PROJECT SAINT

Student Access and Inclusion Together: A Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program
Smiling SAINTS
What is a comprehensive transition program (CTP)?

- A CTP program for students with intellectual disabilities means a degree, certificate, or non-degree program that
  - is offered by a college or career school and approved by the U.S. Department of Education;
  - is designed to support students with intellectual disabilities who want to continue academic, career, and independent living instruction to prepare for gainful employment;
  - offers academic advising and a structured curriculum; and
  - requires students with intellectual disabilities to participate, for at least half of the program, in
    - regular enrollment in credit-bearing courses with nondisabled students,
    - auditing or participating (with nondisabled students) in courses for which the student does not receive regular academic credit,
    - enrollment in noncredit-bearing, non-degree courses with nondisabled students, or
    - internships or work-based training with nondisabled individuals.
What is an intellectual disability?

- Student with Intellectual Disability-The term “Student with an Intellectual Disability” means a student A) with mental retardation or a cognitive impairment characterized by significant limitations in –(i) intellectual and cognitive functioning; and (ii) adaptive behavior as a expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills; and (B) who is currently, or was formerly, eligible for a free appropriate public education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (section 760 (20 U.S.C. 1140 sec 760 (2)
SF College History with Students who have Intellectual Disabilities (ID)

- Inclusive Adult Education Classes (2015-present) Over 40 students in Adult Education have disclosed intellectual disabilities. Many of these students are enrolled in beginning ABE classes (Adult Basic Education).
- Project SAINT – Inclusive, intensive, outcome oriented, and goal driven Florida CTP. Mini grant funded (2013-2015) with federal funding from Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education.
- Project SAINT – fee for service offered through Continuing Education Bulletin (2015-present)
- Project SAINT approved as a Florida CTP with scholarships to be made available to students through Florida Center for Unique Abilities (state funding). Effective January, 2017.
SAINT History

- Began with two students, expanded to 3 by term 2 and currently has 11 students enrolled for the fall. **Goal of expanding to 15 students annually by 2020.** Eleven students have completed the 1-2 year program.

- Over a dozen SF College students – many of them interested in human service careers --- have been employed as mentors for the SAINT students, in the capacity of academic mentors in and out of the classroom, as well as social “buddies” on campus.
SAINT Staff

- A **Program Administrator** with an MA in special education, Linda Mussillo (Adults with Disabilities Specialist at SF College since 2005), is responsible for program development and oversight.

- A **Mentor Coordinator** with an MA in education, currently Krista Chipman (since 2014), assists with hiring, supervising, and scheduling SF student mentors. She also offers weekly counseling and support to SAINT student participants.

- A **Horticulture Agriculture Specialist** is designated part time at 20 hrs. weekly to a partnership with GROWHUB— a local non-profit devoted to teaching horticulture and agriculture skills to persons with and without disabilities, with the ultimate goal of employment.

- A **Job Developer** is devoted part-time at 20 hours weekly to support students with developing employability skills and with applying for, obtaining, and keeping jobs.

- **Santa Fe Student Mentors** are hired to provide 1:1 supports in a variety of settings both academic and social.

- Many other personnel at SF College in and out of Adult Education, as well as members of the larger community, commit their time, resources, and energy to Project SAINT.
Project SAINT overview

- Intensive two year transition program for capable, highly motivated young adults who have intellectual disabilities. The target group is under age 25.
- For whom a modified, fully inclusive (non-credit) college experience, and living and working independently are key goals.
- A complete “wraparound” program – Project SAINT assists students in reaching goals related to work, independent living, community engagement, self-determination, and academics.
Basic Entrance Criteria

- **Admissions Criteria:**
  - Preference given to students in transition from high school, aged 18-25, with minimum age of 18
  - Legal documentation of an Intellectual Disability
  - Ability to communicate clearly with others
  - Have completed high school coursework; have received an ESE diploma, and have not received a standard high school diploma* note: this criteria is changing as more standard diplomas are being issued per new state legislation
  - Desire to receive transition services in a college setting
  - Ability to commit to 20 hours per week in SAINT activities, at least 1/2 of which will be academic/vocational
  - Have exhibited a need, desire, and ability for independent living and working
  - Family/guardians will support the student’s education and development of independence
  - Ability to travel independently while on the college campus and have transportation to and from the college campus
  - Demonstrate ability to manage stress
  - Have satisfactory school attendance from previous schools
  - Demonstrate behavior appropriate to a college setting and consistent with the SF College Student Code of Conduct whether in a supervised or unsupervised setting.
Other Entrance Criteria

- Trial period in Adult Education; preliminary admission to Adult Education classes
- Completion of Project SAINT application including student essay and submission of supporting documentation
- Two letters of reference; review of prior school performance
- Student and Parent Interview for admission
- Review of application by committee
“STAR” Planning

- “STAR” stands for Students Transitioning to Adult Roles and is a person-centered planning tool.
- The STAR PCP was designed by the Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education to ensure students with disabilities who are transitioning into postsecondary programs have the opportunity to plan their own future with the support and encouragement of other adults in their lives.
SAINT Curriculum based on STAR plan includes

- **Academics**—Participation in inclusive Adult Education classes and audits of General Education Classes.
- **Vocational**—1) Vocational preparation classes, (technical skills, soft skills, certificate bearing classes, Continuing Education workshops) 2) Vocational Internships each term. All are inclusive.
- **Social/Community**—Weekly participation in campus events, use of campus facilities, and attendance in inclusive campus clubs.
- **Independent Living**—1:1 mentorship with learning skills and content at school in inclusive learning lab; practice and logging of results at home.
- **Self-Determination**—Extra-curricular activities and outings; buddy lunches; Best Buddies; Special Olympics; “tech skills”; bus riding, explorations of other interests (community education).
Curricular Requirements

- A minimum of 15-20 hours of SAINT classes and activities weekly (20 for non-working students), at least one half of which are academic and vocational.
- Enrollment in at least two academic classes each semester (Adult Education or General Education), at least one of which is an Adult Education academic class and no more than two Gen Ed classes at a time.
- Participation in at least one vocational skills class or certificate bearing class each semester.
- Completion of a vocational internship for a minimum of ½ of each term (3-10 hours wk.)
- Independent living skills to be learned, practiced, and “logged” weekly at school and at home.
- Regular attendance in at least one campus club each semester.
- Weekly attendance in the 1.5 hour Project SAINT workshop class
- Attendance and participation in a STAR plan review meeting at the beginning and end of each term fall and spring (quarterly meetings).
- Complete weekly online checklists (google forms) to self-monitor and document STAR plan goals.
- Meet biweekly with Job Developer to review goals and develop virtual portfolio/virtual “resume”. 
SAINTS with their STAR Plans
Examples of goals in each domain taken from actual plans

- **Academic**—S. will audit a Santa Fe College class related to interests in geography and history, with mentor support.
- **Vocational**—S. will develop job skills interning as a Fine Arts event usher for at least (6) annual events, and will assist with set-up and break-down of events.
- **Community**—S. will participate in the Christian club on campus each week, interacting actively and socially with other like-minded SF students, and attending their fund-raiser events.
- **Independent Living**—S. will cook one entrée weekly with assistance at home and will log results.
- **Self-Determination**—S. will participate in RAD training on campus to develop personal self-defense skills.
Independent Living
Mentorship is Key

- **Mentorship** by SF students and **Mentor Coordination by a Mentor Coordinator** is provided for success in academic, social, and community settings: full time SF students are hired as student mentors/tutors to sit in classes, and to support learning activities, social and community based activities, and internships.

- SAINT students receive between 7-10 hours of mentorship weekly.
Mentors and SAINTS
More mentors and SAINTS
What is Inclusion and how does SAINT do it?

- Every SAINT activity (except for the SAINT workshop with mentors) is an existing SF College offering inclusive of non-disabled students.
- Project SAINT students take Adult Education classes with non-disabled students including vocational preparation and certificate bearing classes.
- Project SAINT students also audit from the regular general education college classes (partial or full audits from one-many sessions) with other SF students.
- All SAINT students engage in a wide range of activities on campus and join at least one campus club.
- Modifications and accommodations including special software and other technology ease the way for students to be effectively included.
Examples of Tech Supports

- Computers with assistive software are available at SF College in the Adult Education learning lab, in the DRC (Disabilities Resource Center), and at the Santa Fe Library.
  - ZoomText
  - Kurzweil 3000
  - TextHelp Read & Write Gold
  - Free Natural Reader 7
  - Dragon Dictate
  - Audio Books
SF College has the largest program of classes in Alachua County for adult education. Each year, SF serves approximately 750 adults returning to school without a high school diploma and college-bound, those seeking a standard diploma and/or improving basic academic skills, literacy, and English literacy for employment and self-sufficiency. The SF College Adult Education Program also includes a vibrant Vocational Preparatory Program. Options for SAINT students include but are not limited to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic</th>
<th>Vocational</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civics</td>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science, Health and Nutrition</td>
<td>Safe Food Handling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Child Care Certification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Keyboarding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading/Book Club</td>
<td>Soft Skills classes</td>
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</tbody>
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General Education

- Project SAINT students may attend “partial” or “full audits” of general education classes with permission. Classes that SAINT students have audited include:
  - Photography
  - Introduction to Acting
  - Computer Basics
  - Geography
  - World History
  - Modern Dance
  - Jazz Combo
  - Introduction to Health Care
  - Introduction to Drawing
  - Criminology
Other possibilities include but are not exclusive to these offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Movies as Narrative</th>
<th>1. Percussion Ensemble</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Introduction to Shakespeare</td>
<td>1. Introduction to Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Physical Geography</td>
<td>1. Guitar</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Introduction to Criminology</td>
<td>1. African Humanities</td>
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<td>1. Introduction to Dramatic Literature</td>
<td>1. Introduction to World Music</td>
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<td>1. Human Origins</td>
<td>1. Intro to Literature of the African Peoples</td>
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<td>1. Art Appreciation</td>
<td>1. Modern Dance 1</td>
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<td>1. Dance Fundamentals</td>
<td>1. Florida Flora and Fauna</td>
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<td>1. Public Speaking</td>
<td>1. General Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Introduction to Theatre</td>
<td>1. Digital Photography</td>
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<td>1. Principles of Sociology</td>
<td>1. American Sign Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Hand Drumming</td>
<td>1. Introduction to Graphic Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Introduction to Theatre Lighting</td>
<td>1. Introduction to Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. General Psychology</td>
<td>1. Women in History</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. PC Basics</td>
<td>1. Introduction to Child Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Human Nutrition 1</td>
<td>1. World Regional Geography</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Inclusive Classes
Santa Fe Campus Activities

- The SF College is rich in campus life opportunities, many of them wholly unique to our institution. All Project SAINT person-centered plans reflect the students’ interests in campus activities/access to facilities. These include:
  - Clubs,
  - Fitness center and intramural sports,
  - Athletic events,
  - Fine arts performances,
  - A resource-rich library,
  - A state of the art planetarium,
  - A game room with billiards, ping pong, and wii
  - A fully accredited zoo
  - Other campus life activities and events (fairs, movies, speakers)
Inclusive Campus Activities
Inclusive Clubs
Jobs Jobs Jobs

◦ A primary goal of Project SAINT is job readiness and employment.
◦ All SAINT students participate in a job internship each semester.
◦ All SAINTS attend “hard” and “soft skill” pre-vocational classes each term.
◦ Every SAINT participates in a credential bearing class or workshop series.
◦ All SAINTS participate in counseling and workshop sessions related to job readiness.
◦ All SAINTS meet with a Job Developer on the Adult Education staff to identify job interests and to assist with job searches.
◦ Students also have access to the auspices of the Career Placement Office on campus and the Office of Civic Engagement (volunteer positions).
◦ Project SAINT works closely with Vocational Rehabilitation to ensure student success.
Job Preparation Classes in Adult Education (non-credential)

- Keyboarding for Work
- Computer Skills
- Warehouse Training
- Cashiering and Retail Training
- Entrepreneurship
- Soft Skills Career Workshops (e.g. self-presentation, attitude and motivation, interviewing, teamwork and cooperation, communication skills, problem-solving)
Job Preparation Courses in Adult Education and Continuing Education (Credentials)

- Classes that lead to a credential are available to SF College SAINT students. These include:
  - Safe Food Handler’s Certification
  - Red Carpet Service Professional (customer service essentials)
  - Child Care 40-hour certification classes
  - First aid and CPR training
  - NCCER core certification training (introduction to industrial construction skills)
  - CNA (Nursing Assistant) classes
  - Horticulture Agriculture Pathway
  - Artist Entrepreneur Pathway
Vocational Certificate Programs at SF College

- **Mini-audits/trial vocational training classes** through SF College’s vocational certificate program area are also available relevant to these goals:
  - automotive
  - welding
  - refrigeration/AC repair
  - electrician
  - zoo tech
Internships

SAINTS have participated in these on-campus internships:

- clerical helper (SF Admissions office and Disabilities Resource Center);
- grounds keeper (SF Facilities);
- teacher’s aide (SF Little School);
- police security ride-along (SF Police);
- SF usher (Fine Arts Hall);
- thrift store helper (SF Share Wear);
- SF gym reception (SF Fitness Facility);
- Basketball Team Assistant Manager, Lady SAINTS
- SF Food Pantry (stocking, delivery).
- Special Event Assistant: Boo At the Zoo, Food Pantry at events
- Assistant to Ladies’ Softball team
And Off-Campus Internships

Off campus internships have taken place in tandem with:

- UF Athletics Soccer Team (assistant to Coach);
- Signature Health Care (recreational aide);
- Domino’s Pizza (food prep);
- Community Ministry Thrift Shop (stocking and sales);
- B’nai Israel Preschool (teacher’s aide);
- Alachua County Library (shelving);
- Cymplify gifts and Alachua Farmer’s market (retail sales).
Sample Internships on Campus
Assistant Manager Internship on Campus
Internships in the Community
Learning to be a beekeeper
Artist Entrepreneurs
What is the SAINT Workshop?

◦ All SAINT students and all available Mentors meet once weekly for the 1.5 hour SAINT workshop. This is a chance for all SAINTS to come together for support, engage in special activities and presentations, and practice skills together that are reflected in all of their plans. Workshop topics vary and are arranged by the SAINT Program Administrator. Sample workshops for this year have included:

◦ Getting Organized: Organizing your SAINT binder and logs
◦ No stove healthy cooking: Smoothies and Satchel’s Salad!
◦ Campus safety: SF Police Presentation
◦ Volunteer Fair in the Oak Grove: finding volunteer opportunities in your community
◦ Using phone apps: Fun with Snapchat on campus
◦ Relaxation Strategies: Visualization, Progressive Muscle Relaxation, Mediation/Breathing and more
◦ Social Media Savvy: What to post and other important tips
◦ Introduction to Bocce Ball with Ella
Fun with Snapchat
A sample SAINT schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-1 SAINT buddy lunch in food court (no mentors)</td>
<td>10-11 Basketball in gym with SAINTS/Mentors</td>
<td>10:30-12 SAINT Workshop w/mentors</td>
<td>9-12 Health, Nutrition, and Safe Food Handling Certification Class w/mentor</td>
<td>9-12 Preschool Teacher’s Aide Intern in community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 Fitness center with mentor (machines)</td>
<td>11-12 SF Library on own (study)</td>
<td>12-1 SAINT buddy lunch</td>
<td>12-1 SAINT buddy lunch</td>
<td>12-1 SAINT buddy lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3:30 Athletic Aide Women’s Softball Team</td>
<td>12-1 SAINT buddy lunch</td>
<td>12-1 SAINT buddy lunch</td>
<td>12-1 SAINT buddy lunch</td>
<td>1-4 Child Care Certification Class (no mentor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-3:30 Child Care Certification Class w/ mentor</td>
<td>2-3 Independent Study Adult Ed Lab</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:30-4 Counseling Center Weekly Meditation Group</td>
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Outcomes! How are we doing? SAINT by the numbers.

SAINT outcomes (as of 5/18) include:

- 17 students have participated in Project SAINT since its inception
- 11 students have graduated from SAINT
- 11 SAINTS are currently employed or have job offers
- 25% of SAINT graduates continue their studies at SF in Adult Education pre-GED and GED classes.
- 29 internships participated in.
- 20 professional credentials earned.
- 25 General Education audits of classes.
Other examples of student specific outcomes to celebrate

- Learned to ride a bus to and from school and now doing so independently
- Featured as a bongo performer in the SF College Jazz Ensemble
- Doing one's own laundry each week instead of mom doing it
- Higher grades on TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) tests in math, reading, and language
- Typing speed of 35 WPM after participation in typing class
- Fitness now a part of every week: 15 pounds lost
- First boyfriend, first kiss!
- Using a cellphone to text
- Cooking a meal every week and learning to use the stovetop
- Making social "dates" with others outside of school
- Friends with the "team": sitting with the softball team at lunch
- First time in a hotel on one's own away from home (Hartwick Conference)
What will you need to start a CTP?
Start with Community “Buy In”

- We started by creating a PowerPoint (like this one) and presenting it to Powers that Be: Division Heads, Department Directors.
- We taught them about the importance of this initiative and introduced them to the ThinkCollege web site and videos.
- They were sold.
Develop Partnerships, Maintain Collaboration, and Communication

- Developing partnerships both on campus and in the community is essential to our success:

At Santa Fe, we have found support across the institution but in particular, from these areas/departments:

- Athletics,
- Fine Arts,
- Counseling,
- Student Affairs,
- Facilities,
- Continuing Education,
- and Student Life.
Community Partners

- Some of our community partners over the SAINT Years have included:
  - **Vocational Rehabilitation** – Supporting the goals and financially supporting students as needed.
  - **University of Florida Athletics** - The UF Soccer team has accepted a Project SAINT intern
  - **CARD at UF** - The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities has provided workshops to and for Project SAINT enrollees
  - **Best Buddies at UF** - A friendship group fostering relationships between college students with and without developmental disabilities
  - **Signature Health Care** - a nursing home facility accepting Project SAINT interns
  - **Alachua County library** - a public library accepting Project SAINT student volunteers
  - **Community Ministry Thrift Store** - a community based non-profit accepting Project SAINT interns
  - **Domino’s Pizza** - a franchise of the national chain accepting Project SAINT interns
  - **Bnai Israel Preschool** – a preschool accepting Project SAINT interns
  - **SBAC** - School Board of Alachua County Farm to Table Ag and Greenhouse Program – an agriculture/horticulture program planning to accept Project SAINT interns
Challenges and Solutions

- Getting, keeping, and growing community “buy-in”
- Jobs, jobs, jobs— the dream and the reality
- Goldilocks Expectations: the high, the low, and the just right
- Bye-bye mentors, boo-hoo!
- Snagged in red tape: some things take an act of Congress!
- Scheduling madness
- Make it work! Sweat, blood, and more sweat leads to less sweat and blood eventually.
The Future of SAINT

- SAINT is on a roll and the future is bright!
SAINTS stepping out and taking on the world
Any Questions?