



## Think College National Coordinating Center: New Developments Supporting Best Practice

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Think College  
Institute for Community Inclusion  
University of Massachusetts Boston

SOA 2017

 **ThinkCollege**  
**NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER**

## Think College NCC Goals

- 1: Promotion of greater knowledge across target audiences (students, families, K–12, IHE, policymakers) about quality higher education programs as a tool to improve outcomes for students with ID.
- 2: Increased number and/or geographic diversity of higher education initiatives for students with ID.
- 3: Increased quality of existing higher education initiatives for students with ID.
- 4: Greater participation of students with ID in competitive integrated employment, valued community membership, and independent living.
- 5: Aligned policy and guidance across local and state K–12 transition and higher education entities and federal agencies.



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.



## Our Work involves

- TPSID Evaluation & Research
- Knowledge Development & Technical Assistance
- Policy and Advocacy



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## TPSID Evaluation and Research



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# Year 1 TPSID Program & Student Summary Reports

**Think College REPORTS**

**Year One Program Data Summary (2015-2016) from the TPSID Model Demonstration Projects**

**AUTHORS**  
 Meg Orloff  
 Dana Hart  
 Clint Frisco  
 David Dennis  
 Frank Smith

**SNAPSHOT OF 2015-2016 TPSIDS**

- 44 Institutes of Higher Education
- 23 campuses
- 19 affiliated campuses
- 10 2-year campuses
- 34 4-year campuses
- 11 approved as a Comprehensive Transition Program
- Serving 449 students

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**Think College REPORTS**

**Year One Student Data Summary (2015-2016) from the TPSID Model Demonstration Projects**

**AUTHORS**  
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**SNAPSHOT OF 2015-2016 TPSIDS**

449 STUDENTS

59% MALE 41% FEMALE

MEDIAN AGE=20  
 STUDENT AGE RANGES FROM 16 TO 42

31% OF STUDENTS RECEIVED TRANSITION SERVICES FROM IHE

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**ThinkCollege NCC**

# Other Think College Publications

**SNAPSHOT**  
 HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS FOR STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY IN THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

**270 HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS**  
 47 STATES

**31 STATES HAVE RECEIVED TPSID GRANTS (2010-2020)**

**63 CTPs in 25 states**

**15 STATES have policy or legislation on inclusive higher education**

**22 STATES have state or regional coordination**

Higher education options for students with intellectual disability (ID) have grown due to changes in federal funding, access to Title IV aid, as well as state legislation and leadership. The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA, 2008) created model demonstration programs, called Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID). Five-year grants were awarded to institutions of higher education for 2010-2015 and 2015-2020 to develop TPSID programs. The HEOA also created a new designation – Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) program – that allows approved IHEs to offer specific kinds of federal student aid to qualified students with ID. Additionally, growing numbers of states are conducting strategic planning via statewide consortiums and passing legislation to support development and implementation of higher education options. This Think College SNAPSHOT provides a summary of these makers of systems change supporting higher education access for students with ID in the United States.

**SUGGESTED CITATION:**  
 Think College National Coordinating Center (2017). Higher education access for students with intellectual disability in the United States. Think College Snapshot, September 14, 2017. Boston, MA: University of Massachusetts Boston, Institute for Community Inclusion.

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**Think College FAST FACTS**  
 ISSUE NO. 11, 2017

**Access to the Disability Supports Office by Students with Intellectual Disability in TPSID Programs**  
 By Clive Frisco, Frank A. Smith, & Meg Orloff

**INTRODUCTION**

In the United States, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act require institutions of higher education (IHEs) to provide students with disabilities reasonable accommodations that enable equal access to participation in postsecondary education programs. U.S. Department of Education (DOE), 2011; Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), 2015. While IHEs do not have a legal obligation to provide accommodations of their disabilities to the ODS to access accommodations (DOE, 2015).

In this Fast Fact, we explore recent data on access to the ODS by students with intellectual disability attending institutions of higher education implementing model demonstration programs called Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID). TPSID programs were created with strategic planning, offering high-quality, inclusive postsecondary education programs to support positive outcomes for individuals with intellectual disability (e.g., educational attainment, employment, and community engagement). Annual program and student data from each TPSID were collected by the Think College National Coordinating Center (NCC) at Think College.

**METHODS**

As part of its charge to evaluate the TPSID model demonstration projects, the NCC developed a set of annual program and student data collection tools. This report is a summary of the data collected for the 2015-2016 academic year, as well as with the Think College Standards, Quality Indicators, and Benchmarks for Inclusive Higher Education (Orloff, Hart, & Rice, 2017).

Data were collected annually from TPSID program structure, staffing, and student activities and supports, including access to disability support services. Data reported here were collected from program staff at the 25 TPSID program implementation projects at 44 sites in 2015-2016. Data include both questions asked of the program staff (e.g., program-wide access to the ODS), as well as the student level (e.g., individual student use of supports and accommodations through the ODS).

**KEY FINDINGS**

**PROGRAM LEVEL**  
 In 2015-2016, 84.8% of IHEs reported that students with intellectual disability used the ODS year-round. Programs at 2-year IHEs were more likely to have access to the ODS (82.9% of year IHEs had students who used the ODS) compared to 81.6% of 4-year IHEs, although this difference was not statistically significant ( $\chi^2(1, N=44) = 0.85, p > 0.05$ ).

**STUDENT LEVEL**  
 Overall, 42.1% of students attending TPSID programs received accommodations or supports from the ODS (see Table 2). This figure is substantially higher than the percentage of college students with disabilities in general who receive accommodations (24% as reported by Townsend & Markus, 2016). Students attending TPSID programs at 2-year IHEs were significantly more likely to receive accommodations or supports from the ODS than those at 4-year IHEs (84.8% vs. 57.2% respectively) ( $\chi^2(1, N=44) = 4.43, p < 0.05$ ).

**TABLE 1. Percentage of TPSID programs at which students have used the ODS this year**

Program Level	% of IHEs	
	2-year	4-year
Students at ODS	82.9%	81.6%

**TABLE 2. Percentage of students who receive any accommodations or supports from the ODS**

Program Level	% of students	
	2-year	4-year
Students	84.8%	78.9%

**www.thinkcollege.net** **www.facebook.com/thinkcollege**

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**ThinkCollege NCC**

## Ongoing Research

- Outcome data collection and analysis
- Focus Group Study on Effective Employment Strategies
- Literature Review of Research on Inclusive Higher Education
- Secondary Analyses of TPSID data
- Secondary Analyses of College Search Directory



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## Research Summits

Coming on Dec 7, 2017 2:00-3:30 PM

Research-based Strategies for Success in Class and on Campus for Students with Intellectual Disability in Postsecondary Education



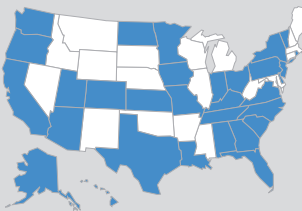
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**TPSID COHORT 1 & 2 (2010-2016)**

**More than 2,700 students served**

**88** CAMPUSES 

**31** STATES 

Changing Expectations. Increasing Opportunities.



**Cohort 2**

**PROGRAMS**



**25** grantees

**44** Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs)

**10** 2-year IHEs

**34** 4-year IHEs

**12** Comprehensive Transition Programs

**15** serve transition-aged high school students


2015-2016 Data from TPSID Cohort 2 sites

Changing Expectations. Increasing Opportunities.



Cohort 2

## STUDENTS



# 449


STUDENTS

**MEDIAN AGE = 20**

STUDENT AGES RANGED FROM 16–42


# 59%

MALE



# 41%


FEMALE

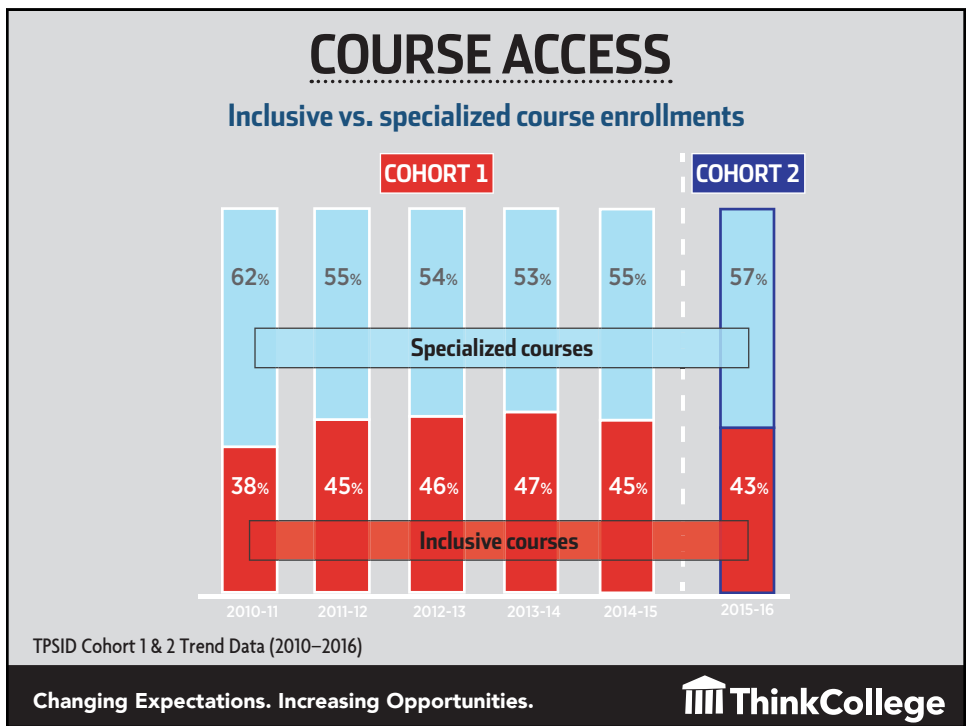


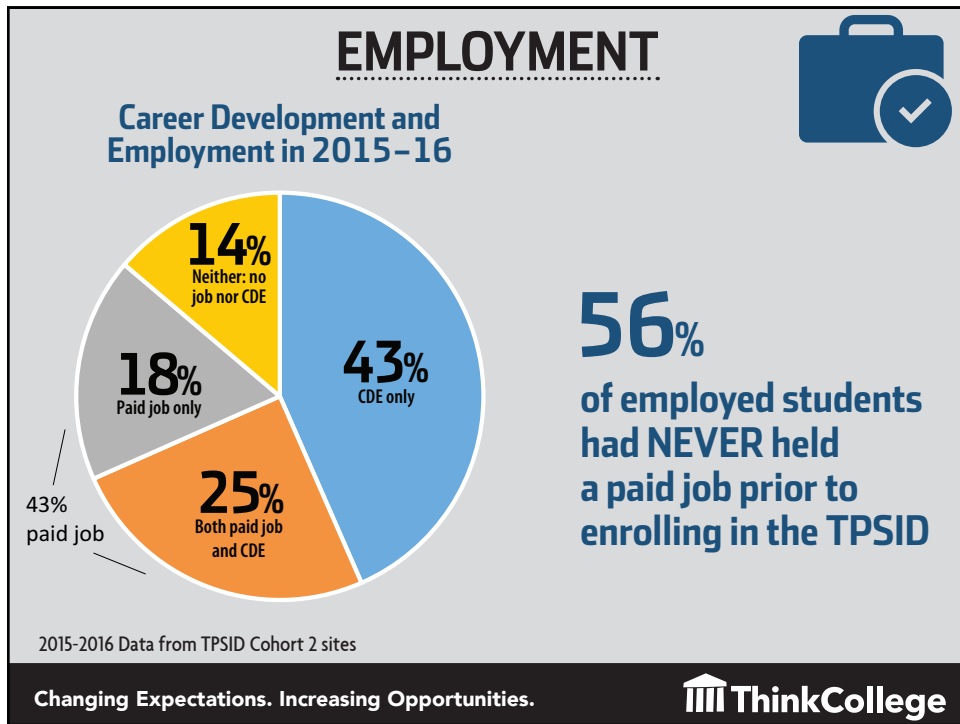
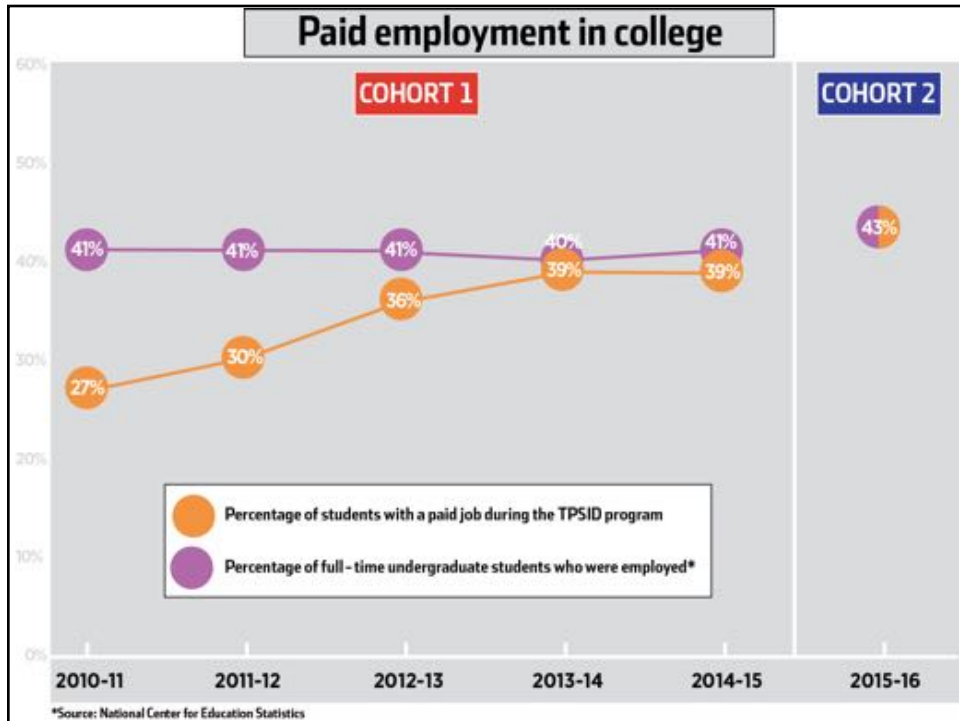
**31%:** percentage of students who were receiving special education services under IDEA.

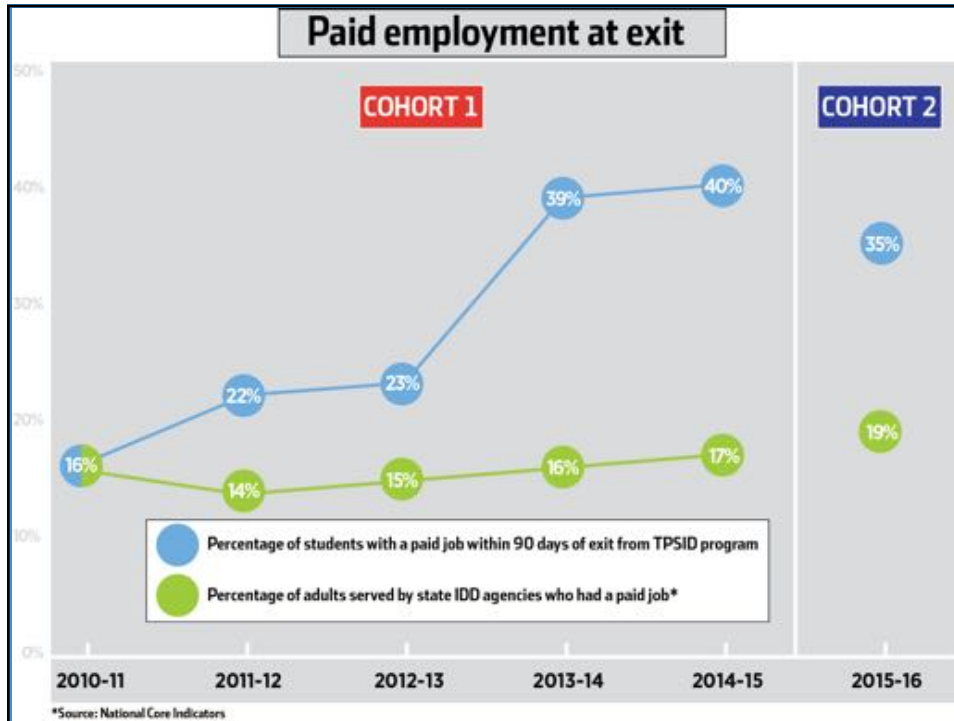
2015-2016 Data from TPSID Cohort 2 sites

Changing Expectations. Increasing Opportunities.









## Knowledge Development & Technical Assistance



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HOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - RESEARCH - TRAINING - RESOURCES - ABOUT - TPSID -

# ThinkCollege

CHANGING EXPECTATIONS. INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES.

College options for people with intellectual disabilities

- New look & feel
- Improved functionality
- Updated programs database
- New feature: Innovation Exchange
- Improved 'TPSID Only' area



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College options for people with intellectual disabilities

FEATURED View all



**College Students not Limited by Down Syndrome**

Featured on the Born This Way website (ABE), this informative article addresses all the reasons how people with Down syndrome are planning for college, attending college, and enjoying



**Job Development -- A Think College Learn module**

This module shares strategies for an asset or strength-based marketing approach to job development, focusing on a young person's interests, skills, talents and support needs and



**The Path to Higher Education With an Intellectual Disability**

This article, recently published in The Atlantic, details the growth of postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disability, featuring Clemson IEE and ACE-IT at Virginia



**Conducting a College Search: Questions to Ask College Programs**

This inaugural How To Think College publication assists families and others in looking for the right college for a youth with intellectual disability. ...Read more

**COLLEGE SEARCH**

Home / Think College Search

**Find the college that's right for you!**

Find and compare information on 268 college programs for students with intellectual disabilities! Search by program name, location, and other keywords. See "Advanced Filters" for more options to help you narrow your search and build a list of schools that are a good match for you.

Once you have located colleges you are interested in, download the How To Think College Guide to Conducting a College Search (PDF). It provides you with the right questions to ask in order to get the answers you need about each program on your list.

**ADVANCED FILTERS**

- DISABILITY**
  - Intellectual disability
  - Autism
  - Other disabilities
- PUBLIC OR PRIVATE**
  - Private
  - Public
- TYPE OF SCHOOL**
  - 2-year community college or junior college
  - 4-year college or university
  - Technical or vocational/trade school
  - Other
- PLANNED LENGTH OF PROGRAM**
  - 1 year
  - 2 years
  - 3 years
  - 4 years
  - Varies from student to student
  - Program is a federally funded TPSID program

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*Capacity building*

2016-2017

- Missouri Western University, St Joseph, Missouri
- Missouri State University
- Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- Northwest Disability Support, Portland, Oregon
- Lead, Learn, Live, Oklahoma
- University of Maryland

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In the past 12 months at [ThinkcollegeTA@gmail.com](mailto:ThinkcollegeTA@gmail.com)

- 580 help requests from 415 people
- 907 responses from NCC staff/consultants



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A screenshot of the Think College website's "Innovation Exchange" page. The page has a dark blue navigation bar with the Think College logo and menu items: HOME, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, RESEARCH, TRAINING, RESOURCES (highlighted), ABOUT, and TPSID. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: Home / Resources / Innovation Exchange. The main heading is "Innovation Exchange". Underneath, there are several tabs: VIEW (selected), EDIT, MANAGE DISPLAY, WEBFORM, RESULTS, and ACCESS CONTROL. A sub-heading "Array" is followed by a paragraph: "The Think College Innovation Exchange connects you to curated research and resources on important topics related to postsecondary education for students with intellectual disability. This is a great place to dive in and start learning about the best ways to support students to access college opportunities." Below this is a note: "We'll be adding more topics over time, so the ones you see here are just a starting point!". The main content area features a grid of four topic cards: "Employment" (with a handshake icon), "Paying for College" (with a graduation cap and dollar sign icon), "Vocational Rehab" (with a double-headed arrow icon), and "For Families" (with a family silhouette icon). To the left of these cards is an orange sidebar titled "CLICK ON A TOPIC TO FIND:" with a list of options: Topic Overviews, Key Resources, Related Websites, Affinity Groups, and FAQ's.

Search Entire Site

Think College Home Technical Assistance Training Resources About TPSID

Home / Resources / Innovation Exchange / Vocational Rehabilitation

## Vocational Rehabilitation


Vocational rehabilitation, or VR, programs exist in each state and territory. VR agencies support people with disabilities to find and keep competitive, integrated employment.

This VR mission aligns well with inclusive higher education programs, which support people with intellectual disability to access college. Building a strong relationship between VR and these college programs is essential for helping people with intellectual disability to increase their independence, find and keep fulfilling jobs, and boost their self-sufficiency.

**ON THIS PAGE**

- Featured Resources
- Quick Links
- Join the Conversation
- Frequently Asked Questions
- News & Features


**NEWS & FEATURES**



Technical Assistance related to Vocational Rehabilitation  
Russell J. Thein, M.S., LVRC  
CRC Senior Policy Fellow at ICL is a technical assistance provider on vocational rehabilitation for Think College. [Read more](#)



VR Partnerships that Support College for Students with ID: A Webinar  
Several postsecondary education programs for students with ID have developed innovative agreements with Vocational Rehabilitation in their respective states. [Read more](#)



The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014: An Overview of the Law and Implications for College Students with Intellectual Disability  
This Think College Fast Fact focuses on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 which is the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Rehabilitation [Read more](#)

**FEATURED RESOURCES**

- Changing Systems to Provide Inclusive Higher Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities
- Vocational Rehabilitation Partnerships with Higher Education Programs Serving Students with Intellectual Disability
- What is Inclusive Higher Education, and How Does it Connect To VR?
- Comparing State VR Agency Support of Higher Education Access for People with Intellectual and Other Disabilities
- Supporting Postsecondary Education Programs for Individuals With an

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- What is VR?
- What types of services can VR provide eligible individuals?
- I've heard that VR won't pay for college for people with intellectual disability. Is that true?
- How can VR support students with intellectual disability to attend college?



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# Affinity Groups

## Learn • Share • Connect

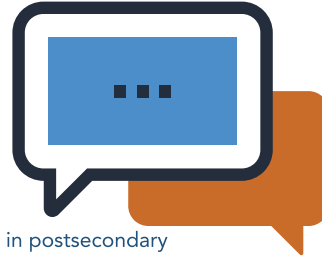




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# Join Think College Conversations



Connect online with others interested in postsecondary education for students with intellectual disabilities.

To learn more and sign up, visit

[www.thinkcollege.net/convos](http://www.thinkcollege.net/convos)

Questions? Contact Rebecca Lazo at [rebecca.lazo@umb.edu](mailto:rebecca.lazo@umb.edu)

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## Building the network via outreach



**News from the National Coordinating Center**  
Think College website feature: Affinity Groups -- Think College Transition Project -- New Publications -- Who's Who at the NCC



Think College shared Cara LeVine's post.  
While we're doing our thing at the State of the Art conference, the students are doing their thing at the Student Leadership conference. #SOA17



ThinkCollege @thinkcollegeICT  
Thank you, Ned, and April taking a break from the Student Leadership Conference to check out the @SyracuseU campus! #SLC217 #SOA17



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Micah Fialka-Feldman

Dan Habib's new film  
**INTELLIGENT LIVES**  
Coming in 2018

Waieer Shaheed

Naomie Monplaisi

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## Data Driven Technical Assistance

DATA → KNOWLEDGE → ACTION

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## Policy and Advocacy

- Updated State Policy and Legislation Pages
- Outreach to the National Skills Coalition
- Outreach to National Council on State Legislators
- Outreach to the Department of Education
- Outreach to Congressional Staff
- Development of VR Policy Page



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## Accreditation Workgroup

- *Report on Model Accreditation Standards for Higher Education Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities*
- The new Workgroup met in Washington DC on March 2017.
- Established 3 Committees
  - Accreditation Outreach Committee focus on outreach to accrediting agencies, recommendations regarding a possible registry, and research on accreditation policies and process
  - The Student Learning Outcomes Committee will research student competencies, learning, employment and other outcomes
  - The Self-Study Development Committee's purpose is to develop recommendations for a protocol and plans for field-testing the standards via a self study process



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**LET'S KEEP  
IN TOUCH**

**NEED ADVICE?**  
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