ACE-IT in College

Academic & Career Exploration: Individual Techniques

Elizabeth Evans Getzel   lgetzel@vcu.edu

Dana Yarbrough   dvyarbrough@vcu.edu

Katherine Wittig   kmwittig@vcu.edu

Collaboration is key

VCU RRTC

www.partnership.vcu.edu

ACE-IT in College Management Teams

University Mgt. Team

ACE-IT In College

Virginia Collaborative for College

Staff Team
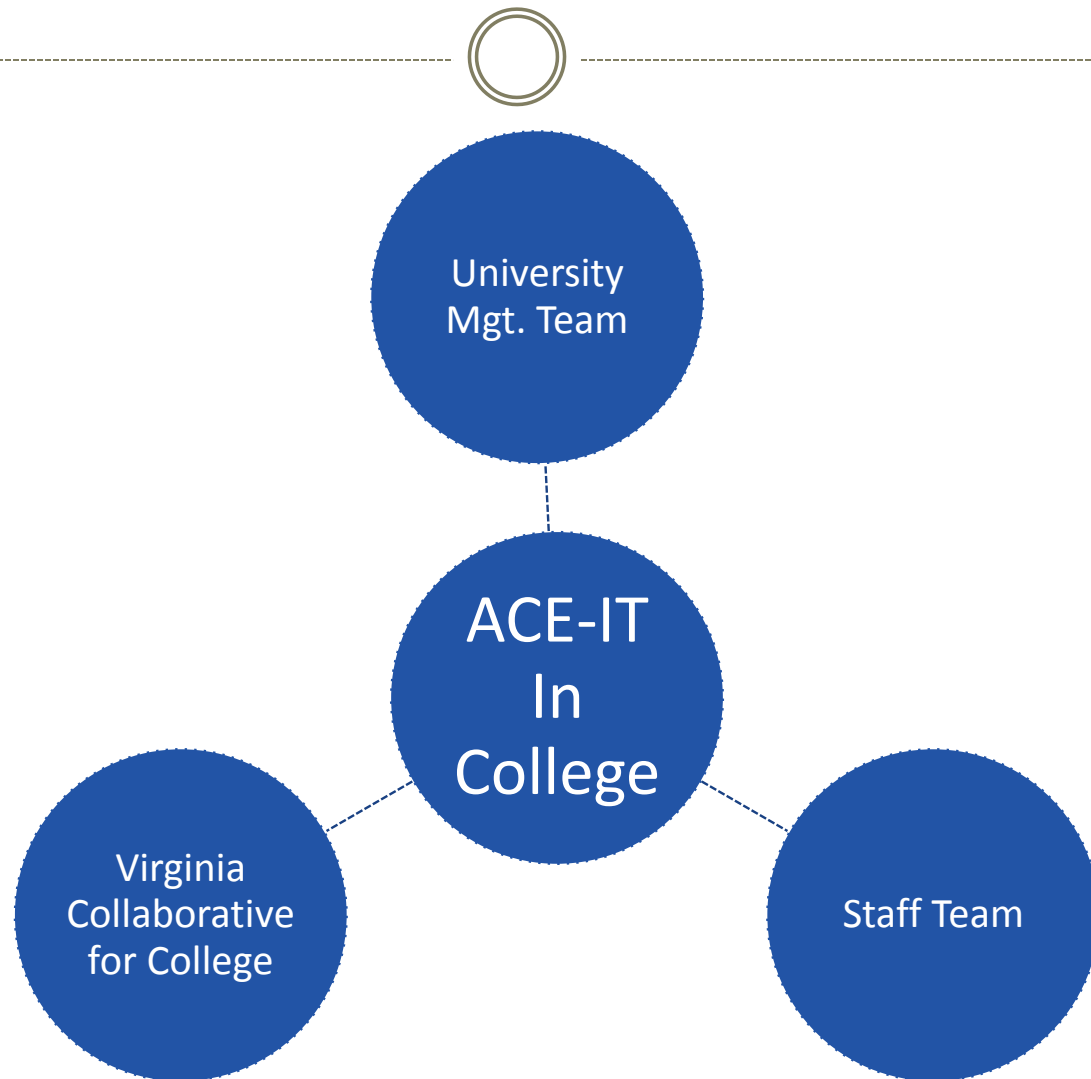
Role of Advisory Committee

- Determine how strategic plan can be disseminated and discussed through your agency or organization networks

- Work on identifying approaches to "scale up" inclusive PSE practices in Virginia

- Provide feedback and ideas concerning implementation of ACE-IT in College

Virginia Collaborative for College

- Self advocates
- Parents
- 2 and 4 year higher education agencies
- IHE staff
- State and local agency representatives
- Community college replication site
- LEA representatives
- Advocacy organizations
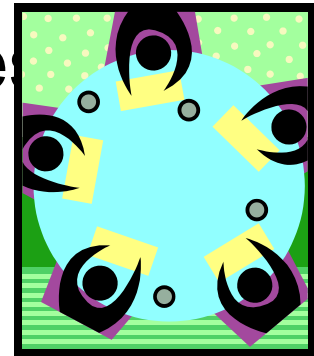
Strategic Plan

- Build state and local infrastructure for inclusive postsecondary education

- Develop policies and procedures for funding and access to inclusive postsecondary education

- Over 5 years up to 20 students will participate at VCU and 2 community colleges

Components of ACE-IT in College

- 5-year demonstration grant through US Department of Education

- Postsecondary education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities

- "Program of one" established at VCU

- Replication at two community colleges beginning in Year 3 of the project

Components of ACE-IT in College

- Two students started classes at VCU in August 2011

- Program of one model will be a concurrent enrollment—students still eligible for FAPE

- Three school divisions: Chesterfield, Powhatan and City of Richmond

- Currently reviewing applications for individuals no longer is secondary schools between the ages of 18-26 to begin at VCU Spring Semester 2012

ACE-IT in College

- Students complete an application and participate in an interview conducted by project staff members.

- Selected participants apply to VCU for admission. Their designation is Special Student which is an existing category at VCU.

- Selected participants have a person-centered plan prior to entering college

ACE-IT in College

- Students select courses through VCU catalog, advising done through School of Education (audit or credit)

- Students will have education coaches to assist directly in class and/or outside of class for tutoring, etc

- Will earn existing certificate through School of Education.

School of Education Certificate

21 credits

School of Education Certificate
- • 4 required courses (10 - 11 credits) (i.e., intro to university, science/environment/natural, literature/writing/art/music, and social studies/civilization/global community)
- •Up to 4 electives (9 - 11 credits)

ACE-IT in College

- Part-time employment is part of the program. Currently both students have on campus employment in their areas of interest.

- Students have opportunities to engage in campus social activities of their choice

Erik's Snapshot: August 2011

- **VCU Student:** 20 years old, has autism spectrum disorder, received a Special Diploma.

- **Interests:** Loves sports and fitness

- **Courses:** Freshmen orientation and wants a sports and fitness class

- **Education Coach Focus:** Orient to campus, participate in class activities, answer questions.

- **Work experience:** Part-time at VCU gym

- **Career goal:** Exploring opportunities through VCU

Erik's Snapshot: November, 2011

Erik
• Is initiating conversations with his education coach and peers.
• Received a 96 on a project in one of his classes, using the assistance of his educational coach. He uses no other accommodations.
• Is considering taking a class for credit next semester.
• Has learned to navigate the campus independently.
• Loves the VCU Rams basketball team.

Katie's Snapshot: August 2011

- **VCU Student:** 21 years old, has an intellectual disability, received a special education diploma.

- **Interests:** Working with children

- **Courses:** Auditing freshmen orientation and an introduction to education class

- **Education Coach Focus:** Using assistive technology independently.

- **Work experience:** Part-time at University Child Development Center

- **Career goal:** To own her own daycare center.

Katie's Snapshot: November, 2011

Katie

• is working with her education coach learning her assistive technology.

• is interested in living on campus at some point.

• Will take 2 courses for credit next semester

• enjoys working with the toddlers (age 2) at the University Child Development Center.

• recently drove to and from VCU independently.

Questions?