



## The Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network: Building Awareness and Capacity for Higher Education and Employment for People with Intellectual Disability

### OUR MISSION.

The [Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network](#) was funded in 2021 as a Postsecondary Program for Students with Intellectual Disability: National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center by the Office of Postsecondary Education, US Department of Education and is one of the three programs funded under the federal TPSID Initiative. The mission of this center is to build awareness and capacity for increased access to higher education and employment for students with intellectual disability. This center supports inclusive higher education programs across the country, extending the knowledge learned from



the Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability (TPSID) model demonstration projects and applying it more widely. The Inclusive Higher Education Network works with strategic partners to broaden our capacity to achieve project goals. Partners include the Association on Higher Education and Disability, Association of University Centers on Disability, Great Lakes Inclusive Higher Education Alliance, Midwest Inclusive Postsecondary Education Alliance, National Training Center for Transformational Rehabilitation Leadership, Syracuse University's Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education, Virginia Commonwealth University's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center, and Westchester Institute for Human Development.

### BUILDING AWARENESS.

The center is implementing a robust public awareness campaign that shares the impact and importance of higher education for students with intellectual disability. The campaign—**Think Higher, Think College**—encourages students, families, educators, and higher education professionals to learn more about the promising outcomes of inclusive higher education.

### TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE.

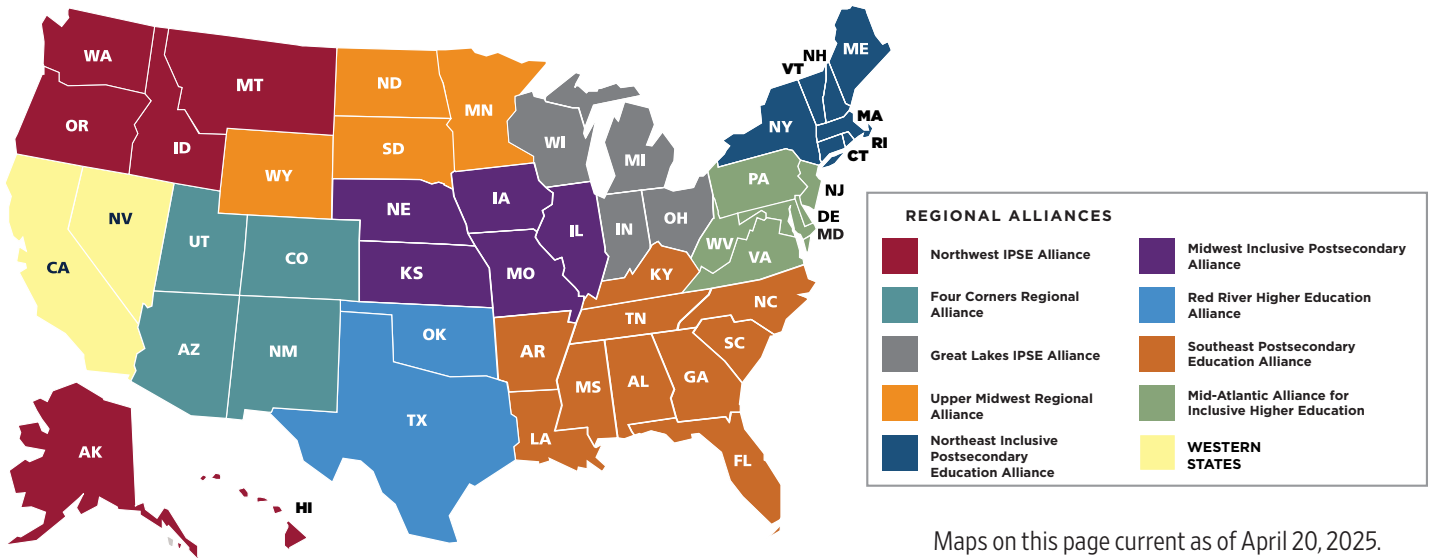
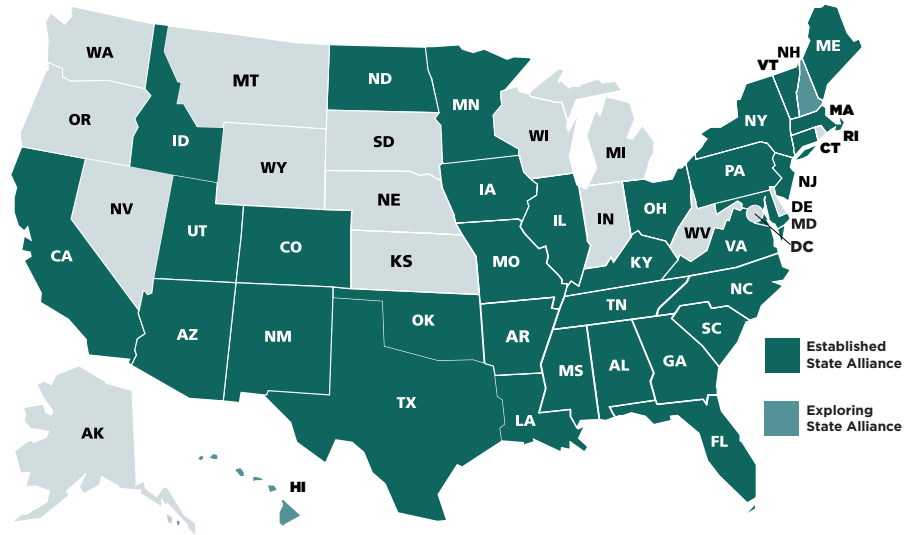
The center supports faculty, program staff, and others to improve the quality and outcomes of inclusive higher education programs by reviewing and synthesizing research findings, and translating them into accessible tools, resources, and strategies.

### CREATING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS.

The center currently has a workgroup focusing on the development and dissemination of information to promote collaboration between inclusive postsecondary education and vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies across the country. The workgroup develops and disseminates resources to strengthen VR's knowledge of the importance of college access to improve employment outcomes for students with intellectual disability.

# INCREASING REGIONAL CAPACITY.

The center has built a network of state and regional alliances, creating locally responsive partnerships to better support higher education programs for students with intellectual disability. By offering guidance and training to alliances as emerging leaders in the field, we increase their capacity to work together to address systems change issues and build stronger, more sustainable inclusive higher education options.



Maps on this page current as of April 20, 2025.



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This is a publication of the Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network at the Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts Boston, funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education (Grant No. P407C210001). The opinions contained in this document are those of the grantee and do not necessarily reflect those of the funders.



### Recommended citation

Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network (2025). Think College Inclusive Higher Education Network: Building awareness and capacity for higher education and employment for people with intellectual disability. Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts Boston.