



Collaborative Practices between Vocational Rehabilitation and Higher Education: A National and State Perspective

Sean Roy, TransCen Inc
 Meg Grigal, Think College ICI/UMASS
 Russ Thelin, ICI/UMASS

 **NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER**

RRTC on VR Practices and Youth

Addressing the gaps between knowledge and practice to improve VR practices and employment outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities.

<http://vrpracticesandyouth.org>



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston.

The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



VR and Inclusive Higher Education

VR has long been seen as a highly desired partner for inclusive higher education programs.

- Strengthen purpose in the eyes of federal funders (easier to get behind if employment is outcome)
- Created needed link to employment services and outcomes (IHE needs VR)
- Funding
- VR is becoming gatekeeper for all employment services for youth exiting high school



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



Context of partnerships and services

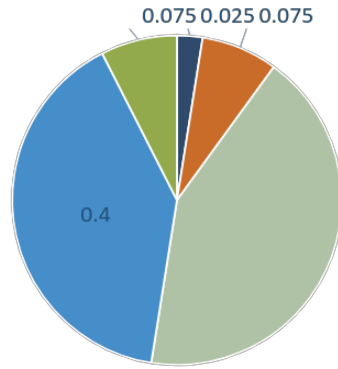
- New IHE programs developed under HEOA
- New VR guidance developed under WIOA
- Existing long term partnerships
- Newly developed outreach efforts from IHEs to VR
- Uncertainty related to the nature and structure of PreETS and newly established credential requirements



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



High level of partnership and frequent interaction between VR Agencies and TPSIDs



77% (40/52) of the TPSIDs partnered with VR

■ Annually ■ Biannually ■ Quarterly ■ Monthly ■ Weekly



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



What is different in the programs that partnered with VR?

- Younger students
- More dually enrolled students
- More racially diversity

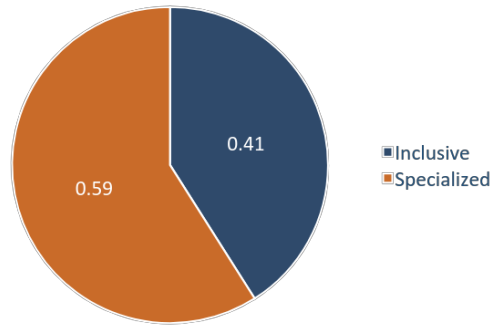


The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



Inclusive Course Access Based on VR Partnership Status

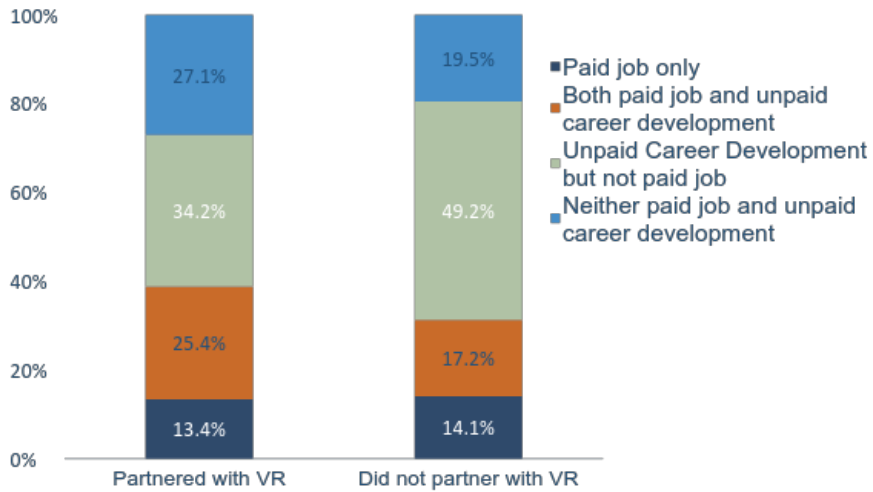
Partnered with VR



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.

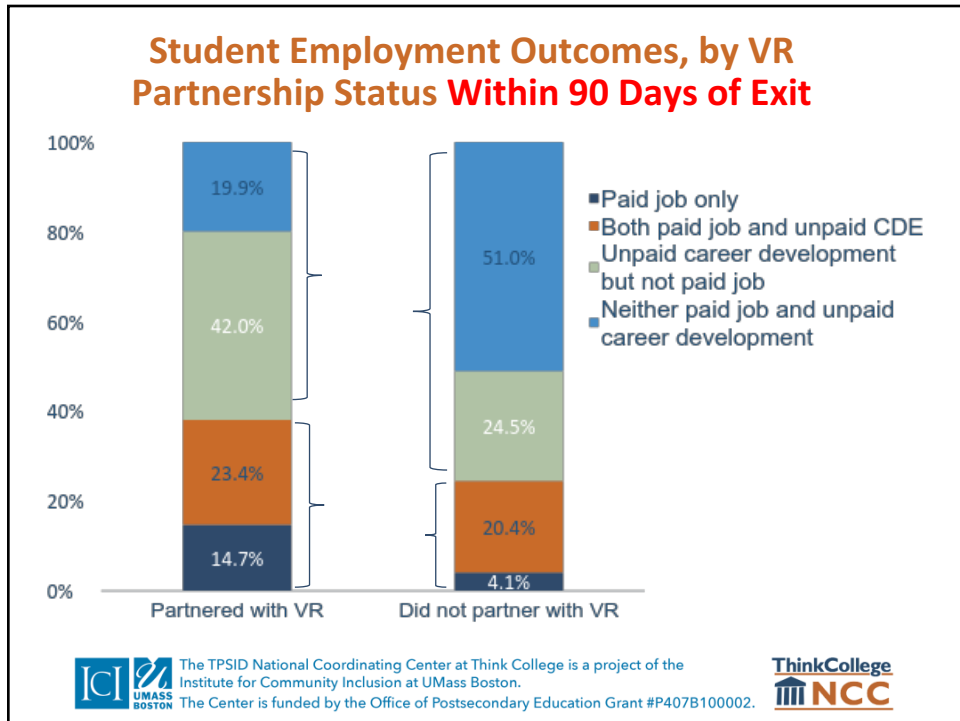


Student Career Development and Employment, by VR Partnership Status While Enrolled



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.





Primary Findings Summary

- Partnership status significantly affected the use of VR funds to pay for tuition and non-tuition expenses for enrolled youth
- Programs that partnered with VR were more likely to have students enrolled in segregated classes
- Partnership status affected career development and employment at exit and type of credential attained
- Consider factors that affect the partnership, currently and long-term

The BIG Picture

- Multiple systems are in play when supporting a student with ID to access higher education, each requires its own language.
- VR personnel may have assumptions about students abilities and potential for both college and work
- VR personnel have factors that affect how they work with students it is important are considered and understood.
- Messaging on purpose and outcomes of higher education and VR is a necessarily repetitive process
- Real collaboration takes time, energy, joint effort, and sometimes has rocky parts.



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



Things that matter....

Knowledge of inclusive higher education goals/outcomes

- State Regional Knowledge and understanding of goals of IHE relative to VR
- Knowledge of VR mission, purpose and legal/regulatory expectations relative to IHE
- Overlap of the IHE and VR programs where partnership opportunities exist and made sense
- Internal knowledge of a designated person
- Importance of working as a team toward a common vision/goal.
- Room for improvement re: collaboration across all systems (VR, IDD/Medicaid, school systems, workforce system)



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



Things that matter

Communication

- Established schedules and structures for communicating
- Identifying mutually beneficial sustainability goals for the partnership
- Knowing what to do when there is a problem
- Understanding each other's paperwork requirements. Sometimes this means setting up something new and sometimes building on existing contracts & means of communication



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



The VR Affinity Group



An online community related to the partnership between VR agencies and IHE's. Get new ideas for programs, exchange tips, develop intra-/inter-state partnerships, and form connections.

For more information contact Russ Thelin at:
russell.thelin@umb.edu



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



Continue the Conversation...



ON



thinkcollege.slack.com



The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



Want to learn more?

www.thinkcollege.net



*Need Advice?
Think College
can help...*

thinkcollegeTA@gmail.com



thank you!

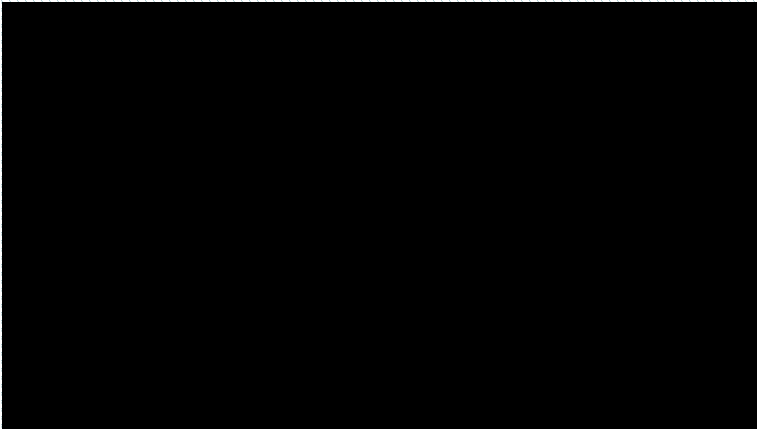


The TPSID National Coordinating Center at Think College is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Center is funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education Grant #P407B100002.



**THE ACADEMY FOR
INCLUSIVE LEARNING AND
SOCIAL GROWTH
&
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION AGENCY**

From a student's perspective <https://youtu.be/JNBFLxYouWI>



Admissions Process

- Online application opens
Aug 1-Oct 31
- Applicants are recommended to attend
The Open House
- Review Committee reviews
all applications
- Eligible applicants are invited to attend college
day
- Applicants are interviewed
if more information is required
- Applicants receive a letter
of acceptance in the
beginning of January



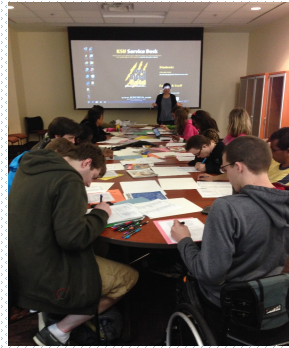
Requirements

- Motivation and willingness to complete assignments with limited support
- Ability to function independently (due to limited support)
- No severe emotional or behavioral concerns
- 3rd grade reading level
- Technical knowledge (use of computer/cell phone)



Academics

- Academy students are audit/non degree-seeking students
- Enrolled in two inclusive KSU courses and three Academy classes (Life Skills, Global, Career)
- Internships based on interest
- Mentor support with classes, study sessions, internships, and social events



Examples of Inclusive Courses

- Intro to Sociology
- Intro to Psychology
- Intro to Criminal Justice
- Culinary
- Sports Management
- Exercise Science
- Education
- And hundreds of other options



Second Year Sample Week Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00	Internship 9:00-12:00		Global		Career
9:30			9:00-10:00		9:00-10:00 HS 1002
10:00			HS 1105	Guys Group	
10:30				10:00-10:30	
11:00					Life Skills II
11:30			Internship		11:00-12:00
12:00		Starbucks		HS 1101	
12:30		11:00-2:00			
1:00	CSH 4690/03 Study Session		CSH 4630 Study Session		
1:30	1:00-2:00		1:00-2:00		
2:00	CSH 4690/03		CSH 4630/04	Internship 2:00-6:00	
2:30	2:00-4:45		2:00-4:45		
3:00	Stuart Slutsky		Jonathan C Brown		
3:30	HS 4003		HH 104		
4:00					
4:30					
5:00					
5:30					
6:00					
6:30					





Transition Services

- Kennesaw State University is a Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP)
- Transition meetings begin in the fall for 2nd and 4th years students
- Team meets with student/parent/support team to discuss options and decide on a plan



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency



Collaboration: Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Kennesaw State University's Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth

451.0.00 Certified Comprehensive Transition Programs

451.1.01 The VR Program may authorize and assist with Certified Comprehensive Transition Programs for a qualified individual provided at institutions of higher learning. These programs shall be required to meet the individual's needs in order to obtain competitive, integrated employment.

451.1.02 The VR Program may assist with tuition, required fees, books/supplies and, as appropriate, maintenance (housing and meals) only at an approved institution classified as a Certified Comprehensive Transition Program.

451.1.03 The client must apply for, and present proof of, a completed application for any available comparable benefits, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). These comparable benefits must be utilized prior to the authorization of any VR Program funds. The client must provide a copy of his/her Student Aid Report (SAR), an award letter and a copy of their student account detail report before the VR Program shall authorize payment.



It is not just financial support!!!



Great services provided by GVRA

- AWT (Assistive Work Technology) evaluation referrals
- CVE (Comprehensive Vocational Evaluations) / LVE (Limited Vocational Evaluations) referrals
- CWAT – Community Work Adjustment Training (Approves and supports funding of student to get paid while attending internship site(s) & review monthly reports)
- PSAT (Personal Social Adjustment Training)
- JRT (Job Readiness Training)
- JS (Job Search)
- JP (Job Placement)
- JFU (Job Follow-Up)
- Dedicated VR Counselor and Transition Teachers
- Driving test assistance
- Plus more!!!

Three KSU students are attending the Leadership conference. Please feel free to ask questions ask questions.

