**Think College Public Policy Affinity Group (joint call with Think College Vocational Rehabilitation Affinity Group)**

**September 13, 2018; 2:00 – 3:00 Eastern**

**Notes**

1. Start Recording
2. Welcome, review of purpose, agenda
3. Review attachments (all are in the invitation to the meeting):
	1. [*Addressing the Policy Tangle*](https://bit.ly/2zso7Ao) policy paper
		* Lengthy policy paper laying out everything about IDEA and pre-ETS funding for inclusive post secondary programs
			+ Who is eligible?
			+ What Higher Ed Act and IDEA say, along with info. on IDEA funding
			+ What WIOA says about availability, eligibility, and pre-ETS funding for IPSE services
			+ Written as an advocacy piece and takes a position on how IPSE and services can be funded by pre-ETS and traditional VR – references to these statutes and regulations.
			+ Some states are incorrectly interpreting how IDEA Higher Ed Act and WIOA statutes and regulations work together; which is argued in the paper with references to back up the arguments.
			+ Digs into which regulations are clashing and how we work together to get them to a point of alignment.
	2. DeVos sign on letter from national groups sending policy paper to Department of Education
	3. Article in DD Director’s Newsletter on policy paper
	4. Articles in other disability publications (Ed Connection, Disability Scoop) on policy paper
	5. GA Power Point on Inclusive Postsecondary
		1. PowerPoint presented to legislature in Georgia that exemplifies how one group is using the documentation.
	6. These documents really intended to:
		1. Support the existing efforts that are taking place for VR and IPSE to work together to support the maximizing of opportunities for individuals with ID.
		2. Discussion point – place where people can start to talk
		3. All about working together. All about pulling all the groups of the states together so we understand what’s possible, how we can do it, and looking at certain state models on what to do.
	7. Feel free to reach out to Think College TA with any questions on the documents you’ve received thinkcollegeTA@gmail.com
4. VR Survey on Inclusive PSE
	1. Survey in the process of getting broadly distributed – will come to all programs (including nonTPSIDs) through Think College and Affinity Groups
	2. Please fill out once for your project.
	3. Even if you’re previously provided this information, please still take 5 minutes to complete it so we get a complete picture FROM YOU
	4. Trying to find out what is going on in all 50 states for VR services in IPSE.
5. Using materials in building your agency and legislative relationships/making the case:
	1. Example - Susanna Miller-Raines, GA – GAIPSEC Statewide Coordinator and SE PSE Alliance Director
		1. Received request from legislators to prepare a presentation for the House and Senate subcommittees on human resources appropriation. Group of individuals that appropriate money for IPSE. Currently in Georgia have $500,000 that goes into subawards for various IPSE programs across the state.
		2. Georgia State Legislature wants to know how we can better support pre-ETS.
		3. Used policy tangle paper to start discussions with DoE over dual enrollment programs. Getting ready to do some pilots in Georgia around IPSE programs, and policy tangle paper helped with language around dual enrollment.
		4. Crimmons testimony (see PP referenced above) – Used materials from Think College (eg. college map and statistics) as well as Georgia stats. Paid employment and exit stats from TPSIDs have been important to use.
		5. Working to figure out WIOA and meaningful credentials. Guidance around CTPs very helpful. CTP guidance shared with legislators.
		6. Think College fast facts, reports, and insight briefs shared with legislators.
		7. 13 programs by 2023. Able as consortium to pull numbers together to give statewide statistics. Been really helpful that legislature asked for this, because people respond faster to legislative requests.
		8. Used statedata.info
		9. Used TA support from Think College as well – Denise Rozell, Russ Thelin, others
		10. Russ: Susanna portrayed a really good picture of how coalition is working. Ebb and flow all the time, but partnerships strengthen endure as they go on.
	2. Other examples?
	3. How can YOU use the policy paper (or other materials)?
		1. Share with legislature and VR to help figure out how to get regulations that aren’t lining up to reach a point where they do.
6. Upcoming CSAVR Conference October 29-31 in Long Beach – sessions on IPSE – How can you leverage?
	1. Russ is going to present at the CSAVR conference with State Directors and Assistant State Director on how VR is working in their state and partnerships between IPSE, VR and other agencies. Joined by TN VR Director, CA TPSID, and Debra Hart from Think College.
	2. Send note to Russ if you’re having success with VR agency in your state and you’d like to have Russ share your information during his presentation.
	3. Leverage Russ’s attendance by sharing with your VR Director/contact beforehand and asking him/her to attend (or just make them aware of it), or sharing information from the session with your VR Director or contact after it is over as a way to raise visibility on IPSE and states that are supporting it (and building good relationships)
7. Other examples?
8. Other issues? Questions??
	1. AUCD conference coming up (<https://www.aucd.org/conference/>), there will be some sessions around this issue.
	2. Some new documents (<https://thinkcollege.net/resources>) on Think College website. Will get added to Public Policy Affinity Group page too (<https://thinkcollege.net/technical-assistance/affinity-groups/public-policy>).
	3. Dana Yarbrough - working with our State Council of Higher Education to make a presentation to our legislative Disability Commission on the 25th and are asking for state funds to support building capacity of colleges and universities in VA to start IPSE programming

thinkcollegeTA@gmail.com or drozell@aucd.org or Russell.Thelin@umb.edu

1. Wrap up, next steps and adjourn
	1. Russ: Be interested to know if group found this helpful.
		1. Lots of positive comments in chat
	2. Next VR affinity call is 11/7. First Wednesday of the month every third month at 2pm.
	3. To get signed up for VR affinity group, email Russ at russell.thelin@umb.edu or to sign up for the Public Policy Affinity Group email Denise at drozell@aucd.org
	4. Notes and recording will be on public policy affinity group and VR affinity group page.

**Questions/ Conversation Excerpts from Zoom Chat Box:**

Margo Izzo: When do you expect to receive a response from the DeVos letter? Do you have a sense of what the response may be?Ohio is sharing the information with the consortium partners who are coordinating IPSE and the Ohio Postsecondary Advisory Council. Would any of you volunteer to join the advisory council meeting via phone to answer questions?

Stephanie Smith Lee: While we have had a positive response from Assistant Secretary Collett and a verbal commitment to address the issues, it is uncertain when or if the issues will be addressed by the Department.It is important to let Members of Congress know that this issue is important to constituents. Members can encourage the Secretary to act. Sharing the DeVos letter and report with a request to encourage the Department to act is a good strategy.

Denise: Kim has been to visit VSU. Well aware of programs. Don’t know if will get from department level or not.

Russ Thelin: Sharing info. with consortium partners component – specifically asking for TA members or the group in general?

Denise: If Russ, or Stephanie, or me – all more than happy to do that.

Margo: I was asking for Denise or Russ to participateThanks All! I'll connect via email.

Russ: Inclusive higher ed programs are mentioned specifically in the rehab act.

Denise: Susanna – can you share the data that you’re keeping tabs on?

Tabs: Funding History, IPSE program tuition & fees, Individual program grants, Private pay tuition & fees, Pell grants, # of students in programs by year and program, New students per program per year w/ projections, TPSID budget per year, program growth by year