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A NEWSLETTER FROM
THE CONSORTIUM FOR
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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.

Capacity Building Institute at 2009 AUCD Conference

Partners of the Consortium for Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities will present a special Capacity Building Institute (CBI) at the 2009 Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Conference. The institute will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2009 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in Washington DC. The CBI will offer participants from University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) strategies and resources that can be used to support the development and implementation of postsecondary education (PSE) options for people with developmental disabilities within their states. Participants will learn:

- About the current state of the practice in PSE options for students with developmental disabilities.
- How UCEDDs can facilitate statewide planning with key stakeholders.
- How funding partnerships between UCEDDs and state Developmental Disability Councils are supporting state-level implementation of PSE options.
- Of existing resources on best practices in postsecondary education for students with developmental disabilities.

Presenters at this six-hour workshop will include George Jesien, Executive Director, AUCD; Debra Hart, Director, Education and Transition Team, ICI Boston; Meg Grigal, Senior Research Associate, TransCen; and Cate Weir, Project Coordinator, Think College, ICI Boston. The website for the 2009 AUCD Annual Meeting and Conference, held in Washington D.C., November 8-11, can be accessed at <http://www.aucd.org/template/page.cfm?id=641>.

THINK COLLEGE: the Book!

Think College: Postsecondary Education Options for Students with Intellectual Disabilities, written by Meg Grigal, Ph.D., & Debra Hart, M.Ed., is coming soon! A comprehensive resource for education professionals and families, "Think College" is a guide to postsecondary education (PSE) options for students with intellectual disabilities. The book features vignettes and first-person narratives from students and families highlighting the benefits and challenges of PSE, as well as detailed profiles of real programs and the wide array of choices available. Grigal and Hart also provide helpful tools needed to create effective programs and ease students' transition to PSE, including a self-advocacy checklist, a program evaluation tool, sample student schedules, and a college-planning checklist for students and families. For more information about the book or to order, visit <http://www.brookespublishing.com/store/books/grigal-69179/index.htm>

Program Profile: The "Cutting-Edge" at Edgewood College

Edgewood College, a private liberal arts college in Madison, Wisconsin, proudly features a new program aptly named, "Cutting-Edge." The Cutting-Edge program is an individualized approach to inclusion for adult learners with significant disabilities--individuals who have either traditionally not been able to meet the standard admissions criteria for college or who require additional supports in order to be successful in college.

Cutting-Edge students typically enter Edgewood, a four-year institution, as non-degree seeking students and enroll in a set of core credit courses (a total of 5 credits each semester) that are required for all students. At the beginning of the program, students have the option of taking courses either for credit or audit. If students choose to become degree-seeking students, they then are required to take courses for credit. The process of inclusion for Cutting-Edge students is facilitated by the Director of the program and by peer mentors who are paired with the students in academic and social situations. The positive attitude and energy of the peer mentors is key to the encouragement the Cutting-Edge students receive. The program also uses Resident Hall Peer Mentors--students who are living in the dorms and are responsible for assisting the Cutting-Edge students with problem-solving, connecting students to social activities, and helping them develop new relationships.

Dedra Hafner, Director of the Cutting-Edge program, says, "The Cutting-Edge students are doing some amazing things. What they're doing on campus has grown incrementally. The students are great because they're so demanding, so into doing and being a part of what everyone else on campus is doing. They are really the ones driving the options and the choices we make." Hafner added, "One of the parents from our parent group said, 'It's all about inclusion. Not, there are some things you have to be over there on the side with. No, it needs to be everyone doing things all together.'" For more information on Cutting-Edge, see <http://www.innovationsnow.net/>

Resources You Can Use: Midwest Explorer Newsletter

The Midwest Explorer is a quarterly newsletter of the Midwest Alliance, headquartered at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Midwest Alliance provides opportunities for students with disabilities in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin to explore academic and career possibilities in the sciences, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Funded by the National Science Foundation, its aim is to increase the number of students with disabilities entering and succeeding in these fields. This summer's newsletter is available here: http://stemmidwest.org/downloads/Newsletters/Summer_09/MA_news_su09.pdf

Visit the Midwest Alliance website at <http://www.stemmidwest.org>

Resources You Can Use: Disabilityinfo.gov

DisabilityInfo.gov is an online resource which provides people with disabilities access to disability-related information and programs available across the government on numerous subjects, including benefits, civil rights, community life, education, employment, housing, health, technology, and transportation. DisabilityInfo.gov is managed by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) in partnership with 21 other federal agencies. Its Education section offers information on educational programs and resources available throughout the federal government, including Individualized Education Programs, college opportunities, school-to-work transition, tools for educators and parent resources. The sub-section on Higher Education includes information and resources on financial aid and scholarships and preparation for postsecondary education. Visit <http://www.disabilityinfo.gov/> to learn more.

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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

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**

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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)

