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CAROLINA INSTITUTE FOR
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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**HEELS
UP**

UP UNIVERSITY
PARTICIPANT
PROGRAM
WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Immersion TA:
An Innovative Approach
to Sharing Essentials
for a Successful PSE

Presenters

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Questions to Consider



- What essential perspectives, information, tools, skills are needed to launch an inclusive PSE ?
- How can technical assistance from a TPSID be helpful?
- Why is a hands-on, immersion approach effective?
- What particular strategies provided the most impact?





Beforehand . . .

- Designing the experience
- Planning the visit
- Setting the Schedule
- Preparing the team



Offering Insight. . .

Values, roles, relationships

- UP students
- Staff/faculty
- Administration
- Families
- Employers
- Traditional students



The Experience

How?

- Meetings,
- Panels
- Observation
- Tours
- Demonstration
- Interactive video

Who?

- UP students
- Support staff
- Dean
- Parents/Graduates
- Employers




Conveying Key Concepts:

- **Think College Standards and benchmarks**
- **Benefits of an inclusive program**
- **Interagency collaboration**
- **Program Operations and Sustainability**
- **Budgetary discussion**



Sample TA Immersion Agenda: Day 1

- **9-9:30 am: Welcome and Introductions**
- **9:30-10:45 am: Overview of Program Operations**
- **10:45-12 pm: Classroom and Job Visits**
- **12-1 pm: Lunch with Students on Campus**
- **1-1:30 pm: Break**
- **1:30-2:30 pm: Residence Hall Tours/Social Visits**
- **2:45-5:30 pm: Panel Discussions with Faculty, Students, Families, and Peer Supports**
- **5:30-7:30 pm: Dinner with Key Stakeholders**

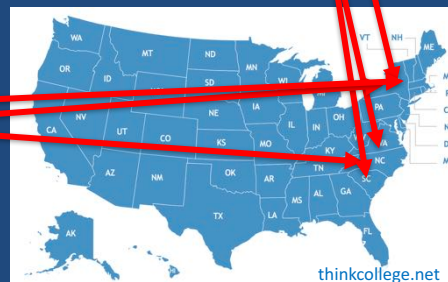
Sample TA Immersion Agenda: Day 2

- 9-10 am: Questions, Answers, and Discussion from Day 1 TA Immersion Visit
- 10-11 am: Administration and Funding
- 11 am-12 pm: Individualized Scheduling and Program Operations



How was the TA experience helpful in designing new PSE opportunities for students with IDD?

And beyond!



Advice for Creating an Immersion TA experience

- Plan ahead, but remain flexible
- Have ALL representatives at the table to talk “their” common language and experiences
- Students should lead the way
- Partner with local media outlets when possible to highlight impact/outreach
- Allow frequent exchange of ideas and discussions throughout the immersion
- Foster ongoing partnership and mentoring channels



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Thank you!

Questions?

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