AUGUST 2023

Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

News Brief

Welcome
New Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs

AMBITIONED
Osceola Technical College
Patty Collins, Program Coordinator

PINELLAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE
UNIQUE PROFESSIONALS
Pinellas Technical College
Dallas Jackson, Program Coordinator

OSPEREY FLOCK
University of North Florida
Deborah Reed, Program Director

New FCSUA Staff

Christian Zimmerman
Technical Assistance Coordinator

Missy Glavey
Technical Assistance Coordinator

Alex Trilling
Web Content Specialist II

EMPLOYMENT AMONG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HITS POST-PANDEMIC HIGH

In a recent interview with NBC News, The Able Trust CEO Allison Chase discussed the recent improvement in employment outcomes for job seekers with disabilities. According to new job numbers released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the employment-to-population ratio for individuals with disabilities nationwide now stands at a record high of 22.4%.

Click the button to read more about the ongoing efforts toward increased disability inclusion in the workplace.

Read More.
Cassandra Tavel is a recent graduate from FIU Embrace Education program at Florida International University with a credential in Hospitality.

When Cassandra first entered FIU Embrace Education, she was nervous to meet new people and be in a new environment. But she didn’t let her fears hold her back; every day, she stepped out of her comfort zone by attending and working hard in her classes and meeting new people across campus.

Over time, Cassandra's confidence increased, and she rose to the occasion every time. She developed great relationships with her classmates, fellow FIU Embrace peers, teachers, and began to find ways to become involved on campus.

One memorable experience was being a part of the student delegation at the State of the Art Conference in Syracuse last year. This opportunity allowed her to travel independently and network and engage autonomously on various subject matters with her fellow FIU peers and other postsecondary programs across the nation.

Continued on the next page
Another notable accomplishment was Cassandra's successful participation in the South Beach Wine and Food Festival (SOBEWFF) – a national, star-studded, four-day destination event that gathers the world’s most renowned wine and spirit producers, chefs and culinary personalities in one location. During the festival, Cassandra worked at multiple events, providing support as assigned next to her fellow FIU’s School of Hospitality and Tourism Management peers.

Cassandra's experience at FIU Embrace Education increased her knowledge in the field of hospitality, allowed her to make lifelong friends. She credits her ability to advocate for herself more effectively to her participation in the FIU Embrace Education program. Cassandra's career goals are to work with children or the elderly. She has been placed in a post-graduation internship at Baptist Hospital in the Early Childhood Center.

Congratulations to the summer 2023 graduates from the FIU Embrace Education program at Florida International University!

Congratulations to the summer 2023 graduates from the Academy for Community Inclusion program at Florida Atlantic University!
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:

- **Sept 5**: How to Become an FPCTP, presented by Janice Seabrooks-Blackmore & Drew Andrews. [Register here](#).
- **Oct. 3**: TBD
- **Nov. 7**: TBD

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2023 FLORIDA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAM PLANNING INSTITUTE

We can't wait to see you next year!
The Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network – Collaborative CTE Workgroup Update

The Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network - Collaborative CTE Workgroup had its second annual face-to-face meeting on July 10th in Orlando. Workgroup members from eight states participated in the meeting, bringing together a wealth of experience and expertise in both CTE and inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE). After a brief update from Clare Papay, Co-PI of the project, the group shared content and resources for developing learning modules for CTE IPSE program development. More information will be released soon about this exciting resource coming from TCIHEN.

Think College - College Search

Think College's College Search tool is the only directory of college and university programs for students with intellectual disabilities in the US. Let's keep Florida's FPCTP information up to date!

Enter your program information today! Need your survey link? Contact Shelby at shelby.bates@umb.edu.

Think Higher, Think College

What if every young adult with an intellectual disability in the United States saw college as an option?

The “Think Higher. Think College.” campaign is designed to build awareness and expand access to college for students with intellectual disabilities. Our goals are to increase knowledge of inclusive college options, share information about the benefits and outcomes of students with intellectual disabilities attending college, and offer people ways to spread the message: “Think Higher. Think College.” Visit the "Think College" website for more information on the campaign.
Professional Development Opportunities
Read, Attend, Present

National Postsecondary CTE Summit 2023
Sept 20-22, 2023, Denver CO
More information here

Best Practices and Innovations in CTE
Conference 2023
Sept 27-29, 2023 Salt Lake City UT
More information here

ACTE Career Tech Vision 2023
Nov 29-Dec 2 Phoenix AZ
More information here

Virtual professional development and free supportive resources for CTE professionals.

Division of Career Development and Transition International Annual Conference
October 18-21, 2023. Reno, NV
Register Here

State of the Art (SOTA) Conference
October 25–26, 2023
Colorado Springs, CO.
Register Here

2023 Florida Council for Exceptional Children
Annual Conference: Bridging the Gap
October 5-7, 2023, Lake Mary.
Register Here

Association of Florida Colleges 74th Annual Meeting and Conference.
November 1-3, 2023 Orlando FL
Register Here


Professional Development Opportunities
Read, Attend, Present

Florida AHEAD Fall Meeting October 12-13, 2023 Gainesville FL
For more information contact jenna04@ufl.edu.

Florida AHEAD: EIT Committee September 28, 2023 1:00 Topic:
Alternative Format Production. Register here

In this latest report, The Able Trust provides a data update to Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, employers, partners, the non-profit community, and others who are engaged in helping Floridians with a disability find meaningful employment:

- Increase in employment of Floridians with disabilities over the last five years
- National and county level population numbers,
- Employment data including information on full and part-time work,
- Occupational and industry concentrations, and
- Educational attainment.

Click here to download the report.

Upcoming Observations Dates
- Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) October, 2023
- DEAM kick-off with The Able Trust
- Disability Mentoring Day October 18, 2023 For more information.
- Florida Disability History and Awareness Weeks October 1-14, 2023 For more information.