What’s Next? Finding the Right Program

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AGENDA

- Introductions
- Overview of Programs
- The Application Process (Timeline & Requirements)
- Getting Started
- Financing your education
- Transitioning to college life
- What we’re looking for & tips for getting through the process
- Contact Information
OUR PROGRAMS

INTEGRATED STUDIES @ MILLERSVILLE
● Located in Millersville, PA
● Fully inclusive residential with 2 & 4 year program
● Focuses 4 areas:
  ○ Academics: 4 classes per semester
  ○ Career Exploration: jobs, internships & AHEDD
  ○ Social: building relationships
  ○ Independent Living: residence halls
● Currently 15 students
● Tuition: 12 credits per sem. & room & board

THE REAL CERTIFICATE @ ARCADIA
● Located in Glenside, PA (outside of Philly)
● Fully Individualized & Inclusive 2 year Program
● 3 Components
  ○ ACADEMIC- 1–3 classes each semester
  ○ VOCATIONAL- range of work experiences
  ○ SOCIAL- peer mentors, clubs, events, etc.
● Approximately 5 students begin each year
● All students currently commute
● Tuition $6500 per semester
Programs in Pennsylvania

- Academy for Adult Learning, *Temple University*
- Bearcat BEST, *St. Vincent College*
- Career Studies, *Penn State Harrisburg*
- CILLS, *East Stroudsburg University of PA*
- Kinney Center ASPIRE, *St. Joseph’s University*
- LifeLink PSU, *Penn State University*
- OASIS, *Mercyhurst University North East Campus*
- SEED, *Lehigh Carbon Community College*
- Rock Life Program, *Slippery Rock University of PA*

http://www.thinkcollege.net
SAMPLE APPLICATION PROCESS/TIMELINE TO BE ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2018

- ACADEMIC YEAR 2016–2017– Visit Schools
- SUMMER 2017– Continue to visit schools & REQUEST application
- FALL 2017– Complete Application
  - Short Answer and Essay Questions
  - Recommendations
  - IEP/ Evaluations
- WINTER 2018– Attend Interview
- SPRING 2018– Receive Admissions Notification
- SPRING 2018– Submit Financial Aid Forms
- SPRING 2018– Attend Person Centered Planning Meeting
- AUGUST 2018– Attend Orientation & START COLLEGE
SAMPLE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Student Information (Educational Background, Employment History, etc.)
- Medical Information & History Form
- Release/ Exchange of Information Form
- Transcript
- Three Letters of Recommendation
- Personal Support Inventory (Parent/ Guardian)
- Student Questionnaire
- Most recent IEP and ISP
- Personal Statement
- Resume
Getting Started...

- It’s personal (consider YOUR interests and goals)
- Research available programs & review ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS***
  - Talk with friends, parents and/or guardians
  - Contact Programs
  - Ask your Guidance Counselor or Transition Support Staff
  - Attend Open Houses, Tours, etc.

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Common Eligibility Requirement***

For interested and motivated students with intellectual disabilities who are:

- Between the ages of 18–26.
- In their final years of high school or who have completed secondary education.
- Not able to access college by meeting typical entrance requirements.
- Able to learn to navigate the college environment.
- Able to be unsupervised for a minimum of one hour.
- Able to arrange transportation to and from campus.
- Be able to live in student housing with limited support.
- Have basic safety skills in unsupervised settings.
Considerations when choosing a college program...

- Your short term & long term goals
- Sense of belonging
- School location & environment
- Classes available
- Clubs and activities
- Housing
- Resources available
- Guidance transitioning after graduation
- Finances!!!
Financing your Education

- Federal Financial Aid (must have an intellectual disability, complete FAFSA and qualify based on family income)
  - Pell Grants
  - Federal Work-Study Program
- Consolidated or Person/Family Directed (P/FDS) Waiver
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)
- Scholarships (Autism Speaks, Ruby’s Rainbow, etc.)
- IDEA
- Self-Pay (payment plans, college savings plans)
Transitioning to college life...

● **DURING HIGH SCHOOL**
  ○ Select classes/ opportunities to practice writing
  ○ Practice self-advocating
  ○ Work on personal finance skill
  ○ Get a job or volunteer experience
  ○ Visit schools & include post-secondary options in IEP
  ○ Work on time management e.g., being on time

● **SUMMER BEFORE STARTING COLLEGE**
  ○ Figure out transportation options
  ○ Learn to do your laundry
  ○ Continue working or volunteering
  ○ Start planning classes, supplies needed and housing
  ○ Know key dates e.g., moving in day, breaks, registration
  ○ Share the experience with family and friends
Tips for getting through the process...

- Visit several campuses and speak to current students
- Share the experience with family and friends
- When you have questions, contact the university program (Don’t have your parents call or email)
- Ask your peers
- Prepare for your interview
- Consider financing options early in the process
- Apply to more than one program (Have a back-up plan)
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