ARTICLES AND BRIEFS

Supporting Accommodation Requests: Guidance on Documentation Practices - April 2012

AHEAD (Association Higher Education and Disability) recently released a new guidance document to its membership which is aimed at providing additional information related to the documentation of disability for accommodation requests made by students in post secondary education. This document provides a conceptual framework for disability professionals in higher education to use as they make informed accommodation determinations. It represents the culmination of a comprehensive process with contributions from workgroups and expert consultation throughout.

A Prelude to Progress: The Evolution of Postsecondary Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

This new Insight Brief – from Think College at the
Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston – gives a historical perspective, discusses current realities, and imagines what comes next for individuals with intellectual disabilities who wish to attend college.

**Institute for Community Inclusion at University of Massachusetts Boston Releases 2011 Report on Employment Services and Outcomes for People with I/DD**

The Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston has released its annual report, State Data: The National Report on Employment Services and Outcomes 2011. This publication provides detailed national and state-level data on trends in employment outcomes for people with disabilities. Its sources include several data sets that address the status of employment and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with ID/DD.

**Postsecondary Education and Employment Among Youth with an Autism Spectrum Disorder**

This article, published in *Pediatrics*, presents data on education and employment among youth with an autism spectrum disorder, correlated with socio-economic status and functional impairment diagnoses. The study found that more than 50% of youth who had left high school in the past two years had no participation in employment or education.
Unemployment On Rise For People With Disabilities
More people with disabilities were without work in May. In the agency’s monthly employment report, federal officials indicated that unemployment grew to 12.9 percent for Americans with disabilities in May, up slightly from 12.5 percent the previous month. The news comes as the nation saw its slowest job growth in a year, with just 69,000 jobs added to the economy last month. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for the general population remained relatively steady at 8.2 percent. The Labor Department began tracking employment among people with disabilities in October 2008. There is not yet enough data compiled to establish seasonal trends among this population, so statistics for this group are not seasonally adjusted. Data on people with disabilities covers those over the age of 16 who do not live in institutions. The first employment report specific to this population was made available in February 2009. Now, reports are released monthly.

CONFERENCES AND WEBINARS

Innovative Technology for Students with ID in PSE Webinar
August 27, 2012 from 11 AM - 12:30 PM PST. Sponsored by Think College.
The use of new technologies, including mixed-reality environments, may provide an alternate and efficient means of helping students succeed socially in post-secondary education. Learn how these new technologies are being used to transform the
learning experiences of students with intellectual disability as they work on social skills such as self-advocacy, collaborative learning, and interviewing.

**Getting Started: Developing Inclusive College Opportunities Webinar**

*September 17, 2012 from 11 AM - 12:30 PM PST. Sponsored by Think College.*

This webinar will provide an overview of the issues involved in developing inclusive post-secondary educational opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities. Experiences from programs that have been developed in two states will be discussed. Information will be relevant for higher education, K-12 education, and families.

**Work Incentive Seminar Events (WISE)**

WISE webinars are hosted on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Are you interested in learning about how work will affect your Social Security benefits? If you are interested in learning about the Ticket to Work Program or Work Incentives, you can attend a free Work Incentive Seminar Event (WISE) online webinar. WISE webinars are online events held for beneficiaries to learn about the Ticket to Work Program and available Work Incentives through accessible learning opportunities.
EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSITION RESOURCES

Helping Students Navigate the Path to College: What High Schools Can Do
Access to higher education remains a challenge for many students who face academic and informational barriers to college entry. This practice guide targets high schools and school districts, and focuses on effective practices that prepare students academically for college, assist them in completing the steps to college entry, and improve their likelihood of college enrollment.

Into Adulthood: Transition to Work for Individuals with Autism On-Line Education
October 8 – November 19, 2012 Online Course
More than ever, individuals with autism spectrum disorders are participating in the mainstream of school, work, and the community. Careful transition planning from secondary education is critical for young people with autism spectrum disorders to be successful; however, there is limited information on this topic. This course will provide participants with an in-depth understanding of the concepts related to positive transition planning for youth with autism. The issues, challenges, and strategies that are involved with helping them transition to work and participate to the fullest degree in society will be examined. Cost: The fee is $275 per person in course tuition, plus $25.05 for the purchase of the course textbook, Autism & the Transition to Adulthood: Success Beyond the Classroom by Wehman, Datlow-Smith and Schall. The book can be
Think College Podcast Series Answers Families' Questions about Postsecondary Education
In two 15-minute podcasts produced in collaboration with PACER Center, Cate Weir, project coordinator for Think College, introduces families to postsecondary education opportunities and answers some of the basic questions that families have on postsecondary education options for their sons and daughters with intellectual disabilities.

Videos: Postsecondary Instructional Practices by Presenting the Stories of Eight Post-secondary Students with Disabilities
"From Where I Sit" is a powerful video series featuring eight California State University students with disabilities who share their experiences in the college classroom. A unique aspect of this series is the inclusion of faculty responses. Faculty Responses section follow each student's story and discuss issues that have been raised. Common themes of each student's story point to instructional practices that may be helpful to all students.

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