

## Why College? We Asked Antony....



My experience of college is that you have a lot more freedom and can do a lot more than at high school. You can try out lots of career courses. I did well with my culinary arts final but decided to try other courses.

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.

## Think College Announces Mini-Grant Awards for Promoting Inclusive Postsecondary Education Options for People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Think College, at the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston, with funding from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, announced that 8 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) were selected for mini-grants to participate in a comprehensive national training initiative to measurably increase the participation of individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities in postsecondary education.

The UCEDD's will work in partnership with their state Developmental Disabilities' Council and other key stakeholders to create an action plan to increase opportunities for inclusive postsecondary education for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Twenty-six applications were submitted for project funding. "We were so pleased with the quality of the proposals submitted, and wish that enough resources had been available to fund many more of the proposals," said Cate Weir, Project Coordinator and Debra Hart, Principal Investigator.

Awardees of the 2009 Think College Mini-grant Competition are:

**Florida Center for Inclusive Communities, University of South Florida**

PI: [Tammy Jorgensen-Smith, PhD](#)

**Institute for Disability Studies, University of Southern Mississippi**

PI: [Jane Siders, EdD](#)

**Center for Development and Disability, University of New Mexico**

PI: [Cate McClain, MD](#)

**Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities, University of Nevada**

PI: [Mary Bryant](#)

**Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities, University of Rochester Medical Center**

PI: [Martha Mock, PhD](#)

**North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, Minot State University**

PI: [Brent Askvig, PhD](#)

**Partnership for People with Disabilities, Virginia Commonwealth University**

PI: [Dana Yarbrough](#)

**Center for Disability & Community Inclusion, University of Vermont**

PI: [Susan Ryan, PhD](#)

For more formation about the minigrants, visit [http://www.aucd.org/template/news.cfm?news\\_id=4700&id=17](http://www.aucd.org/template/news.cfm?news_id=4700&id=17).

### Think Dormitory!

A Micah Update from the Dorms



Micah Fialka-Feldman attends classes at Oakland University and recently won a court case allowing him to live in the dorm. Here's what he says about his first couple weeks living in the dorm.....

I can do more living in housing on campus. I can go to the gym. I can take a cycling class every Friday. I am having an exciting time of living on campus. I don't have to wake up early and take a bus to school. I can watch cable TV. I can help more people out at the activities. I like all of my classes I have been taking at school this semester. I hope the other students that after I graduate can have the same opportunities and live in the dorm like I did. I have new friends this semester.

### 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.

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#### The Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities

April 12-13, 2010

Honolulu, Hawaii

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

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#### 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/>

#### Disabilities Awareness Conference

April 15, 2010

Busch Campus Center

Rutgers University

Piscataway, NJ

[http://lrc.rutgers.edu/dwc\\_home.shtml](http://lrc.rutgers.edu/dwc_home.shtml)

### Matrix on the Think College Website

There are a number of differences between high school and college that a student should be aware of before starting college. The most important thing to know is that in college you are expected to speak for yourself. That means meeting with staff from disability services to discuss your disability and accommodations, talking to your professors when you have a question or a problem and making and keeping appointments. There are other important differences too like the fact that in high school some of your work may have been modified. Visit the Think College web site to find a chart that highlights some of the key differences between high school and college.

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### **Program Profile: The Arc Jacksonville Academy on Campus Transition (OCT)**

The Arc Jacksonville Academy On Campus Transition (OCT) program at the University of North Florida (UNF) offers students with intellectual disabilities a transition into adulthood within an inclusive college setting that provides opportunities to experientially learn how to become independent, engaged, well-adjusted and contributing members of society.

Each student's Program of Study is developed through a process of self-direction and collaboration that is individually unique and results in a customized plan for achievement that focuses on: academics, academic enhancement, career development, university life, health/personal growth and independent living/community life.

The IDYLLIC Residential Program (Including disabled Youth Living and Learning in College) developed with the support of The Sontag Foundation, provides a residential extension to the Academic Program that assists the students toward their potential of living as independently as possible. Additional support is provided through a broad range of mentors from throughout the University student body that provide academic and social supports for the OCT students.

For more information visit: [http://www.arcjacksonville.org/ask\\_academies.php#campus](http://www.arcjacksonville.org/ask_academies.php#campus)

Watch for an up-coming brief on the OCT program through ThinkCollege.net.

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### **A Reminder: AHEAD Resources for Students and Parents**

The Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD), a partner of Think College, is a professional membership organization for individuals involved in the development of policy and in the provision of quality services to meet the needs of persons with disabilities involved in all areas of higher education. It also has great resources for students and parents who plan to attend college. We invite you to visit their Website and get acquainted with all the resources they provide:

<http://www.ahead.org/>

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### **Dear Think College...**

Dear Think College,

I am a junior in high school and I want to go to college but I can't find programs near me that support students with developmental disabilities. What should I do?

Signed,

Ambitious Eleventh Grader

Dear AEG,

It's time for you and your IEP team to get creative by reaching out to others in the community that can help you set and meet postsecondary education goals. First, I would contact the local Vocational Rehabilitation Office and find out what relationships they have with local colleges. Then, I would contact the Disability Services office at all area colleges (including private and public, two-year and four-year) to determine if they have any past, current, or future programming that might meet your needs. If you can't find what you need, you may have to assemble a collaborative team to build programming from scratch. This takes time and sometimes money but all programs begin with motivated participants. Be sure to use the Think College database for ideas of what other areas are doing: <http://thinkcollege.net/searchadd-programs/search-for-programs>. Good luck!

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**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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*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

**Administration for Children & Families**

*ADMINISTRATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (ADD)*



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To subscribe electronically, please send your email address to Carrie Coslin at [cosl0001@umn.edu](mailto:cosl0001@umn.edu).

Please distribute widely to interested parties.

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