.edu).

## Professional Development Opportunities Read, Attend, Present

### Florida Association for Career and Technical Education (FACTE) CTE Month Webinar Series

**Teaching Students on the Spectrum**  
February 22, 2023 @ 4PM

Presented by Keith L. Kirby, Coordinator of Adult and Career Education. North Florida Technical College and Anna Kirby, a former Staffing Specialist with an ESE endorsement and 13 years of public education experience. [Register here.](#)

**Resources and Opportunities to Prepare  
Florida Students for the Global Workplace**  
March 9, 2023 @ 4PM

Presented by Mary Risner, Ed.D., Associate Director, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida

In today's global workplace, we must prepare students to compete, connect, and collaborate on an international level. This webinar will highlight the importance of diverse perspectives and global competence for CTE students as they enter the workforce.

Attendees will see several examples of global projects that Florida K-16 CTE instructors have implemented to date. To close, free Global CTE resources and training opportunities will be shared to encourage participation in these events and programs.

[Register here.](#)



**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.



### Webinars and Affinity Groups

**Career and Technical Education (CTE) Affinity Group** February 21, 2023 from 3-4 p.m. ET Topic: Industry recognized credentials. [Register Here](#)

**Collaborating with Employers: Strategies and Tips for Supporting Students with Intellectual Disabilities on the Job**

**Mar. 23, 2023, 2-3pm ET**

Presenter: Jaclyn Camden, Virginia Commonwealth University

Learn more about the support you can provide students to students on the job and the support you can provide to the employer.

[Register Here](#)

**How Engaged are Your Students in Campus Life?**  
**May 2, 2023, 2-3pm ET**

Presenters: Jennifer Sulewski, University of New Hampshire, Ashley Luce, UMass Boston & Lindsay Krech, Vanderbilt University

This webinar will provide four guideposts to assist programs in supporting authentic community life engagement on campus.

[Register Here.](#)

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](mailto:fcsua@ucf.edu), ATTN: FCSUA News Brief.

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