Welcome!

Meet Dewon Harvey Clayton, from Project TOPS, Robert Morgan Educational Center & Technical College

Dewon was inspired to explore culinary arts after hearing a speaker at a community event. He enrolled in Robert Morgan Educational Center & Technical College (RMEC & TC) and requested the supports of Project TOPS. He was awarded the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship and began the Baking & Pastry Arts (BPA) program in a fully inclusive learning environment.

Dewon is honest about his journey not being an easy road. He faced many adjustments to technical college courses and a daily production schedule. Continued onto the next page...

Congratulations to Melissa Adams, who has been appointed as the new director of the Seahawk Academy at Broward College!

Melissa has worked with the Seahawk Academy since the program was launched. For the past two years, she has worked as a student success coach.

"I am so excited to continue to work with the Seahawk NEST Academy," she said. "I look forward to a great future for the NEST and can't wait to see our students continue on their road to success!"
**STUDENT HIGHLIGHT**

Continued from Page 1...

RMEC & TC is recognized for the delicious, student-prepared dishes sold at Giorgio’s Café. After developing accommodations, many conversations, being placed on program probation, and enduring the COVID-19 pandemic, Dewon earned the Occupational Completion Points (OCPs) for BPA. Dewon asked to enroll in Professional Culinary Arts & Hospitality (PCAH).

The transition to PCAH was filled with many changes. Though discouraged, Dewon recognized the opportunities in front of him. He used his friendly nature and humor to demonstrate his commitment. Chef Montesano assigned Dewon as assistant sous chef and he began demonstrating his leadership skills. Dewon was also hired as a part-time Deli Prep Cook at a local Publix in October 2022.

Dewon has become a role model to new students entering the program and has earned the respect of all the BPA and PCAH students. Most recently, Dewon participated in the SkillsUSA’s Action Skills Competition and earned a Bronze Medal for his presentation of a Watermelon Feta Salad.

Dewon’s determination, family love and support, and his faith have brought him to his last trimester. Dewon will graduate in July 2023 with all the OCPs for the PCAH program. Before graduating, Dewon will participate in the ServSafe industry certification. Dewon has a long-term goal of working in a Michelin-Star restaurant. His short-term goals include becoming a full-time Publix employee, saving funds to start a food truck and continuing to gain work experience. Dewon Harvey Clayton is a proud example of Pirate Pride and learning to celebrate your unique abilities with each accomplishment to reach your ultimate TOPS.

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**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT**

**Titans UP! at St. Petersburg College**

Things to Consider When Expanding to a Second Location

By April Ross, M.Ed.,
Titans Up Project Coordinator

The Titans UP! program is an approved Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP), located in Pinellas County, Florida. We received our first Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA) award to begin the 1999-2000 academic year at the Seminole campus of St. Petersburg College (SPC), which is in the southeastern corner of Pinellas County. Now, three years later, we are applying for a continuing grant and expanding to the Clearwater campus in the north-central part of the county. We would like to share our experience and offer some insight into the steps we used to move forward when expanding to a second location.

Continue reading here...
UPCOMING OBSERVATION DAYS

Think College Awareness Week
April 24-28
The Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network is launching a public awareness campaign, "College is for Everyone", to educate people about college as an option for students with intellectual disability. The campaign will launch with a week of virtual events that are free and open to the public. Sessions will include information and resources for students, families, educators and transition professionals, and higher education personnel.

Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Day
May 1
Show your support and enthusiasm for inclusive postsecondary education and mark your calendars for #IPSEDay2023! Visit the IPSE Day page for more information, logos, sample posts, and more.

Employer Award Nominations
The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities is excited to announce 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 will be accepted through May 25, 2023. The Inclusive Employer Award will be presented during the FLPEPPI breakfast on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. Fill out the form here.
Collaborating with Employers
Tips for Successful Partnerships

Jaclyn Camden

Job coaches support students during their job search and after they have been hired, while also providing support for potential employers. This resource explains the various roles of job coaches and tips on how to build collaborative partnerships with employers: https://bit.ly/3no1atm.
Professional Development Opportunities
Read, Attend, Present

Think College hosts professional development Affinity Groups on topics related to higher education for students with intellectual disability. Below are upcoming meetings and links to registration pages.

**College-based Transition Services**
April 13, 2-3pm ET, [Zoom registration](#)
Topic: Ongoing Challenges Related to COVID-19

**Graduate Student**
April 19, 3:30-4:30pm ET, [Zoom registration](#)
Topic: Job Search Process

**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.

**Southeast Postsecondary Education Alliance Conference**
May 17-19, 2023
Nashville, TN
Early Bird registration ends April 15, 2023

**Florida College Access Network (FCAN)**
Talent Strong Summit
April 27-28, 2023 Tampa, FL

**ThinkCollege Career & Technical Education AFFINITY GROUP**
VR Collaboration with IPSE CTE Programs
June 6, 2023, at 3:00pm

**Florida Parent Educators Association Florida Homeschool Convention**
May 25-27, 2023 Orlando, FL
[Register here](#)

**57th Annual FACTE Conference & Trade Show**
SeaWorld Renaissance
July 17-19, 2023
[Learn more](#)

**6th Annual Family Cafe Conference and Trade Show**
June 9-11, 2023
Orlando
[Learn more](#)
Professional Development Opportunities
Read, Attend, Present

Equity & Excellence
Access in Higher Education


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.

Annual International Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) conference October 18-21, 2023 Reno, NV Register here.

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- Association for Career and Technical Education ACTE Vision 2023 Conference Nov 29-Dec 2, 2023 Phoenix AZ. Learn more.

- Transforming Postsecondary CTE for ALL Save The Date: September 20-22, 2023 Denver, CO Learn more about the conference. The deadline to submit a proposal is Friday April 28th, 2023. Submit your proposal here.

ACTE®

State of the Art (SOTA) Conference October 25-26, 2023 Colorado Springs, CO. Call for Presentation Proposals for SOTA are being accepted through May 1, 2023. Register here.

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.