



Framing the Future: A Standards-Based Conceptual Framework for Research and Practice in Inclusive Higher Education

Meg Grigal, Ph.D

Co-Director, Think College

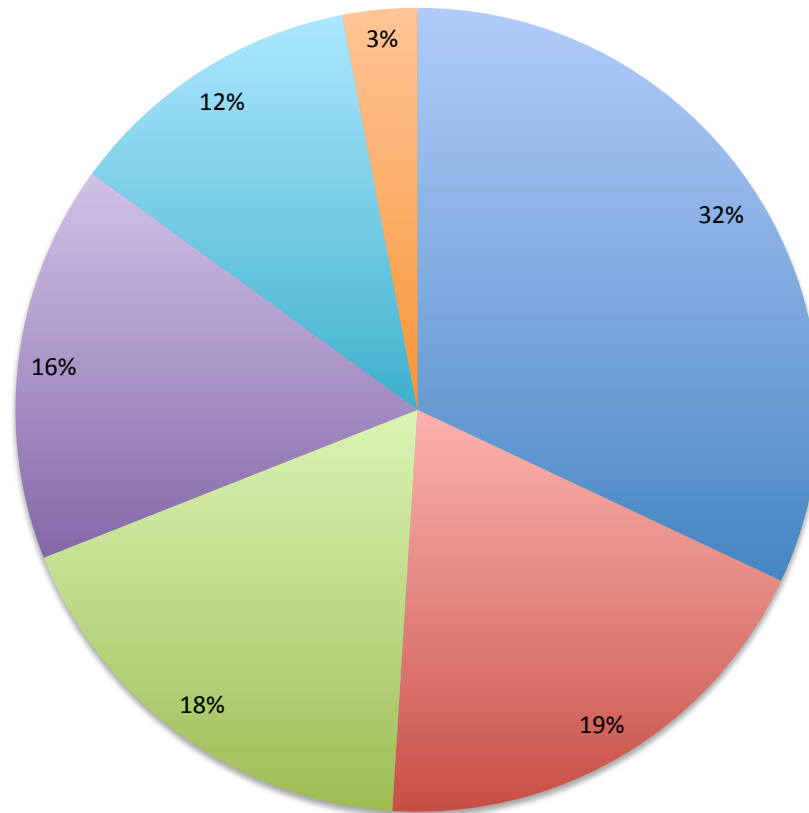
Institute for Community Inclusion

UMASS-Boston

What we know

- Little current higher education research on students with disabilities, even less on ID
- Few programs, few students
- HS professional & families have little knowledge of existing options
- Large in variability in focus of programs

Focal Areas of Service



- Employment
- Independent Living
- College course access
- Life skills instruction
- Self-determination
- Social skills

Hart, Grigal, Weir (in press). A national survey of Findings of a national survey of postsecondary education programs for students with intellectual disabilities. *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*.

New Federal Guidance

- HEOA raised the bar
 - Focus on inclusive academics
 - Satisfactory Academic Progress
 - Gainful employment
 - Advising Structure
 - Person centered planning

An organizing structure must:

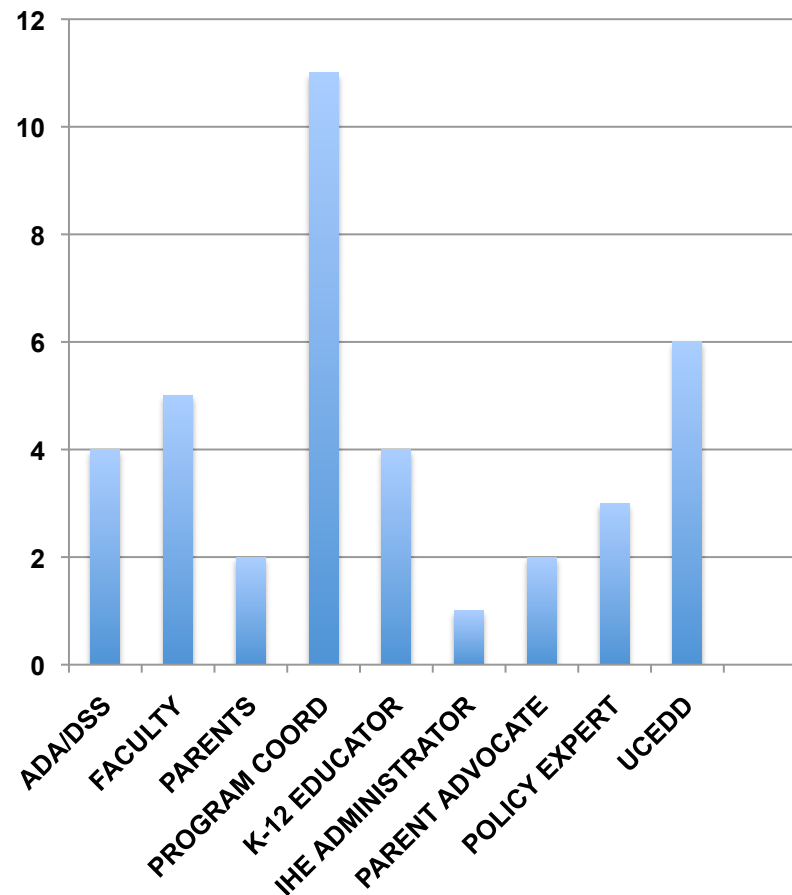
- Reflect input from key stakeholders
- Reflect frameworks recognized by higher education
- Provide common language to practitioners and researchers
- Allow for growth and expansion

Goal of the TC Standards

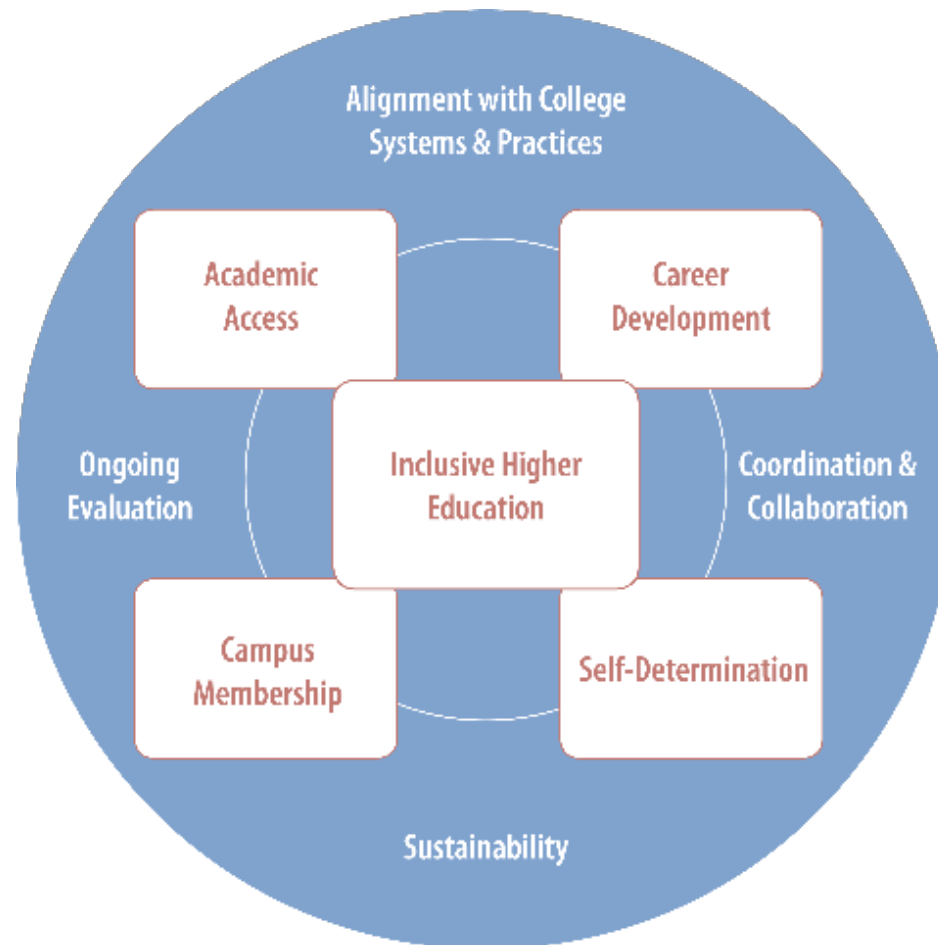
To identify and validate practices that could be used by institutes of higher education (IHEs) to create, expand, or enhance high-quality, inclusive postsecondary education to support positive outcomes for individuals with ID.

Delphi Process

- 38 Expert Panelists
- 3 rounds of review
- Rated as essential
 - 8 standards
 - 18 quality indicators
 - 87 benchmarks



A Standards-Based Conceptual Framework for Inclusive Higher Education



TC Standards, Quality Indicators, & Benchmarks

- Multiple purposes:
 - ✓ Self-assessment Tool
 - ✓ Assist families/students with college search
 - ✓ Foundation for TPSID Coordination Center Evaluation System
 - ✓ Operationalize Phase I research studies



Hope for the Future

- Creation of new, expansion of existing PSE options
- Increased levels of participation
- Retention of existing federal investments
- Collection & analysis of data on benchmarks to build evidence based knowledge