WCU SGA Senate Resolution 0001

**Presented on the Senate Floor on**: 17 September 2012

**Authored by**: Hermance, Ryan

**Co-Authored by:** Daniel Riddell

**An SGA Senate Resolution in Support of**:

The WCU University Participant (UP) Program Students to be invited to participate in graduation ceremonies with their peers.

**Background**:

The WCU UP Program provides an inclusive, two-year, on-campus living and learning experience for college-aged persons with intellectual disabilities. All UP Students must meet strenuous admissions criteria to be admitted into the program as well as WCU. The goal of the program is to facilitate transition of participants from secondary school to adult life with education, employment and independent living.

[UPparticipants](http://www.wcu.edu/29299.asp) live in on-campus dormitories distributed throughout university residence halls under the same university policies that apply to all WCU students. On-campus life is fully integrated and inclusive. There are no separate facilities, settings or classes for UP participants.

UP Participants will receive a UP Certificate of Accomplishment. This certificate is awarded after a two-year period based on satisfactory completion of 1,800 hours (450 per semester) of learning activities in the five program components. These components include:

* Personal development skills
* Community participation skills
* Vocational preparation skills
* Social participation and learning
* Course auditing

UP Participants must also achieve at least 80 percent of their Individualized Plan for College Participation objectives, complete semester-long, on-campus employment internships, and be recommended by the UP Program Steering Committee for the certificate. (The previous three paragraphs were taken from the WCU UP Program Website)

The UP program provides a terminal certificate; this is the pinnacle of education for participants.

There are a maximum of eight Participants in the UP program. There can only be a maximum of four Participants graduating at one time.

The Administration of Western Carolina University does not allow the UP students, upon completion of the program, to walk across the stage at graduation.

**Therefore Be It Resolved That**:

The SGA of Western Carolina University is in support of changing University Policy to allow the students of the University Participant Program henceforth to be allowed to participate in commencement ceremonies with their peers upon their completion of the program.

In Favor:\_\_17\_\_\_\_\_

Opposed:\_\_\_0\_\_\_\_

Abstentions:\_\_\_0\_\_\_\_

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Ryan Hermance Date

SGA Vice President

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SGA President