



Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

News Brief

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH (NDEAM)

Observed annually in October, NDEAM celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities past and present and showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices. Many of you held special events and highlighted the importance of DEAM throughout the month to recognize the important role people with disabilities play in diversity, equity and inclusion of the workforce. Students enrolled in FPCTPs are increasing their skill levels and realizing their career dreams.



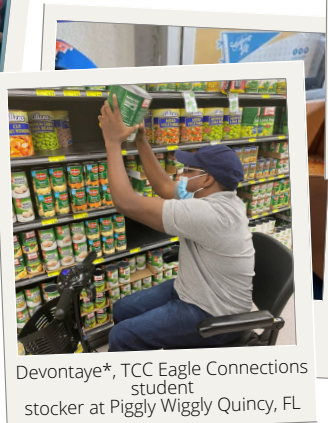
Sam, USF U Matter student
Ticket-scanner
Tampa Bay Rays



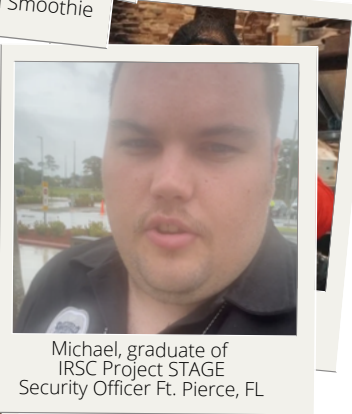
Danielle, graduate of
Santa Fe Project SAINT
Customer Service Tropical Smoothie
Gainesville, FL



Nahir, graduate of
McFatter Grow Your Future
Food prep at La Strega
Cucina Italiana Pembroke Pines



Devontaye*, TCC Eagle Connections
student
stocker at Piggly Wiggly Quincy, FL



Michael, graduate of
IRSC Project STAGE
Security Officer Ft. Pierce, FL

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Meet Guya Gregory, Broward College Seahawk NEST Program



Guya Gregory, joined the Broward College Seahawk NEST Academy in August 2022. Guya has already finished two Broward College classes, Computer and Internet Literacy, and Student Life Skills. Both classes are part of the foundation curriculum required by the Seahawk NEST Academy and are offered to all first year Broward College students.

Continued onto the next page...

*Devontaye was featured in the [APD Newsletter](#) "Essential Employee in Store"

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Continued from Page 1...

Guya successfully completed these two classes during Broward College's 8-week fall session, putting her that much closer to completing the NEST program and earning her Broward College Professional Services Certificate.

Guya has dreams of one day owning her own business, and the Business Pathway classes at Broward College will help her achieve that goal. Currently, Guya is volunteering with Student Life at Broward College. She assists the office in setting up and running campus wide student events. This volunteer opportunity will give her additional experience and prepare her for future internships. Year three of the Seahawk NEST Academy provides students with on the job training and internships. Once Guya has finished her Business Pathway classes, she will be ready to take on an internship either on or off campus.

The Seahawk NEST Academy provides Guya support, including an academic success coach, peer facilitator, and the fantastic Broward College faculty and staff. In addition to their Broward College classes, all students in the Seahawk NEST Academy participate in weekly seminars. The seminars prepare students for college and provide instruction on the Florida Ready to Work Soft Skills curriculum. Guya will have the opportunity to earn this credential preparing her for the work force. Guya is such a driven and goal-oriented student that we have the upmost confidence she will excel in the Seahawk NEST Academy.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Soaring Eagles Academy (SEA) at Florida Gulf Coast University

Ensuring Successful Leadership Transitions: How to Build a Sustainable FPCTP



Doug Carothers, EdD
Professor of Special Education
SEA@FGCU, Principal Investigator

Heraclitus said that nothing is permanent except change. That is true about our physical world, our individual lives, and the organizations we serve. Sound leadership is essential to the effective operation of a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP), so preparing for a program's continuing success despite inevitable leadership changes is essential when designing the program. This paper describes steps taken to create and operate a post-secondary education program at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) that was intentionally designed to adapt to leadership changes, ensuring its sustainability and availability to meet the future educational needs of adults with intellectual disability.

[Click to read more...](#)

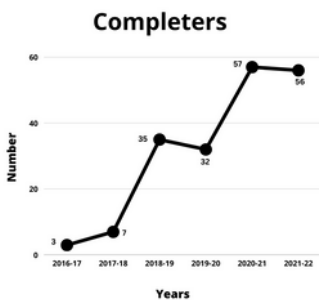
2021-22 Annual Report

In accordance with meeting accountability requirements specified in the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act (the Act FS 1004.6495), the FCSUA Annual Report for 2021-2022 was submitted last month to the Florida Legislature. This report covers the Center's work during the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. The Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP) data we report regarding student and program characteristics derive from the approved programs' annual reports, submitted to the Center in August 2021 for the 2021-2022 academic year (July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022). In this report, we describe our progress on implementation of the Act and then provide details in each of the required reporting areas specified in the Act.

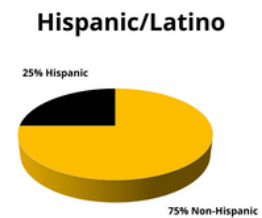
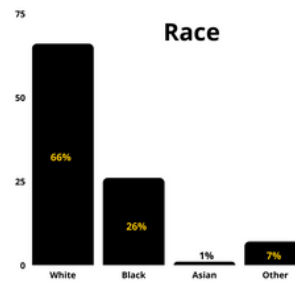
During 2021-22, FCSUA continued to implement major elements of the Act. Continuing through the post-COVID-19 pandemic, and transition to in-person activities, we maintained support to existing FPCTPs to improve and expand opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities. We also maintained an 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.

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. Below are data from the 2021-2022 Annual Report.

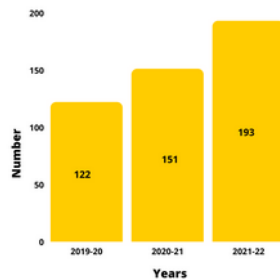
FCSUA Quick Facts 2021-22



- #### Student Enrollment
- 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.

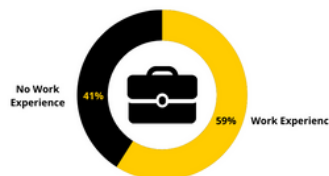


Course Enrollment



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

- #### 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.



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

Residential



- Approximately **20%** of students lived on college campuses, alone, on their own with a spouse, domestic partner(s) or with roommate(s).

Scholarship

\$1.2 Million

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



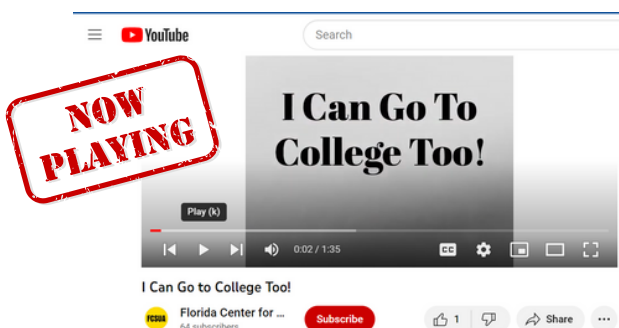
FCSUA offers monthly webinars on the first Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. eastern time to support the development and continuation of FPCTPs.

Join us for our upcoming webinars:

Dec. 6: Building Partnerships with APD and FDDC

Jan. 10: Building an Inclusive Campus

Feb. 7: An Update from Think College



Check out our recent video series "I Can Go To College Too" and "Parents Perspectives" on our YouTube channel.



MidYear Progress Update (For team leaders)

January 26-27, 2023

DoubleTree Orlando East - UCF Area, Orlando, FL.

Registration is open through December 19, 2022

The Florida Postsecondary Education Program Planning Institute (FLPEPPI)

July 10-12, 2023

Hyatt Regency Cypress Grand Orlando, FL.

Professional Development Opportunities Read, Attend, Present



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](https://www.fcsua.com) to read the current issue.



ASSOCIATION FOR
CAREER & TECHNICAL
EDUCATION®

ACTE's CareerTech Vision 2022 Conference

In-person and Virtual
November 30 - December 3, 2022



DADD

Division on Autism and
Developmental Disabilities

Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities

Jan. 18-20, 2023
Clearwater Beach, FL.



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

Visions 2023 Transition Conference

Jacksonville, FL
April 12-14, 2023

Proposals are being accepted through
December 2, 2023*

FPCTPs and students are being encouraged to present.

ThinkCollege
Career &
Technical
Education

AFFINITY GROUP



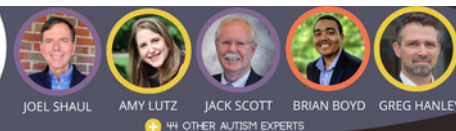
A brand new Affinity Group is launching this month! The newly formed Career and Technical Education (CTE) Affinity Group will kick off on September 20, 2022 from 3-4 p.m. ET via Zoom. [Click here for more information.](#)



FCPN Florida Career Pathways Network

FCPN Symposium

Jan. 11-13, 2023
Stuart, FL.



ORLANDO, FL
JANUARY 13-15, 2023

a weekend to motivate, inspire & learn

aaidd Annual Meeting 2023

June 5-8, 2023
Pittsburgh, PA

Connecting evidence and leaders in the field of intellectual disability

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Proposals are being accepted through November 28, 2022.

Southeast Postsecondary Education Alliance Conference

May 17-19, 2023
Nashville, TN

Proposals are being accepted through
December 1, 2022



June 9-11, 2023

Orlando

Proposals are being accepted
through December 15, 2023

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.

Like Us/Follow Us!

