

Disability Services Professionals and Inclusive Programs

{ **Tom L. Thompson**, Retired, Director Disability Services –
Harper College-Illinois and
Chair, AHEAD Task Force on Students with Intellectual
Disabilities in Postsecondary Education
Cate Weir, Think College, Institute for Community
Inclusion University of Massachusetts, Boston

⌘ Working with Community Colleges

- ⌘ Locally responsive; open enrollment; connected with high schools, focused on completion and workforce development; local advocates

⌘ Working with Universities

- ⌘ Regionally/nationally focused; research orientation; inclusive programs – with fees; funding crisis

Building Relationships with Colleges and Universities

❧ Ideas for Collaboration

- ❧ Create a local planning group with internal and external stakeholders: assess, set goals, define roles
- ❧ Sponsor an event to bring together stakeholders; recognize and deal with barriers
- ❧ Work with regional AHEAD affiliates and internal Disability Services professionals; other interested on campus personnel

Consultation and Advocacy

- ⌘ Plan a site visit: determine presence and involvement of students with intellectual disability on campus
- ⌘ Share documents developed by AHEAD
 - ⌘ White paper on students with ID in postsecondary education
 - ⌘ Share case studies or examples of successful programs
- ⌘ Enlist the assistance of Think College and State Agency for Individuals with DD; other interested parties

Collaboration with Disability Services Professionals

“While Disability Services professionals do not usually operate such programs, we are in a unique position professionally to inform institutional decisions to design and implement programs that are welcoming and inclusive for students with intellectual disabilities. Where such programs already exist on a campus, Disability Service professionals can work with the program staff to determine how students with intellectual disabilities can access accommodations and other resources of their offices.”

AHEAD White Paper, May 2011

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<http://www.thinkcollege.net/think-college-live>

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AND MENTORING

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MODULE 3: FINANCIAL
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Think College Home

- ⌘ Review documents from Think College Illinois
- ⌘ Current state of affairs in Illinois
 - ⌘ State wide summit in Spring 2010
 - ⌘ Think College mini-grant in 2011
 - ⌘ Tribune reporter's phone call re programs

Discussion: Issues & Questions