National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability

NCWD For Youth

Navigating the Road to Work

Preparing Students to Succeed in Two & Four-Year Colleges and Universities

National Collaborative on Workforce & Disability for Youth

www.ncwd-youth.info

Who We Are

The Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)'s Center for Workforce Development houses two national TA centers:

National Collaborative on Workforce & Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth)
funded by U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy
www.ncwd-youth.info

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Technical Assistance Center for Youth (Y-TAC)
funded by U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration,
www.y-tac.org *(coming soon)*

Competencies for College & Career Success

Personal Competencies for College & Career Success: What Colleges Can Do, http://www.ncwd-youth.info/publications/personal-competencies-for-college-career-success-what-colleges-can-do/

- Self-awareness
- Self-advocacy skills
- Self-management Skills
- Communication skills
- Decision-making skills
- Goal-setting & planning skills
- Problem Solving Skills
- Leadership skills
- Ability to seek out and use assistance
- Ability to develop supportive relationships
- Confidence in one's abilities
- Perseverance
- Knowledge about disability rights & responsibilities
- Ability to determine whether, when, how to disclose one's disability in different situations
- Ability to find, request, & secure supports & accommodations in academic & work environments

Actions Students Can Take to Be Successful in College

Making My Way Through College: A Guide for Students with Disabilities, http://www.ncwd-youth.info/publications/making-my-way-through-college/

- Practice advocating for oneself & making disclosure decisions
- Learn about disability related rights & responsibilities
- Learn to organize one's own schedule and manage oneself (e.g. manage time, work load, and other responsibilities)
- Get to know professors, peers, and other college staff - Find support, get involved, and stay connected to family & friends
- Find and utilize student support services - Disability Services, Career Services, Tutoring/Academic Center, Health/Mental Health, library, computer lab
- Learn to navigate the campus/learning environment and obtain accessible housing and transportation as needed

Actions Students Can Take to Be Successful in College

- Learn to take care of one's health & well-being
- Create own career goals & individualized career and academic plan to achieve them
- Develop financial literacy/management skills (budgeting, bank accounts, student aid, loans, credit cards)
- Obtain benefits planning counseling to learn how earning income may affect benefits, consider using work incentives)
- Engage in career assessment, exploration, & preparation early
- Seek out networking & work experiences (volunteer or paid; internships, co-ops, job shadowing, informational interviews)
- Prepare early for the job search – resume and cover letter writing, practice interviewing, attend career fairs, ask everyone for job leads

Pathways to Careers (PTC) Demonstration Project

- Federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy:
  - Pellissippi State Community College, Knoxville, TN
  - Onondaga Community College, Syracuse, NY
- Aims to increase the capacity of community colleges and other eligible institutions to provide inclusive, integrated education and career development, and training services to youth and young adults with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities.

Community Colleges Partnering with High Schools

College staff partner with high schools to:

- conduct college preparation & career exploration workshops
- speak at info sessions for students & families at high schools and other community events
- provide information and training resources to school staff that they can share with students & families

Scholars Program at Onondaga Community College

For high school seniors with disabilities who are on track to graduate from high school:

- College admission process - application, financial aid, advising
- Support services available at college - College learning strategies
- Self & career exploration
- Interviewing and job search skills
- Goal setting for the future
- Discovering yourself as a leader
- Leading your transition planning
- Understanding how to apply your strengths and abilities

Supports & Opportunities During Community College

- Academic coaching
- Access to individualized academic support (e.g. tutoring)
- Guidance on self-advocating in their classes
- Access to assistive technology & training on how to use it
- Connection to work-based learning experiences
- Career coaching
- Develop individualized career plan
- Utilize career services office
- Social & academic workshops
- Leadership & support through peer mentoring

What Families Can Do to Support Students in College

- Shift role from advocate to coach (No longer doing for; sometimes doing with, often providing input & support)
- Communicate that the family is expecting greater autonomy and responsibility
- Encourage student to practice self-determination:
  - Communicate their own needs and preferences
  - Make own decisions
- Build students' knowledge of resources including people and services at the college and in local community
- View "fabulous failures" as critical to growth
- Find parent peer support for your transition (coping with fears, worries, uncertainty)

Getting Connected to Various Services

Supporting Student Success through Connecting Activities: An Info Brief Series for Community Colleges

http://www.ncwd-youth.info/publications/supporting-student-success-through-connecting-activities-an-info-brief-series-for-community-colleges/

- Physical Health Services
- Mental Health Services
- Housing & Transportation
- Academic Skills Training & Assistance
- Financial Assistance, Planning & Management
- Connections with Adult & Community-Based Services & Opportunities

College & Career Readiness Resources

- **Making My Way Through College,** http://www.ncwd-youth.info/publications/making-my-way-through-college/
- **Supporting Families of Students with Disabilities in Postsecondary Education,** http://www.ncwd-youth.info/publications/supporting-families-of-students-with-disabilities-in-postsecondary-education/
- **Personal Competencies for College & Career Success,** http://www.ncwd-youth.info/publications/personal-competencies-for-college-career-success-what-colleges-can-do/

College & Career Readiness Resources

- **Promoting Individualized Learning Plans Throughout the Lifespan: How-to Guide 2.0:** http://www.ncwd-youth.info/publications/promoting-quality-individualized-learning-plans-throughout-the-lifespan-a-revised-and-updated-ilp-how-to-guide-2-0/

- **ODEP's Skills to Pay the Bills**: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success curriculum

- **Guideposts for Success:** http://www.ncwd-youth.info/solutions/guideposts-for-success/

Contact Information

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