

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 2010

think COLLEGE!

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

Why College? We Asked Brian...

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.



Why college? Well, I have a lot of career ideas. Plus, I love to read and I like seeing people I know from the community.

Upcoming Events

Think College Capacity Building Institutes

For people interested in providing high quality postsecondary educational opportunities for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Scheduled or planned events currently include:

March 1, 2010 in collaboration with the Tarjan Center at UCLA. The focus of this event is supporting students with autism in combination with intellectual disabilities in postsecondary education

April 14, 2010 in collaboration with the Annual PacRim Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii.

April 19, 2010 in collaboration with Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and the Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Council, Nashville, TN.

For more information please visit: <http://thinkcollege.net/for-professionals/training-and-technical-assistance> and look for fliers via our listserv.

The Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities

April 12-13, 2010

Honolulu, Hawaii

<http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/>

Council for Exceptional Children 2010 Convention & Expo, DDD Showcase Session

Nashville, TN

April 21-24, 2010

<http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ConventionExpo/>

Think Dormitory! Micah Moves In



Micah Fialka-Feldman, a student at Oakland University, north of Detroit, moved into Vandenberg Residence Hall on January 5 after a two-year court fight with the university. Micah, who has a developmental disability, has participated in the university's Post-Secondary Transitions program, or OPTIONS, a three year program that allows students to audit classes and participate in campus life in a non-degree track. Oakland's policy has been to allow only degree seeking students to live in dormitories but on

Dec. 23, 2009, U.S. District Court Judge Patrick Duggan ruled that Micah should be allowed to live on campus and the university relented for this semester, even though it plans to appeal the ruling. Micah's court fight has been documented in national news outlets and stands to create momentum in other postsecondary programs for residential accommodations for students with developmental disabilities.

Micah's mother, Janice Fialka, acknowledges Judy Heumann and her compatriots, who sat-in for nearly four weeks at the Federal Building in San Francisco in April 1977 to demand that Section 504 of the Rehab Act be implemented. She says that the act was the basis to defend Micah's right to move into the dorm.

For a more detailed report on Micah's journey, see:
<http://oaklandpostonline.com/2010/01/05/campus/courtroom-to-dorm-room/>

A Website We Like

A tribute to the founder of Special Olympics and a supporter of individuals with disabilities all over the world: <http://www.eunicekennedyshriver.org/>

Disability Friendly Colleges

"Disability-Friendly Colleges: A Guide for Students with Physical Disabilities" is an online college guide for students with physical disabilities containing interactive charts of those colleges which are the most disability friendly as well as profiles of the colleges that provide services necessary for students with physical disabilities to live on campus.

Tommy Tiedemann, a frustrated college student and his mother, Chris Tiedemann created the website. Chris and Tommy were well-suited to write about disability-friendly colleges. To the best of their knowledge, no one else has even recognized the need for such a guide since the ADA became law in 1990 and they are, by coincidence, a college student who is physically disabled and a professional writer.

The website contains up-to-date information such as: detailed descriptions and photos of four colleges providing all of the services necessary for seriously physically disabled students to live on campus. Interactive charts of 75 colleges that go beyond ADA including: accessibility, personal care, transportation, adaptive sports, academic rank, contact information and how the Ivy League stacks up. The guide can be found at <http://www.disabilityfriendlycolleges.com/>

Publications Worth Looking At

Big IDEAs: Newsletter from the National Dropout Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD) Big IDEAs is NDPC-SD's quarterly newsletter, which addresses current issues in dropout prevention and school completion. It features evidence-based dropout-prevention and recovery programs from around the nation as well as information about past and upcoming NDPC-SD events. Big IDEAs is available via electronic subscription. <http://www.ndpc-sd.org/contact/bigIdeasSubscribe.php>

TATRA Project resources on "Family Involvement and VR: Research to Practice"

The staff at TATRA (Technical Assistance on Transition and the Rehabilitation Act) presented a session titled "Family Involvement: Research to Practice," at the National Council on Rehabilitation Education's October 2009 conference. The materials from this presentation are now available. The session focused on strategies promoting family involvement in the transition and vocational rehabilitation processes and related these strategies to the findings of a number of recent studies. <http://www.pacer.org/tatra/index.asp>

A Resource You Can Use

Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities

More and more high school students with disabilities are planning to continue their education in postsecondary schools, including vocational and career schools, two- and four- year colleges, and universities. As a student with a disability, you need to be well informed about your rights and responsibilities as well as the responsibilities postsecondary schools have toward you. It is important to be well informed because that gives the student a full opportunity to enjoy the benefits of the postsecondary education experience without confusion.

The information provided in this pamphlet, by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in the U. S. Department of Education, explains the rights and responsibilities of students with disabilities who are planning or preparing to attend postsecondary schools. This pamphlet also explains the obligations of a postsecondary school to provide academic adjustments, including auxiliary aids and services, to ensure the school does not discriminate on the basis of disability. Visit <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html#reproduction> for more information.

Another Resource You Can Use

AHEADD (Achieving in Higher Education with Autism/Developmental Disabilities)

AHEADD is a private, community-based organization that provides support for college students with Learning Disabilities, High-Functioning Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, and Attention Deficit Disorder. AHEADD staff support students with impairments in social, communication, and organizational skills by assisting them to develop individualized strategies to manage their college careers with maximum independence. The AHEADD Model of Support complements traditional college accommodations plans and involves four core elements:

- AHEADD professional staff involvement
- Development of campus and community support network
- Utilization of campus resources
- Peer mentoring

AHEADD is currently located in Pittsburgh, Albany, Washington DC, and Dallas and is enrolling students in Miami, Baltimore, Long Island, Bakersfield CA, and Boston. Visit <http://aheadd.org/> for more information.

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**



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children & Families

ADMINISTRATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (ADD)



The Think College Newsletter is published monthly.
To subscribe electronically, please send your email address to Carrie Coslin at cosl0001@umn.edu.

Please distribute widely to interested parties.

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