What the Think College Centers Can do for YOU!

Danie Roberts-Dahm, PhD, Project Coordinator, Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network

FCSUA Webinar – February 2023

The Think College National Coordinating Center and Inclusive Higher Education Network are projects of the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The Centers are funded by the US Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, Grant #P407B15002 and #P407C21001.

What is Think College?

Think College is a national technical assistance, research, and evaluation center dedicated to developing, expanding and improving higher education options for students with intellectual disability.
What are the Centers?

**The Think College National Coordinating Center** provides coordination, technical assistance, training, and evaluation for Transition and Postsecondary Education Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) and similar supports to other college programs for students with ID, transition professionals, families, and students.

*Funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, Grant No. P307B200001.*

**The Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network** disseminates research and best practices for improving and expanding inclusive postsecondary education opportunities for students with intellectual disability through regional and national training, collaborative workgroups, and public awareness activities.

*Funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, Grant No. P307C210001.*
What do the Centers do?

**National Coordinating Center**
- Evaluation of TPSIDs
- Accreditation
- Technical Assistance
- Dissemination
- Searchable Resources
- Community Building

**Inclusive Higher Education Network**
- Public Awareness
- State & Regional Alliance
- Career & Technical Ed
- Employment Partnerships
- Training Development
- Membership Organization

What can we do for you?
High School Transition Teacher

I’ve started to hear from parents that they want more information about college. Where can I start?

My administration is not thinking about college for my students, but I’d like to move in that direction. How do I plant the seed?

I’d like to develop IEP goals to support college preparation. What can Think College offer?

Hello!

The only national database of college programs for students with intellectual disability.

www.thinkcollege.net/college-search
Technical Assistance

We are here for you! These Think College experts are here to field your questions and provide the best guidance and trouble-shooting available.

Email: ThinkCollegeTA@gmail.com
College program staff

Our students have difficulty paying for the program.

Our employment outcomes could be better.

We aren't approved as a CTP.

Should I be connecting with VR?

I've heard something about accreditation...

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFO TO HELP ME?!

Our students have difficulty paying for the program.

Our employment outcomes could be better.

We aren't approved as a CTP.
These pages feature hand selected resources and information on some popular topics.

**Students**

I want to hear from other students.

I’m a student and I want to know more about advocacy.
Publications

- **Voices of Experience: Students Share College Search Advice**
- **Student College Resource Guide**
- Variety of student stories focused on experiences planning for, attending, and graduating from college

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**Student Advocacy & Policy**

Connect college students with ID to existing IDD and cross-disability, self-advocacy and other advocacy/disability rights groups.

Developing Think College Ambassadors, an advocacy speaker’s bureau/network.

Strategy sessions w/ state and regional alliance leaders to support policy-related solutions to barriers.

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*Under development Stay tuned!*
I’m just learning that college might be an option for my child, where do I start?

Join our Families Facebook page!!
Families Think College FB page

Started in February 2018, now there are nearly 800 members. This space was created so families can connect with one another in a safe place to discuss... well, whatever they like!

Researchers and Graduate Students

How can I connect with other post docs doing this work? Where can I find research articles?
### Related Affinity Groups

- **ThinkCollege RESEARCH AFFINITY GROUP**
  - Quarterly meetings with community of researchers
  - [https://thinkcollege.net/technical-assistance/affinity-groups/research](https://thinkcollege.net/technical-assistance/affinity-groups/research)

- **ThinkCollege EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS AFFINITY GROUP**
  - Quarterly meetings for new professionals working towards a career in academia and/or research
  - [https://thinkcollege.net/ta-training/affinity-groups/early-career-researchers](https://thinkcollege.net/ta-training/affinity-groups/early-career-researchers)

- **ThinkCollege GRADUATE STUDENT AFFINITY GROUP**
  - Quarterly meetings for current or prospective graduate students interested in inclusive higher education
  - [https://thinkcollege.net/ta-training/affinity-groups/graduate-student](https://thinkcollege.net/ta-training/affinity-groups/graduate-student)

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### Data the NCC collects from TPSIDs

- **Program data**
  - For example:
    - Operation
    - Partners
    - Charges
    - Staff

- **Student data**
  - For example:
    - Core data (collected once)
    - Annual data (course enrollments, jobs, etc)
    - Status at exit

- **Follow-up data**
  - Once per year from each graduate
  - For example:
    - Employment
    - Further education
    - Living situation
See the Data

Read the Stories

Read the Stories

Who can talk to about research and evaluation?

Clare Papay

Pam McFarland

Belkis Choceul-Praslin

Meg Grigal

Danie Roberts-Dahm

Caitlyn A. Bukaty

https://thinkcollege.net/resources/think-college-publications
Focus on Policy

In this section of the website, find out...

• Who to contact with questions about college options for students with ID
• If there is a higher education consortium in your state
• Up-to-date policy and legislation information.

Denise Rozell
Director of Policy Innovation, Education and Employment Team, at Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD)

Liz Weintraub
Senior Advocacy Specialist at Association of University Centers on Disabilities, or AUCD
State Programs

I'm looking to connect with others in my region.

Susanna Miller-Raines
Alliances Manager

Technical Assistance to Build New Regional Alliances

Gather
Gather existing & develop new regional partnership development resources including policy & practices

Assist
Assist with outreach with key states to identify a lead entity to coordinate development of new regional alliances

Provide
Provide training & mentoring to emerging regional alliances

Support
Support new alliances to replicate existing regional alliance structure
MISSION
To promote access to quality inclusive postsecondary education for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the southeast through a shared focus on collaboration through program development, research, and public policy.

VISION
The vision of the Southeast Postsecondary Education Alliance (SEPSEA) is for all institutions of higher education in the southeast to be inclusive of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Join SEPSEA!

- Visit [www.sepsea.org](http://www.sepsea.org) under membership
- Access to SEPSEA Expert’s List for questions about IPSE programs
- Reduced registration rate for annual capacity building institute
- Priority for proposals submitted for annual SEPSEA Capacity Building Institute
- Opportunities to serve on SEPSEA committees; great way to fulfill service obligations
- Coming soon!
  - Free access to SEPSEA podcasts (minimum of one each quarter)
  - Monthly zoom meetings for Q & A hosted by a SEPSEA Expert!
SEPSEA’s Annual Conference
May 18-19, 2023 in Nashville, TN

Visit the website for more information:
https://www.sepsea.org/call-for-proposals-2023.html

College Faculty and Staff
I work at a college, and I’d like more people to know about inclusive higher education options for students with intellectual disability.
Program Accreditation Standards

The final Program Accreditation Standards, along with associated guidance and evidence required for review are available for download from our website.

Website:

Events and Webinars: Upcoming

Think College provides training that disseminates research and promising practices related to postsecondary education for students with disabilities. Including webinars, conference presentations, capacity-building institutes and research summits.

If you follow Think College on social media or get our newsletter, you know we like to keep busy!

Here’s where you’ll find the list of what’s going on, and when:
https://thinkcollege.net/ta-training/events
Public Awareness Campaign

Think Higher. Think College.

Launching April 2023

Goals
- Share purpose
- Raise awareness
- Engage constituents
- Promote action

Audience
- K-12 Educators
- IHE faculty, staff and administrators
- Families
- Students

Formats
- Video interviews
- Print ads and posters
- Social media campaigns
- Downloadable info packets
- Guide on using the resources

Expanding Career & Technical Education (CTE) & Employment Opportunities through Collaborative Workgroups

Career & Technical Education (CTE): expand collaborations with CTE institutions & programs

Employment Partnerships: improve collaboration between IHE’s & VR, DD agencies, employers, & employer organizations

Drew Andrews, EdD, Assistant Director and Technical Assistance Coordinator
The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA) at the University of Central Florida

Jaclyn Camden, Interim Associate Director
Center on Transition Innovations
Director of the ACE-IT in College Rehabilitation Research & Training Center
The Virginia Commonwealth University
Collaborative Workgroup: CTE

Identify membership of collaborative workgroup & meet quarterly

Disseminate training materials & resources on promising practices to work with CTE programs to include supporting students with ID

Collect information from workgroup on how to work with CTE programs to create access & support for students with ID

Facilitate access to technical assistance & participation in regional Capacity Building Institutes

CTE Workgroup Goals

Identify
- Successful practices in CTE
- Critical partners for inclusive postsecondary education programs and students
- Current resources to support enhanced participation in CTE
- Credentials that need to be developed
- Barriers to CTE

Outreach
- To existing stakeholders, engaging them to build upon existing practices and resources
- To increase awareness of CTE programs for students with intellectual disabilities
- To engage with CTE stakeholders to develop new IPSE CTE programs
- To under resourced areas of need

Develop and Disseminate
- Resources to raise awareness
- Needed resources and tools to support engagement with CTE
- Resources to support the development of Inclusive Postsecondary Education CTE programs
- Needed credentials
Career & Technical Education (CTE) Affinity Group

- [https://thinkcollege.net/ta-training/affinity-groups/career-and-technical-ed](https://thinkcollege.net/ta-training/affinity-groups/career-and-technical-ed)

- Next meetings:
  - February 21, 2023, May 16, 2023, (all at 3:00PM ET)
  - Topics for future meetings:
    - PD opportunities, Credentials students are earning, Transportation, VR connections, Lessons learned in developing programs, Pre-ETS in CTE, Partnering with employers, Curricula being used

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Trying to build VR partnerships at inclusive higher education programs?

Russell Thelin, MS, LVRC, CRC
Focus areas: Vocational rehabilitation, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Neil McNeil
Senior Program and Policy Specialist MA, Rehabilitation Counseling

I'm trying to build employment partnerships.
Information on a range of topics

Check out our Resources by Topic pages on:
- Paying for college
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Employment
- Program development
- Program accreditation

Use the search bar to look for resources on other topics
Think College Publications

- An in-depth look at an issue or topic
- Detailed look at how to do something
- Comprehensive review of NCC data
- Compelling handouts for different groups about Thinking College

Resource Library

- Most recent publications show up first on this landing page
- Can sort by publication date, alphabetical order, or relevance
- Use search box with a specific term to find what listings we have, or select from the list of topics
- Advanced filters: media type, publication type, or Think College Publications only
We want to hear from you!

I have a new role and I want to share something cool that we are doing!

We want to hear from you!

Our point people on information sharing

Rebecca Lazo  Sheila Johnson  Arin Rook  Sara Pound

Our Dissemination Team
Submissions

• Is your program doing something innovative or exciting?
• Do you have some research findings to share?
• Maybe you know a student who had achieved his or her goals?

Contact Rebecca Lazo rebecca.lazo@umb.edu or email the Help Desk and we’ll get you the information you need!

Newsletters

NETWORK NEWS

We want to hear from you!

Please email us [ThinkCollegeIHEN@umb.edu] with any news (events, updates, announcements, employment opportunities) to be featured in an upcoming issue of the Network News.
SAVE THE DATE!

This year, on **May 1st**, we invite you and everyone you know to share photos, stories, and videos on social media.

Be sure to use **#IPSEDay2023** so the images and stories are easily searchable.

Visit www.ThinkCollege.net/IPSEDay

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Make sure you are on our MAILING LISTS!

Find out what the NCC and Think College Network have been doing, with news about new events, publications, and events

Get updates from other programs around the US

Read profiles of students attending college programs

Get news from our partners

You can always submit information for the newsletter or suggest a student to be featured as the Student Spotlight!

SIGN UP TO STAY IN TOUCH!

**Sign up** for the Think College newsletter to receive monthly updates right to your inbox.

https://thinkcollege.net/about/contact-us#newsletter
Who can help with my questions?

All of us!!

Not sure who to contact? You can always email our Help Desk, where someone will respond to you in 24-48 hours! ThinkCollegeTA@gmail.com