What is Think College Kansas?

- Planning Grant
- 36 Stakeholders
  - 7 Self-Advocates and Family Members
  - 9 Community College Programs
  - 6 University Programs
  - 5 Transition Programs
  - 5 State Agencies
  - 2 Community Service Providers
  - 1 Other
- Commitment to developing a comprehensive vision of inclusive postsecondary education and disseminating information on PSE to the community.

Think College Kansas

- Coordinates stakeholder meetings
- Facilitates ongoing workgroup activities
- Develops a state strategic action plan
- Conducts statewide information-sharing

Overview

- What is inclusive postsecondary education?
- Why college for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD)?
- What support is there for postsecondary education?
- What opportunities are available?
- What is needed for success?
- What are the challenges?
- What can be done?
- Resources

Inclusive Postsecondary Education (PSE)

Students with IDD are included in academic classes and social activities on college campuses with students without disabilities and receive individualized supports and accommodations.

In an inclusive post-secondary education [PSE] students with IDD are included in academic classes and social activities on college campuses with students without disabilities and receive individualized supports and accommodations.
Why College/Postsecondary Education (PSE)?

• Stepping stone for independence, self-confidence, and community inclusion
• Opportunity to learn (should be lifelong)
• All students benefit from diverse student population
• Better options for employment
• Education correlates with higher earnings and greater access to benefits

Advantages to the College

• Community Involvement and Diversity
• Positive Public Relations
• Enhanced Accreditation Reviews
• Partnerships between college and public schools encourage sharing of expertise
• Increased college enrollment and funds
• Increased ability to meet needs of diverse learners
• Students gain experience and opportunities

Universal Design for Learning

a process of making course concepts accessible and skills attainable regardless of learning style, physical or sensory abilities

Former High School Students with ID

Reported enrollment in higher education within one year of leaving high school
• 2008-2009: 13%
• 2009-2010: 9% (data is preliminary – not final)

Employment for Kansans with IDD

• Most work in sheltered employment or day programs
• Kansas ranks 47th in percent of people in supported employment vs sheltered work and day programs.
• 18% of those funded by SRS receive integrated employment services
• 28% of cases closed by VR became employed

“...it is the goal of this administration to ensure that every child has access to a complete and competitive education – from the day they are born to the day they begin a career...this country needs and values the talents of every American.”

President Obama
Address to the Joint Session of Congress, February 2009
Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA)

- Enacted August 14, 2008
- Reauthorizes Higher Education Act of 1965
- Includes provisions for students with IDD to be eligible for federal financial aid
- Creates model demonstration programs for the development and expansion of high quality, inclusive PSE programs.

At the current time Kansas has

NO Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

Inclusive PSE

Blue = States are collaborating with Think College

College Options

- Degree programs
- Certificates/Continuing Education
- Regular classes for credit
- Non-Credit/Audit of regular classes
- Non-credit college experiences

Traditional Enrollment

Steve

“The courses are hard but at this level of course, they should be hard.”

Kansas City Kansas Community College
Business

Personal Interest and Continuing Education

Becky

“If you want to go to college set your mind to it and do it.”

Independence Community College
Cake Decorating and Sign Language
Personal Interest Continuing Education

Sarah

“Get your foot in the door”
“Keep trying.”
“Don’t drop out the first day... or the second... or the third.”

Fort Scott Community College
Photography

THRI

2-year residential college experience for SWIDD
Builds skills for transition from home to independence
Certificate program (not degree program)
Some may go on to earn a degree
University of Central Missouri - Warrensburg
http://www.ucmo.edu/thrive/resources/students.cfm

IDD Programs at Kansas Colleges

- CLEAR - Johnson County Community College
- GOALS - Independence Community College
- EXCELL - Kansas State University
- Other

CLEAR – Noncredit Certificate

Hal
“I love it. I get to meet all kinds of people plus I like to learn.”

Johnson County Community College
Music and Self-Advocacy

Kansas State University

EXCELL

EXTending College Education
for
Lifelong Learning

Expectations for College Students

- Students guide their educational experience
- Students are expected to follow the college’s student code of conduct
- Students attend classes regularly
- Student must self-disclose disability to get accommodations
The PSE

- Must make reasonable accommodations as specified by the ADA.
- The PSE institution is not required to provide all supports needed and assumes that the student and their support network will provide educational coaching and support.

Common College Accommodations

- Additional Exam Time
- Alternative Exam Formats
- Help with Learning Strategies or Study Skills
- Tutors
- Braille or Large Print
- Interpreters

Additional Educational Supports Can Be Helpful

- Assistive Technology
- Social Coach
- Transportation
- Orientation / Time Management
- Educational Coach

General Challenges to College Success

- Low expectations
- Lack of planning for college
- No High School Diploma/Poor Grades
- College entrance exams
- Lack of supports at PSE

Kansas-Specific Challenges

- Lack of awareness
- Evidence based practices, information, and data are not available
- Low expectations
- Inadequate preparation in high school
- College readiness issues
- College entry requirements difficult
- Postsecondary supports not in place
- Shortage of resources
- Lack of training for teachers & faculty

Students and Families

- Consider the Post-Secondary Education Option
- Plan early
  - Expect your child to become independent, educated and self-supporting
  - Teach skills for self-determination and independence
  - Build college into plans for adult living, as appropriate
  - Support the identification of college and vocational goals
- Make financial plans for college
- Plan for educational supports/coaching

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Learn to support great expectations... be mindful of your changing parental roles... and expect to take risks!

Secondary Programs
- Introduce students to PSE options
- Build college into transition plans
- Develop self-determination skills
- Encourage peer relationships and peer coaches
- Identify learning needs and supports

Adult Support Systems
- Recognize and support individual PSE goals
- Channel available resources into PSE support as needed
- Work with others in adult services
- Work with PSE programs

College Faculty
- Be aware of the benefits of including students with IDD in their classrooms
- Make reasonable accommodations for students with IDD
- Become familiar with the concepts of universal design in instruction and the benefit for all students

Equity & Excellence in Higher Education
www.eeonline.org

College Administrators and Business Partners
- Include students with IDD in recruitment activities
- Recognize and embrace the diversity students with IDD bring
- Encourage faculty/employers to recognize the benefits of including students with IDD
- Encourage faculty to use universal design
- Welcome students with IDD and make enrollment waivers available when appropriate
- Develop a Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Comments and Suggestions
- Thoughts?
- Ideas?
- Issues?
Resources

- Think College Kansas
  www.thinkcollegekansas.lsi.ku.edu
- Think College
  www.thinkcollege.net
- Going to College
  www.going-to-college.org
- Equity & Excellence in Higher Education
  www.eeonline.org

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