Postsecondary education is a most important key to shaping a new reality for people with disabilities. It has the exciting potential to create a future based not on low expectations, the can'ts and shouldn'ts, but on the high expectations of productivity and personal and economic freedom.

http://www.thinkcollege.net/training/video-resources

Barriers Reported on Understanding Postsecondary Education Options for Individuals with IDD
Barriers with Transition Planning

- Insufficient or ineffective transition planning and implementation
- Gaps in student preparedness
- Inadequate supports and missed opportunities to participate
- Systematic low expectations held for students with ID
- Lack of awareness among transition personnel of available PSE options
- Exclusionary social perceptions and conventions

(Griffin, McMillan, & Hodapp, 2010; Grigal, Hart, & Migliore, 2011; Stockton & Wheeler, 2004)

Barriers Reported from Families

- Lack of general information or guidance of options
- School and other staff expectations and attitudes about PSE options
- Financial constraints
- Staff from different places giving different advice
- Inadequate transition planning
- Different services did not work well together
- Long waiting lists for services
- Written and online materials difficult to understand

(Griffin, McMillan, & Hodapp, 2010)

SO WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS?
Mission to expand the options for postsecondary education for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout North Carolina

http://www.cidd.unc.edu/psea/
What is the UP Program?

- The University Participant (UP) Program is a two year, inclusive transition program for college-aged individuals with intellectual disability.
- Supports up to 8 selected participants per year; 4 in each graduating cohort during the spring semester.
- Funded as a model demonstration site in 2010 by U.S. Department of Education. Serves as a model program for the state by providing support to satellite programs in NC and technical assistance to programs across the nation.

Five Program Components

UP Certificate Requirements

UP Certificate of Accomplishment

- 1800 hrs in 4 semesters
- 80% of objectives in IPCP
- Recommendation based on satisfactory progress

*Individual Plan for College Participation (IPCP)
What do UP Students do at WCU?

• Live in campus residence halls and experience college life with same age peers
• Have an individual plan that would allow personal development for post-UP success
• Attend and audit a limited number of classes
• Participate in social events and activities

UP ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Between the ages of 18 and 25 at the time of admission
Diagnosed with an intellectual disability based on psychological assessment AND Individualized Education Program (IEP). Completing high school with OCS training or certificate of attendance
Demonstrates adequate communication skills and socially acceptable behavior to interact with others on the WCU campus
Motivated to learn and benefit from participation in the UP Program
Expressed interest in living and working as independently in the community after completing the UP program and supported by parents and families to do so
# College Application Materials

- A résumé
- Three letters of recommendation
- Most current psychological assessment/IEP
- Signed copy of UP statement of agreement
- Applicant video (less than 5 min)
- Family Personal Support Inventory
- Undergraduate application ($55 fee)
- Optional items: completed portfolios, other honors, and/or other commendations

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# Helpful Items: Schools & Families

- Recent psychological assessments
- Specific goals related to PSE and employment
- More applicants completing applications and videos with expression and less "programming"
- Increased self-advocacy/awareness
- Employer evaluations for job shadowing or previous internship hours completed
- Specific feedback on family involvement and overall student support needs for college success
- Career assessments or interest inventories

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# UP Admissions Steering Committee

- UP Program Director/Consultant/Coordinator
- Director of Undergraduate Admissions
- Representative from Educational Outreach
- Director of Residential Living
- Director of Disability Services
- Dean of the College of Education and Allied Professions
- A member of the Counseling Department
- UP Graduate and UP Family Member
- WCU Director of Financial Aid
Important Dates to Remember

- **11/22/14**: Open House with WCU & UP staff
- **12/1/14**: Deadline to apply for Fall 2015
- **February**: UP Admissions Steering Committee review and selection of applicants
- **Summer**: UP Camp Orientation
- **Late August**: Move in for new UP cohort

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