



Alabama Postsecondary Alliance on Intellectual Disabilities: In Unity and Numbers

RAISING THE STANDARDS CONFERENCE
JUNE 1, 2018




Session Outline

- ▶ Introduction and Overview of Post-secondary Education (PSE) program at each participating institute
- ▶ Discussion of unique program elements
- ▶ Overcoming challenges of PSE
- ▶ Accessing transition education services

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, participants will:

1. Distinguish between the programs that comprise the APAID
2. Appreciate and understand the purpose of APAID
3. Gain an awareness of specific critical issues in creating a PSE on a college campus and strategies to navigate them



Together we can face any challenges as deep as the ocean and as high as the sky.

Sonia Gandhi

Alabama Postsecondary Alliance on Intellectual Disabilities

- **CrossingPoints, The University of Alabama**
- **PASSAGE USA, University of South Alabama**
- **EAGLES Program, Auburn University**
- **On To JSU, Jacksonville State University**
- **The Horizons School, Birmingham**
- **Bulldog LIFE, AAMU**



Aims of APAID

APAID will enhance postsecondary programs for students with ID in the State of Alabama. We will achieve this by:

- ▶ Supporting and encouraging each other
- ▶ Centralizing information sharing among members, with young adults and their families

- ▶ Functioning as a unified voice for state advocacy and lobbying
- ▶ Interfacing with agencies that serve adults with disabilities in the State
- ▶ Leveraging resources for long-term sustainability of PSE programs

Overview – CrossingPoints, UA

Eligible* Students

- Have a documented ID
- 19+ years of age at program entrance;
- Have a high school diploma, certificate of completion, or equivalent
- One's own legal guardian
- Function without attendant care for personal or health needs
- Has “functional communication skills”
- Have a documented history of meeting behavioral and attendance expectations of past employment, training, and/or educational programs

Length and Payment

Tier 1 (collaboration with TCS & TCSS)

- Still receiving IDEA services
- 3 years (Age 18-21 years)
- No cost for Services

Tier 2 (Summer Bridge)

- 9 weeks (UA Summer Full Term)
- Cost for Housing, Books, & Dining

CrossingPoints Certificate in Occupational Studies (CCOS)

- 3 years
- In review (expected Fall 2018)

Housing

Tier 1

- Students bussed to campus
- CrossingPoints UA Apartment

Tier 2 (Summer Bridge)

- UA Residence halls

CrossingPoints Certificate in Occupational Studies (CCOS)

- UA Residence halls

Overview – PASSAGE USA

Eligible Students

- **Transition Initiative:** students with ID, their parents, and teachers birth-grade 12
- **Certificate Program:** young adults 18-25 years old, IQ and adaptive behavior scores ≤ 70 , can be left unsupervised, no history of aggressive or self-injurious behavior

Length and Payment

- **Transition Initiative:** time receiving Part C or Part B services through IDEA. No cost or fee
- **Certificate Program:** 2-year, 4 semester certificate program. 2017-2018 \$5,522/semester

Housing

- **Transition Initiative:** N/A
- **Certificate Program:** no housing provided, however off-campus student apartments (accessible via walking or USA transportation) rent to students in PASSAGE USA

Overview – AU EAGLES Program

Eligible Students

- Have a documented ID
- Age Range: 18-26
- Not older than age 24 at program entrance
- Provides an opportunity for **E**ducation to **A**ccomplish **G**rowth in **L**ife **E**xperiences For **S**uccess
- Focus Areas:
 - Increasing independence
 - Improving leadership & advocacy skills
 - Preparing for employment
 - Developing life skills (e.g., social, self-determination/awareness)

Length and Payment

- 2-Year Basic Program (four semesters, Fall and Spring)
- 4-Year Advanced Program
- Additional 2 years is available as an invitation-only option
- Attend Camp War Eagle
- Attend EAGLES Program Summer Orientation
- Non-degree
- 100% Inclusive Education
- Academic Tuition: Varies
- 2018 Cohort EAGLES Program Fee: \$15,000 per semester

Housing

- On-campus residential program, providing practical experience in independent living skills
- **Required** to take advantage of on-campus housing
- EAGLES are paired with WINGS peer mentors
- Housing and Residence Life: \$4700 plus \$90 for early move-in (required) per semester

Overview – On To JSU

Eligible Students

- **18-26 year-old students with intellectual disabilities**

Length and Payment

- Person-centered curriculum
- Four Semesters: Fall (enrollment) and Spring during two years
- Audit Fees \$25 per hour
- 6 hours inclusive classes per semester
- Individual Class Fees \$10-varies

Housing

- On campus housing
- 2-person suites with RA Support. Cost \$2,625.00 per semester
- Meal Plan with housing selection. Cost \$1,595.00 per semester

Overview – The Horizons School

<https://horizonsschool.org>

Eligible Students

- **Core Curriculum** – 18-26 year olds with learning and other disabilities
- **Graduate / Transition** – young adults who completed the Core Curriculum and move to independent living
- **Contracting Services** – adults who have learning disabilities, reside in the community and require individual support

Length and Payment

- **Core Curriculum** – 6 trimesters during 2 years, \$28,300 annual tuition plus living
- **Graduate / Transition** – 3 trimesters during 1 year, \$16,300 tuition
- **Contracting** – fee for services, billed at hourly rate
- **Dual enrollment option to earn college credits at JSCC** – additional tuition
- **Scholarship** support available

Housing

- **Core Curriculum** students live nearby in community apartments with roommate and RA support
- **Graduate / Transition** students live in self-selected community housing with site visits
- Residential support is a contracting option

Overview – Bulldog LIFE, AAMU

Eligible Students

- Students ages 18-29 with intellectual disabilities
- Aim is to continue education beyond high school to increase employment opportunities

Length and Payment

- 60-hour certificate program administered by AAMU Rehabilitation Counseling Program
- Features person-centered planning model and a Systems Approach to Placement

Housing

- Students live in the community with their families

Overcoming Challenges of Post-Secondary Education for Transition

► Challenges

- Misperception that students with intellectual disability cannot complete PSE
- Limited state and federal support for tuition and living expenses
- Student behavioral issues
- Lack of public awareness about available programs
- Limited Preparation for College

► Lessons Learned

- Life Changing Opportunities
- Positive Outcomes
- New Element of Diversity on College Campuses

Accessing PSE Programs Enabling Transition

▶ The Student's Role

- ▶ Ask counselor and special education staff to help identify potential programs while in high school
- ▶ Access program websites, call recruiters and key staff
- ▶ Schedule campus visits and tours (College Prep Summit)
- ▶ Present your interests and abilities
- ▶ Work with parents to plan finances

▶ Roles of the Family and Caseworker

- ▶ Guide student to identify needs and interests
- ▶ Encourage student to aim high, follow dreams
- ▶ Review websites, printed information found by the student
- ▶ Participate in campus visits and tours
- ▶ Collaborate to identify resources to meet costs

Let us hear from you!

▶ Contact Information

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