Designing and implementing a postsecondary comprehensive transition program (CTP) for students with intellectual disabilities (ID)
Florida Keys Community College has developed a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program (CTP) for students with intellectual disabilities (ID), learning disabilities (LD) and autism entitled Project ACCESS (Accessing Community College Educational experiences, Social experiences and Skills for careers).

Project ACCESS will prepare students with the noted disabilities, over a 2 to 3-year period, to complete an individualized, vocational and technical-based curriculum that results in Certificate of Completion. This program is designed to meet the county’s growing need to provide postsecondary educational opportunities to students with these disabilities and also prepare them for gainful employment in the community.

Project ACCESS will provide on-campus transition services that include individualized, person-centered, post-secondary opportunities to eligible students. The mission of Project ACCESS is to support students who are seeking to continue academic, career and technical, and independent living instruction at an institution of higher education in order to prepare them for gainful employment. Project ACCESS will accomplish this mission through comprehensive and structured curricula that includes the academics, social activities, employment experience, and independent living skills that are instrumental for the students’ selected field of study.
Getting Started

- Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education visited in 2010
- Started with work volunteers on campus in the fall of 2011
- Started offering leisurely courses on campus in the spring of 2012
- Named the program and enrolled our first Project ACCESS student in a credit course in the fall of 2013
- First graduate was in the spring of 2014
- Developed Workforce Readiness courses in the fall of 2015
First Year

- No funding, student was self pay
- No support courses in place, registered in college credit level courses
- Student changed major 3 times, as well as job sites
- “Other duties as assigned” support system, no mentors or instructors
- Lack of instructor support, unfamiliar and some unhappy
- No program application, FKCC application only, accepted because we are open access
- First Florida College System institution to use the STAR plan
Support: It only takes one

Home  Faculty  Staff
Things we learned...with time, of course

- Financial support
- Supportive courses
- Transportation
- Every student is different
- Every student wants to be in college
- Grades, why not? You earned them!
- Don’t reinvent something, save time
- Entitlement & growing pains
- Use your local resources
Monroe County School District Transition into Independence, Employment and Success

**College Thursdays**

Project ACCESS students are NOT required to be in the MCSD TIES program. We do have a partnership and use the College Thursday program to recruit high functioning individuals into Project ACCESS. During the transition period the TIES program supports the process. Project ACCESS does not require students to exit TIES.

**Working towards:** MCSD Special Diploma

**Support:** MCSD Instructor, MCSD Job Coach, FKCC Instructor

FKCC Project ACCESS Vertical Program

**Courses:**
- VERTICAL I course: Introduction to Work and Vocational Training
- VERTICAL II course: Supporting Vocational Training and Employability
- VERTICAL III course: Supporting Vocational Training and Increasing Employability
- VERTICAL IV course: Vocational Completion & Employment Search
- Independent Living course
*All courses are noncredit

**Outcome:** Workforce Ready Certificate

**Support:** FKCC Project ACCESS Instructors & Project ACCESS Staff

FKCC Project ACCESS College Level Certificate Program

**Field of study:**
- Business Administration
- Child Care
- Computing & Technology
- Culinary-Customer Service
- Diving Medical Technician
- Entrepreneurship
- Health Care
- Hospitality & Tourism Management
- Marine Engineering
- Marine Environmental Technologies
- Marine Mammal Behavior & Training
- Professional Research Diving
- Public Safety & Security
- Real Estate Sales Associate
- The Arts
- Tropical Ornamental Mariculture
*Includes credit and noncredit courses

**Outcome:** Project ACCESS Certificate and in some programs industry certification

**Support:** FKCC Instructors, FKCC Project ACCESS Instructors & Project ACCESS Staff

FKCC Certificates and Degrees

**Programs of study:**
- Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree
- Associate in Science (A.S.) degrees
- Associate in Applied Sciences (A.A.S.) degrees
- Certificate programs
- Applied Technical Diploma
*All courses are credit courses.

**For degree and certificate details please refer to FKCC’s website, www fkcc.edu**

**Outcome(s):**
- FKCC Certificate
- FKCC Degree

**Support:** FKCC Instructors, FKCC Office for Disabled Student Services
Accessing Community College Educational experiences

- Required to take the Workforce Readiness courses
- Required to take Preparing for College Success and Intro to Computer Applications
- Walk in college commencement
- Can obtain multiple certifications
- All credit courses taken apply towards an FKCC certification or degree
- After completion of Project ACCESS can register as an FKCC degree seeking student
- Can be assigned an Academic mentor, Office for Students with Disabilities or if scholarship covers
- Pay same tuition, lab fees and textbook cost as all other students
Social experiences

- Required to join a club
- Required to complete community service hours
- Access to the same facilities on campus as all student
- College Thursdays is with other college peers or community members
- Can be assigned a Community & Social mentor, volunteers or paid for through a scholarship
- Become Peer mentors to others in the program
- Access to free tutoring on campus
- Created a Special Olympics (SO) College club and SO Unified Flag Football Team
- Can live on campus in our Lagoon Landing Residence Hall
- Assigned a Residential Mentor if they live on campus, $1,500.00 a term or paid through a scholarship
and **Skills for careers**

- Complete on campus internships for their first year
- Complete off campus internships their second year
- 100% paid employment rate at time of exiting the program
- Student can be assigned a Job Coach
- Students are required to meet with a Career Counselor
- Students are required to complete a Career Inventory (Career Coach)
- Learn job skills and professionalism in Workforce Readiness courses
- Field trips and job exploring
- Learn how to use public transportation
We are still learning...

- Housing
- Transitioning students that are not from the area
- How to support those who don’t qualify
Resources

Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities
http://fcsua.org/
The Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education:
http://fcihe.com/resources/
Vocational Rehabilitation:
http://www.rehabworks.org/
Agency for Persons with Disabilities:
http://apd.myflorida.com/
ThinkCollege CTP:
http://www.thinkcollege.net/topics/becoming-a-comprehensive-transition-program/
Center for Autism and Related Disabilities:
http://centerforautism.com/

- Local businesses-they love volunteers
- Local school district-get to know the ESE counselors
- Local Rotary-funding, volunteers & jobs
- Institutional Foundation-when you need that extra funding
- Institutional Grant Writer-apply, apply, apply