

APRIL 2024



Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

News Brief



Happy Retirement

Executive Director Janice Seabrooks-Blackmore retired on April 1. Thank you Dr. Seabrooks-Blackmore for your leadership at the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities.

Read the [tribute article](#) about her career and impact, written by Kristine Webb.

Welcome



Fred K. Marchman Technical College, in New Port Richey, is the newest approved Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP).

The **Building Your Future** FPCTP will begin admitting students in the 2024-25 academic year.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Meet Isaac Slotnick Seahawk NEST Academy



Isaac is a senior in the Seahawk NEST Academy at Broward College. He will graduate in May as a part of the inaugural graduating class. He has been working to earn the Professional Services Certificate. Isaac's career focus was on office support. He has been an intern with the Broward County Library system for the past year. The library staff have come to rely on Isaac's immaculate attention to detail on the job. He has become independent by learning all the necessary skills to be employed as a Library I Aide. He is currently searching for a Library I Aide position at the county library near his home.

Isaac has gained an immense amount of independence, social skills, and ability to work on teams while attending the NEST Academy. He is an amazing student and can brighten anyone's day. His favorite part of the NEST Academy has been his internship and feeling a sense of accomplishment each day. Isaac says, "The NEST has given me the opportunity to learn, be independent and make my own decisions."

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

The CTE Workgroup continues to collaborate with Think College to develop a CTE module for the Think College website. In February, the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities facilitated a webinar featuring CTE students from FPCTPs. The webinar was hosted by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, Dan Habib.



There is a bi-partisan bill making its way through Washington D.C. that would lower the clock hour requirement for PELL grant funding from 600 clock hours to 150 clock hours. Email your Senators to ask for their support on this proposed legislation.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the FCSUA Community

1) How do I submit Annual Report - Program Information?

Program Information reports are due **July 1** of each year. All approved programs must submit this report even if they do not have an approved FPCTP Grant. This report must be submitted a month ahead of the Student Information reports because the credentials section (section 4) is critical during the Student Information completion process. Errors detected in section 4 after the Student Information records are created will result in having to work on the student reports again. You can start working on your Program Information **now** if you have not started already. The sooner you submit it, the sooner we can revise it, provide feedback, and approve it. This will also allow you to start working on your Student Information reports earlier. Sign into the FCSUA Community and navigate to the Annual Report - Program Information section. If you are a newly approved program and this is your first time submitting a Program Information report, you will click on **New**. If you are an established program, you can clone last year's report by clicking on **Clone Last Year Report**. Please remember to revise all sections, update last year's information, and pay attention to questions conditional on previous questions (Yes/No). If those answers no longer apply, please remove them before setting the answer to No.

2) Do I need to wait until the Annual Report - Program Information is approved before submitting the Annual Report - Student Information?

Yes; the credentials section in the Program Information is critical during the Student Information completion process. Errors in the credentials section detected after the Student Information records are created will result in having to work on the student reports again. Student Information reports are due **August 1**; however, as soon as your Program Information is approved, you can start working on the student reports and submit them to us for revisions, feedback, and approval. Only FPCTPs with students enrolled will submit these reports. All students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in your program should have a report despite receiving an FPCTP scholarship. If you have continuing students, take advantage of the cloning function, but please revise the information and clean up the answers that are conditional to other questions.

3) When can I submit the Student Follow-Up Reports?

Follow-up reports are due on **August 1**, along with the student reports. However, the FCSUA Community does not restrict your time to start working on them. Please start now if you have not done so. Every FPCTP graduate should have a Follow Up Report beginning the year after graduation and for the next four years. A total of five reports should be submitted for every graduate. After five years of follow-up reports, we do not require additional data collection. The names of the students will stop appearing on the FCSUA Community list.

4) How do I submit Scholarship Disbursement Reports, and when should I return non-disbursed funds?

To complete a disbursement report, follow these steps:

- 1) Open the cost estimator(s) on edit mode (pencil icon)
- 2) Click on the Scholarship Request tab (second tab)
- 3) Open each student scholarship request on edit mode (pencil icon)
- 4) On the right column, find the disbursement field corresponding to the report due
- 5) Enter the amount disbursed to the student.
- 6) Save before exiting.

Note: There is no need to resubmit the scholarship request; you can only save it. There is no need to wait for the reminders to arrive; you can work on disbursement reports as soon as you know how much the student will receive. Non-disbursed funds should be returned to FCSUA by **June 30** in a one-time check if possible. We do not require funds to be returned at the end of every term.

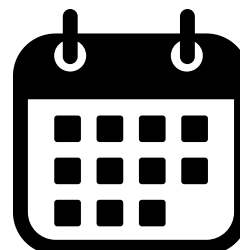
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**REMINDER:
END OF THE YEAR
REPORT IN THE
STRATEGIC
PLANNING TOOL**



FPCTP Leaders, A facilitator will be contacting you in May to review your Strategic Planning Tool: End of Year Report in preparation for the Florida Postsecondary Education Program Planning Institute. Your team's Technical Soundness Report, posted in the online Strategic Planning Tool, includes feedback of your 2024 annual plans. Use the feedback to update your current plans in preparation for your End of the Year Report (Step 5) in the Strategic Planning Tool.

**REPORTING
SCHEDULE TIMELINE**



*Scholarship Disbursement
Reports for All Terms
Non-Disbursed Funds Returned
to FCSUA*
Due: June 30

*Strategic Planning Tool
End of Year Report*
Due: June 30

*Annual Report -
Program Information*
Due: July 1

*1) Annual Report - Student Information
2) Student Follow-Up Reports*
Due: August 1



May 1, 2024

Inclusive Postsecondary Education Day (#IPSEDay2024) is a day to raise awareness and spread the word about inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) options for students with intellectual disabilities. [Download the Think College IPSE Day social media toolkit to share the exciting things happening in inclusive postsecondary education.](#)



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:

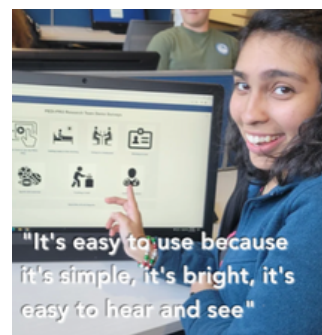
May 7: FPCTP Reporting: Modifications and Adjustments and Invoices in the FCSUA Community



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

PUBLICATIONS

Student Research Publication



Bianka, a student in Project SAINT at Santa Fe College, is a published author through her research with the Youth & Young Adult Empowerment, Leadership & Learning (YELL) Lab at the University of Florida. Project SAINT graduate Cyril is also an author on this paper. Read the [abstract](#) to learn more about their research.



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

Read, Attend, Present

2024 FLPEPPI



The 2024 Florida Postsecondary Education Program Planning Institute will take place July 8-10 in Orlando. This is a team-focused event for postsecondary education program planning teams to increase understanding of resources available for and facilitate the planning and implementation of Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs (FPCTPs) for students with intellectual disabilities at universities, state/community colleges, and career tech centers & technical colleges.

Registration is now open and closes June 14!

Contact FCSUA if you have a team that would like to learn more: fcsua@ucf.edu.



It is time to nominate a business for the Inclusive Employer Award. The intent of the award is to recognize a business that goes above and beyond to hire, support and include FPCTP students and completers in an inclusive work environment. The business selected exemplifies diversity and inclusion across all aspects of the company.

Nominations are due May 17, 2024. The Inclusive Employer Award will be presented at the 2024 FLPEPPI.

Professional Development Opportunities

Read, Attend, Present



Florida College Access Network
Talent Strong Florida Summit
Orlando, FL.
May 8-10



2024 SEPSEA Conference
Clearwater Beach, FL.
May 22-24.



FPEA Annual Convention
May 23-25
Orlando, FL.



26th Annual Family Cafe
June 14-16
Orlando, FL.



**Florida Association for Career
Technical Education
Conference & Trade Show**
July 15-17
Sawgrass Marriott
Registration closes June 1



**2024 Florida Learners to Earners
Workforce Solution Summit**
June 26
Tampa, FL.



AHEAD 2024 Annual Conference:
Equity and Excellence, Access in Higher Education
Baltimore, MD
July 15-19



2024 State of the Art Conference
Chapel Hill, NC
October 29-30

