



COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON

SECURING COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY BUY-IN



Edie Cusack, REACH Program
Founder and Executive Director

THE REACH PROGRAM

- The REACH Program at the College of Charleston is a four-year, fully-inclusive certificate program for students with mild intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The REACH Program promotes the advancement of knowledge and skill in the areas of academics, socialization, independent living, and career development
- How I started
- Assisting other universities

Layers of Approval and Support

- Administrative
 - Faculty
 - Staff
 - Students
 - Community
- 
- Know your audience:
 - Facts and data vs. social impact and moral compass

UNIVERSITY PRIORITIES

- Mission, Vision and Values:
 - Mission Statement: This community, founded on the principles of the liberal arts tradition, provides students the opportunity to realize their intellectual and personal potential and to become responsible, productive members of society.
- Core Purpose: To pursue and share knowledge through study, inquiry and creation in order to empower the individual and enrich society.
- Core Values: highest ethical standards, Commitment to a dynamic intellectual community, fosters each student's ability to think, Devotion to the intellectual, ethical and social development
- Accreditation goals

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BEFORE THEY ARE ASKED

- Liability
- Cost
- Time
- Reputation
- Purpose

WHO AND WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT

- For the purpose of these programs, the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) defines a student with an intellectual disability as a student with a cognitive impairment, characterized by significant limitations in intellectual and cognitive functioning and in adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills.
- Inclusion
- Special education lingo

WHY COLLEGE?

Students with intellectual disabilities who attend even one year of post-secondary education are twice as likely to be employed and earn 75% more than those who do not.

Access to college embraces the philosophy that all students continue to learn and develop if challenged and supported appropriately.

College enables a supported transition to independent living, career development, as well as social and academic support.



OUTCOMES

- 94% full time employment
- 78% independent living rate
- Involvement in community

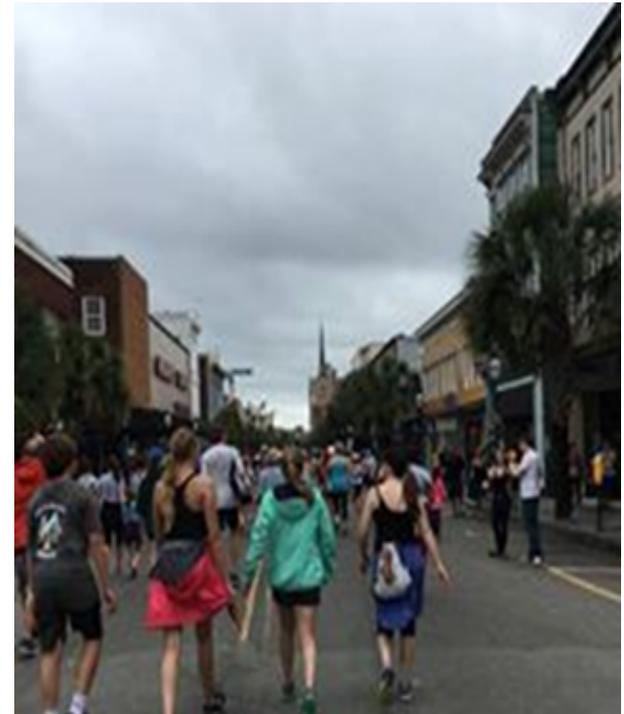


HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?

- Higher Education Opportunity Act
- Financial Aid Eligibility
- Model Demonstrations
- Coordinating Center:
ThinkCollege.net
- Research Findings

DEAL WITH FEAR AND DISCRIMINATION

- The unspoken reasons for resistance
- Gather allies
- Share information and develop relationships



TRAINING

- Who: Professors
 - Mentors
 - Tutors
 - Internship sites
- What information
- Watch your language

SUSTAINABLE PROCESS

- Student Affairs
 - Residence Life
 - Health Service
 - Counseling Center

- Academic Affairs
 - Academic Advising
 - Orientation

- Administrative
 - Financial Aid
 - Bursar
 - Registrar



Recognition of relationships

- End of the year awards
- Positive press
- Letter to superiors
- Certifications



QUESTIONS?

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