



**ADMINISTRATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
ESTABLISHES PROJECT TO SUPPORT POSTSECONDARY PROGRAMS**

THE CONSORTIUM IS A NATIONAL RESOURCE FOR KNOWLEDGE, TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, MATERIALS AND DISSEMINATION ABOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

The new Consortium for Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities conducts research, provides training and technical assistance, and disseminates information on promising practices

As a result of the development of postsecondary education options for youth with developmental disabilities, the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston has received a grant for \$4 million, to be distributed over five years, from the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities to establish the Consortium for Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

The Consortium is a collaboration of seven other University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at the University of Minnesota, the University of Hawaii, the University of Delaware, The Ohio State University, Vanderbilt University, the University of South Carolina, and the University of California Los Angeles, along with the Association for University Centers on Disabilities.

The Consortium conducts research, provides training and technical assistance, and disseminates information on promising practices that support individuals with developmental disabilities in gaining access to postsecondary education options and the needed supports to be successful.

The Consortium is a national resource for knowledge, training and technical assistance, materials, and dissemination about the participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in postsecondary education. Developing and testing a National Training Initiative will assist postsecondary education institutions and/or school districts developing new or expanding existing initiatives for students with developmental disabilities by using multimodal approaches with traditional and non-traditional strategies.

ICI will partner with the Administration on Developmental Disabilities' Technical Assistance Centers and other national organizations for large-scale dissemination.

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The major goal of **The Administration on Developmental Disabilities** allows grantees to partner with state governments, local communities, and the private sector to assist people with developmental disabilities by helping them to reach their maximum potential through increased independence, productivity, and integration within the community. Grants fund activities in these eight areas of emphasis:

- quality assurance
- education and early intervention
- child care
- health
- employment
- housing
- transportation
- recreational activities

**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH (NIDRR)
ESTABLISHES PROJECT TO RESEARCH POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**

THE CENTER FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES WILL PARTNER CLOSELY WITH THE CONSORTIUM FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

Although there are more than 150 postsecondary education options identified nationally that serve individuals with intellectual disabilities, there is little known about these options and there has been no national coordination around research, information utilization, and dissemination.

The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston, in partnership with TransCen, Inc. in Maryland, has received \$1.5 million over three years from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research to establish the Center for Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. The Center will conduct research and disseminate information on promising practices that support individuals with intellectual disabilities so that they can gain access to and be successful in inclusive postsecondary education. The Center will address gaps in

knowledge about the participation of individuals with intellectual disabilities by conducting a national survey, completing a secondary analysis of three national databases, and disseminating both new and existing technical assistance and informational materials.

The Center will produce a number of reports that will provide details about how postsecondary education initiatives implement promising practices as well as a web-based self-assessment tool based on these promising practices. The Center will also provide new research-based knowledge related to the types of outcome (employment, independent living, continued postsecondary education access) available for students with intellectual disabilities, as well as collaboration with dissemination networks, federal technical assistance entities, and organizations.

HELP US IDENTIFY POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

If your college and/or school system has a program or if you know of any programs or services that exist in your community, region, or state, PLEASE let us know, even if you are not directly involved.

Two Easy Ways to Share Info:

- Click on this link to input info: <http://www.thinkcollege.net/identifyprograms> (preferred)
- Call Cate Weir, Project Coordinator, at 617.287.7596

Include the name of college or school system, their address, the college or program Web site, the name of a contact person, and his or her phone and email address.

**CONSORTIUM PARTNERS—
THE UNIVERSITY CENTERS FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AT:**

**University of Massachusetts Boston (primary) University of Minnesota
University of Hawaii University of Delaware The Ohio State University
Vanderbilt University University of South Carolina
University of California Los Angeles**

In conjunction with the **Association for University Centers on Disabilities**

VANDERBILT TO OFFER FIRST POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY IN TENNESSEE FOR STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (VKC UCEDD) has received a three year grant from the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities (the Council) to develop and coordinate a Postsecondary Education Program for students with intellectual disabilities at Vanderbilt University. The program will be the first of its kind in the state of Tennessee.

“The Council made a commitment this year to develop a pilot project on the campus of a Tennessee college or university for postsecondary students who have an intellectual disability and did not receive a high school diploma,” said Council executive director, Wanda Willis. “Continuing education programs like this are increasingly available on college campuses across the country. At present, Tennessee does not have a similar program available anywhere in the state.” A demonstration project was launched on the campus of Vanderbilt University on January 1, 2009.

Vanderbilt will accept its first students in January 2010, after an initial planning year. Working with University, Medical Center, and community disability organizations, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center faculty, staff, and trainees will develop a day program that lasts for two years per student. Each year, eight young adults will take a mixture of undergraduate, life-skills, and technical courses, as well as take part in campus extracurricular activities with Vanderbilt undergraduates.

College courses will be provided through regular Vanderbilt undergraduate course offerings, life-skills courses with internships similar to programs such as Vanderbilt’s Project Opportunity (with help from graduate students from Peabody’s Special Education Department), and technical courses through the Tennessee Technology Centers. For further information contact Elise McMillan, J.D., (615) 343-2540 or elise.mcmillan@vanderbilt.edu.

RESOURCES YOU CAN USE

The US Department of Education’s Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) formulates federal postsecondary education policy and administers programs that address critical national needs in support of our mission to increase access to quality postsecondary education. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/index.html?src=oc>

Two of OPE’s areas of focus:

Policy, Planning, and Innovation develops postsecondary education policy and legislative proposals and is responsible for budget formulation and forecasting for programs administered by OPE. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/ppi.html>

Higher Education Programs administers programs that increase access to postsecondary education for disadvantaged students, strengthen the capacity of colleges and universities that serve a high percentage of disadvantaged students, provide teacher and student development resources, and increase expertise in foreign languages and area or international studies. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/hep.html>

US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS THINK COLLEGE

An online article entitled: *College Is Possible for Students With Intellectual Disabilities/New support programs and federal funds can help students with intellectual disabilities* was published on February 13, 2009 on the US News and World Report web site. In the article, the author tells the story of Katie Apostolides, a student at Mount Aloysius College who happens to have Down Syndrome. From there, the article details the Think College projects and includes several comments from our “Guru” Debra Hart from the Institute for Community Inclusion. This upbeat treatment of our mission is worth sharing—to read the entire article (and accompanying comments) go to <http://www.usnews.com/articles/education/2009/02/13/college-is-possible-for-students-with-intellectual-disabilities.html>.

**THE CONSORTIUM FOR
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

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The Think College Web site is designed for students, family members, and professionals. It is undergoing a complete redesign and more features and resources will be added in the next several months.

Currently, the site includes a searchable database of postsecondary education programs that support people with intellectual disabilities, a resource section that contains links to other sites, and a bibliography listing related publications. We encourage Individuals to submit suggestions for additional links and publications.



www.thinkcollege.net

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To subscribe electronically, please send your email address to Shari Barr at leigh071@umn.edu.

Please distribute widely to interested parties.

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children & Families

ADMINISTRATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (ADD)

