

FEBRUARY 2024



Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

News Brief

FEBRUARY IS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH



HIRE Program Student,
Cape Coral Technical College



Okaloosa UP Student,
Okaloosa Technical College



Grow Your Future Student,
McFatter Technical College

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month is a public awareness campaign, hosted by the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), to acknowledge the importance of CTE and the success of CTE programs. CTE provides students with career-based skillsets to enter the workforce in specific trades and fields. Many of the CTE offerings at Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition programs lead to industry certification for students with intellectual disabilities in a variety of career fields. These fields include, but not limited to, automotive, construction, culinary, technology, and more.



**Florida Center for Students
with Unique Abilities**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Recently Approved CTE Programs

Since July 2023, we have had several newly approved Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs at career and technical colleges.



Ambitioned
Admitting students: 2024-25
Kissimmee, FL.



**Pinellas Technical College (UP)
Unique Professionals**
Admitting students: 2023-24
St. Petersburg, FL.



Project Edge
Admitting students: 2024-25
Bradenton, FL.



**STEEL (Specific Training
Empowering Exceptional
Leaders)**
Admitting students: 2024-25
Winter Haven, FL.



**STEEL (Specific Training
Empowering Exceptional
Leaders)**
Admitting Students: 2024-25
Lakeland, FL.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Meet Crystal Bellamy,
from SOAR Program



Crystal Bellamy is a student enrolled in the SOAR Program at Lively Technical College in Tallahassee Florida.

Bellamy worked for Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar, Carrabba's Italian Grill and the Governor's Square Mall in Tallahassee prior to completing the Fundamental Foodservice Program and ServSafe Food Handler certification in 2023. Currently, she is completing the Specialized Career Instruction Comprehensive Program. She has diligently worked to build and improve her soft skills, such as customer service, time management and financial management.

"Everyone at the SOAR program is great," Bellamy said. "I love being part of this program. I tell everybody about it."

Continued onto the next page...

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

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Judith Husband, program director for the SOAR Program, says that Bellamy has progressed tremendously in the program and matured through her actions and professionalism.

"She tells the SOAR staff daily that she doesn't know where she would be without the program," Husband said.

Bellamy is currently a custodial intern at Westminster Gardens Retirement Community. In her position, she gets the chance to interact with the elderly residents and hopes to work with the elderly population full-time upon completing her program this year.

"This program has really taught me a lot and prepared me," Bellamy said.

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



CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!



Christian Zimmerman,
Technical Assistance Coordinator
Florida Center for Students with
Unique Abilities

Read the latest [article](#) by Christian Zimmerman about CTE Awareness Month and the latest CTE Collaborative Workgroup activities.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Project TOPS at Robert Morgan Educational Center & Technical College

Words of Wisdom on Developing and Sustaining a CTE Program



Vivian C. Vieta, Ed.D.
Project TOPS Program Director

Project TOPS at Robert Morgan Educational Center & Technical College started in 2015 with funding from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) in collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Office of Adult Education. In 2017, TOPS received funding from the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA) and became the first FPCTP program in Miami Dade County. This accomplishment comes with enormous responsibility to all stakeholders – especially the young adults who enroll in the program.

TOPS is a career technical education (CTE) model for students with documented intellectual disabilities or intellectual disabilities with other co-existing disabilities who have identified a CTE area of interest. Can students with unique abilities be successful in a CTE academic environment? Absolutely! The greatest indicator of success is the student's awareness about the requirements and clear expectations of the CTE program.

[Continue reading here...](#)

FEBRUARY 2024



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:

March 5: Evidence Based Effective Practice for Successful Employment Outcomes

April 2: Behavior Strategies

May 7: Mental Health

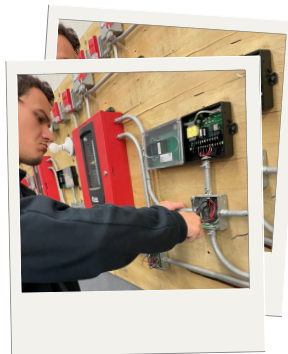
Did you miss the CTE Month: Student Panel? If you did, you will want to hear what these students said about attending college!



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

PROGRAM SNAPSHOTS

**GROW Your Future,
McFatter Technical College**

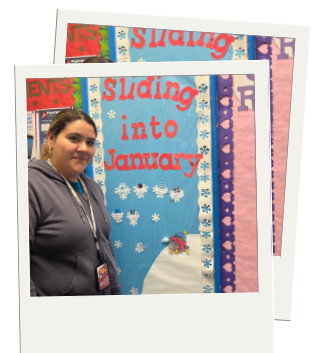


Doug, a student in the Electricity Program



Ryan, a student in the Welding Program

**BUILD Your Future,
Sheridan Technical College**

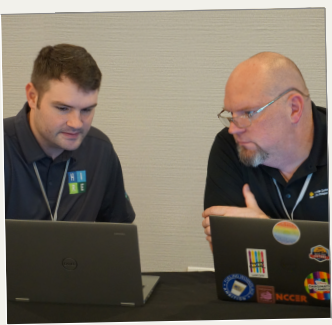


Andrew and Gabriela, both students in the Early Childhood Education Program at Sheridan Technical College.

Submit photos of your students' on-campus activities/experiences to Drexler B. James at drexler.james@ucf.edu.

FEBRUARY 2024

MidYear Progress Update Institute Highlights



Providing technical assistance



ZipTalk and Networking



ZipTalk and Networking



Connecting with fellow
colleagues

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 the majority of these programs have updated their information and we are eager to see all the programs update their information. Help us by updating your program information by February 24!

Need your survey link? Contact Shelby at shelby.bates@umb.edu.



#IPSEDay

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 disability. Join Think College in celebrating inclusive postsecondary education.

FEBRUARY 2024

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 (FPCTP) for students with intellectual disabilities at universities, state and community colleges, and career tech centers/ technical colleges. **Registration will open April 9, 2024.**

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. We want to recognize businesses that go above and beyond to hire, support, and include FPCTP students and completers in an inclusive work environment. **Nominations are due May 17, 2024**, and the award will be presented at the 2024 FLPEPPI in Orlando.

FEBRUARY 2024

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,
with an HBCU pre-
conference on **May 21.**



Think Higher. Think College.

Flexible Supports for
College Success
March 6, 2024 @ 3-4 pm ET
Register

Upcoming Webinars

Inclusive Academics: Working
with Faculty and Instructors to
Support Academic Access
April 18, 2024 @ 3-4 pm ET
Register

Think Higher. Think College.
New Resources and Strategies on College Access for Students with Intellectual Disability
March 21, 2024 @ 2-3 pm ET
Registration info will be available on the [Think College events page](#) soon!



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

2024 Florida DCDT VISIONS Annual
Conference 30th Anniversary
Orlando, FL
April 9-11, 2024



2024 Visions Conference College & Agency Fair
Wednesday, April 9
9 a.m. -12 p.m.,
Orlando, FL.
Register for a table.

Don't miss this opportunity to share your program with
transition professionals from around the state!

Professional Development Opportunities Read, Attend, Present FPCTPs News & More



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.



Project EDGE at Manatee Technical College was recently featured in the "Your Observer" newsletter in Sarasota, FL., Read the [article](#).



Read the latest [newsletter](#) from the Able Trust, highlighting recent activities and upcoming events.



Read the winter quarterly [newsletter](#) from Think College, highlighting recent activities and upcoming events within the Think College network.



Read the latest [newsletter](#) from the LINKS Program at Southeastern University in Lakeland. Also read the spotlight in the SEU annual report about the [SEU Link program](#), featuring a student profile.



Read the latest [newsletter](#) from the Association for Career & Technical Education, including details on how to celebrate Career & Technical Education Month.