How Think College “does” Knowledge Translation

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ThinkCollege

NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER
What is Knowledge Translation, or KT?

• “moving research from the laboratory, the research journal, and the academic conference into the hands of people and organizations who can put it to practical use.”

• "the multidimensional, active process of ensuring that new knowledge gained through the course of research ultimately improves the lives of people with disabilities, and furthers their participation in society"

Graphic from Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS)
Why do we use Knowledge Translation? *Because we have to.*

- The NCC is responsible for **building a knowledge base** related to effective inclusive higher education for students with intellectual disability, **providing technical assistance** to inclusive postsecondary education programs, and **coordinating national activities** that support students with intellectual disabilities to pursue higher education.
We are building a knowledge base.

Collecting data from TPSIDs

• Student Demographics
• Program models
• Credentials offered
• Courses taken
• Work and internship experiences
• Non-academic and non-work information
• Student Outcomes
We are providing technical assistance.

• Capacity building institutes
• Webinars and online meetings
• Individualized and group meetings with TPSIDs
• Online chat/networking forum (Slack)
• One-on-one provision via our helpdesk at ThinkCollegeTA@gmail.com
We are coordinating national activities.

• Think College works with 3 partners to shape and support our work
  o AHEAD
  o Pacer’s National Parent Center on Transition and Employment
  o AUCD

• National and local conferences
• Extensive support to TPSIDs and other programs
And, we want to reach as many people as possible.

- Other researchers
- College & university faculty and staff
- K-12 faculty and staff
- Disability and VR staff
- Policy makers and legislators
- Advocates
- Employers
- Families
- Students
Activities to organize, data to gather, people to share it with… how to get it all done?
We do this by producing many publications.
There’s something for everyone!

- Research Reports
- Insight Brief
- Fast Facts
- How To Think College
- Think College Stories
- Snapshot
- Infographic
- Grab and Go Practices

The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.
Think College publications are disseminated in a variety of ways.

• Our website
• Social media
• Email newsletter
• Think College Join the Conversation group on Slack
• In print
We also host online events such as:

- **Webinars**
- **Research Summits**
- **Affinity group meetings**

These forums allow us to share information, get input, and field questions from our audience.
And we participate in numerous live events annually.

• Capacity building institutes
• Conferences and workshops
• On-site trainings
That was some *what*, now how about *who*.

We design products for specific audiences, like families, because *families have unique needs and interests*.

- New Families Resources page on our website
- New Families Think College Facebook group
- Targeted publications
So do local, state, and national policymakers and legislators.

- Easily navigable US map, with information about state-specific legislation
- Affinity group on policy in higher education and disability
- Policy specific resources
Educators in K-12 and college want resources related to their interests, too.

- Practical tools to use right away
- Curated resources on relevant topics like Dual Enrollment
- Comprehensive, self-paced training modules
Different still, are the needs and interests of vocational rehabilitation staff and those working in employment.

- Ongoing events focused on VR and employment
- Publications which address critical topics
- Specific VR channel in online forum on Slack, and an affinity group
How do we ensure the right people are getting the right information?

→ *We gather data!*

- We request that participants at all events, online & in-person, complete an evaluation
- We collect data on webpage visits, downloads, video views, and more
- We track the open-rate of our newsletters, and which articles and items get viewed most
And after that, we gather more data.

- We constantly review data on social media posts to see what topics are most popular
- We gather feedback from our technical assistance help desk
Then what?

We use all the feedback, evaluation, suggestions, and requests to keep the cycle going:

- New publications and resource development
- Targeted social media posts and website features
- Webinars on new and popular topics
- Targeted technical assistance
Want to learn more about KT? There are tons of tools and resources available:

• Featured presentation at the Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (KTDRR): http://ktdrr.org/ktlibrary/articles_pubs/ktmodels/#def

• Center for Plain Language: https://centerforplainlanguage.org

We invite you to visit our website regularly to see new activities and resources available to spread the word about postsecondary options for students with intellectual disability.

Our home page is easily navigable to our Resource Library, Families page, Technical Assistance options, Innovation Exchange, and Training opportunities.

https://thinkcollege.net
Let us know if you have ideas for products or new ways we could share our information, and please be sure to follow us, subscribe, and keep in touch!

• Email: Rebecca.Lazo@umb.edu

• Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/thinkcollege/

• Twitter: https://twitter.com/thinkcollegeICI

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