

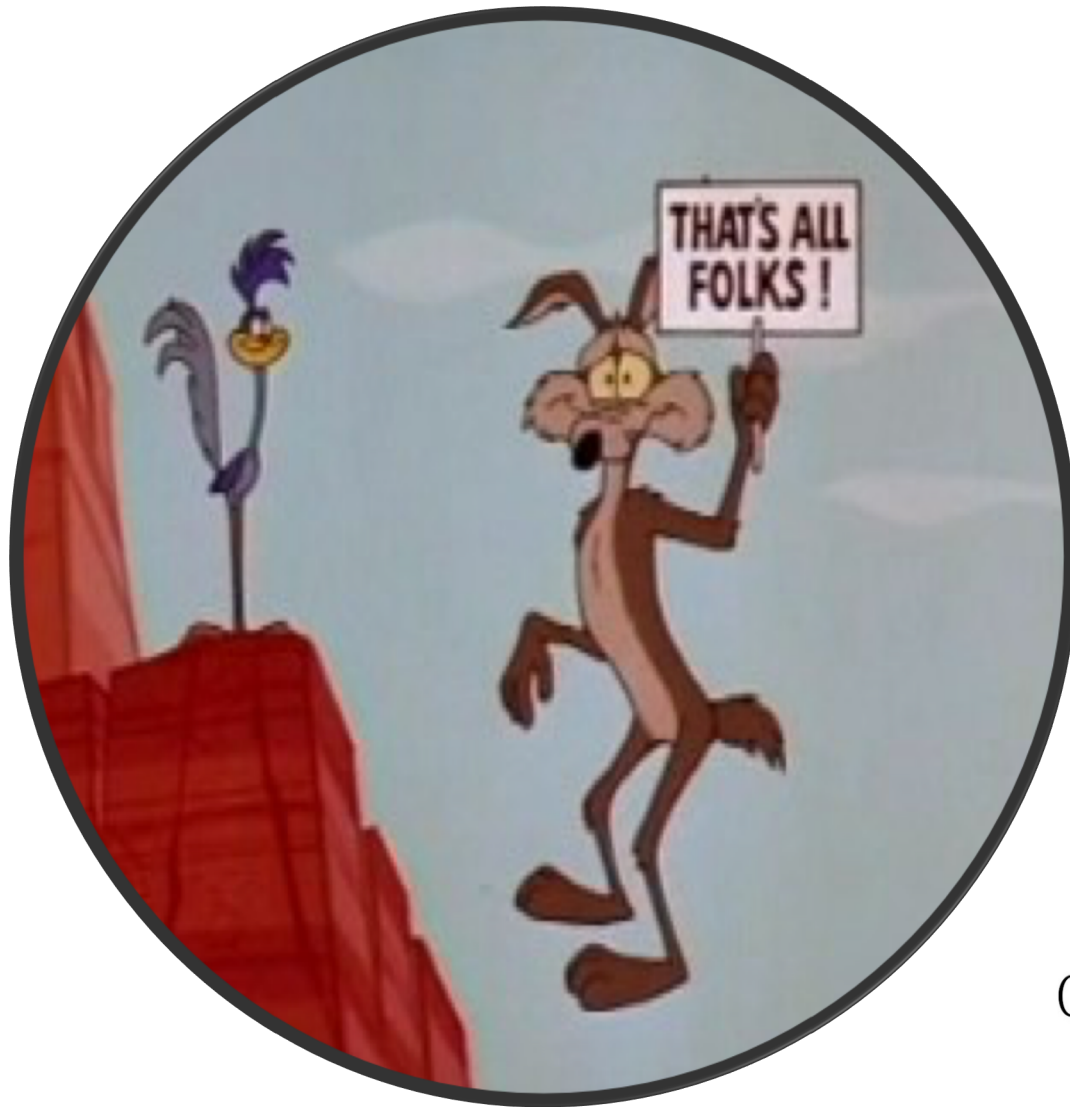
# Disability Services, Inclusive Higher Education, and Preparing for College



**Founded in 2014**

To create inclusive college opportunities in Colorado for students with intellectual disabilities to foster academic growth, social development and career advancement.

# Graduation...It's like falling off a cliff



# Inclusion in Higher Education

- 100% supported by the institution
- Students with disabilities are included in academic classes and social activities on college campuses with students without disabilities
  - In other words, students have full access to the school
- Students enjoy all the rights and responsibilities afforded any other student



# Impact of Higher Education

- Higher wage earnings
- Increased job diversity
- More social relationships
- Continued independent living
- And more!

# In This Presentation

- Disability Services
- Inclusive Higher Education
- Preparing for College

# Understanding Disability Services

# History of Disability Services

- Legislation
  - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
  - Americans with Disabilities Act
  - Not: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

# Differences from High School to College

- No Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Parent involvement is not a right
- Primarily focused on accommodations
  - Assistive technology
  - Extended time for assignments
  - Quiet testing environment
  - Note takers
- Not all requests are guaranteed
  - More leeway in what is “reasonable”

# Accessing Disability Services

- Student applies to college
- Student discloses disability to Disability Services
- Student provides documentation of disability (medical, mental health, intellectual, physical, etc.)
- Disability Services makes an eligibility ruling
- Disability Services and student discuss possible accommodations
- Student meets with professor to discuss accommodations
- Student continues to advocate for accommodations

# Unique Examples of Disability Service Programming

- Weekly one-on-one mentoring
- Residential accommodations committee
- Support in selecting internships to meet student needs
- Social group with other students with disabilities

# Inclusive Higher Education vs. Disability Services

- All schools offer disability services, not all offer inclusive services
- Questions to ask:
  - Would the student be accepted traditionally?
  - Does the student need support in various domains?
    - Social, career, academic, independence
  - Does the student need modifications?
    - Non-degree seeking



# Understanding Inclusive Higher Education

# Who is Inclusive Higher Education for?

- Students who:
  - Have intellectual disabilities
  - Have needs not traditionally met by disability services
  - Are not traditionally accepted to college
  - Have not previously been represented on college campuses

# Relevant Legislation

- 2008 Federal Higher Education Opportunity Act Reauthorization
  - Authorizes demonstration program for inclusive higher education
  - Establishes national coordinating center (Think College)
- Colorado Senate Bill 196: Inclusive Higher Education Act of 2016
  - Collaborative effort between IN!, The Arc of Colorado, JFK Partners, Senators Bill Cadman & John Cooke, Reps. Dave Young & Lois Landgraf



# Accessing Inclusive Higher Education

- Apply through inclusive office on campus
  - Application and interview (with student and parent)
- Requirements:
  - Have completed high school (no SAT / ACT required)
  - Have a documented intellectual disability
  - Be able to participate in class and campus activities with support
  - Desire to go to college
  - Express an interest to live and work as independently as possible

# Inclusive Higher Education in Colorado



***Advocacy, oversight, funding***



UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN  
COLORADO



**UCCS**

Inclusive Services

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
COLORADO SPRINGS



JFK Partners

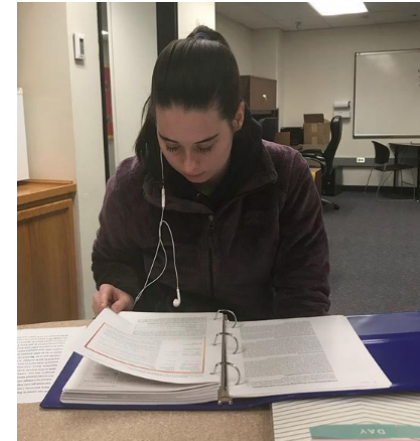
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

***Work with students***

***Evaluation***

# Overview

- Academics
  - 3 classes per semester
    - 1 class designed for students with intellectual disabilities
- Social
  - Peer mentors
  - Join campus activities



**College is more than coursework;  
it's a time to develop as an individual**

# Overview

- Career
  - Job coaching
  - Internships
- Completion
  - Earn a nationally recognized credential
  - Students leave college prepared for employment



# Housing Options

- Arapahoe Community College
  - No on-campus housing
- University of Northern Colorado
  - Dorm living
  - Support provided by resident assistant and residence life peer mentors
- University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
  - On campus apartments
  - Some students use the Supported Living Services waiver for outside support





# Financial Information

- Tuition and fees
- Program fee for inclusive services
- Room and board, if applicable
- Funding options
  - DVR
  - Scholarships
  - College funds/ABLE accounts
  - Financial aid coming

\*For more financial information, please contact each school directly

# Preparing for College

# Individualized Education Programs

- Include the student as the IEP leader to develop choice making and self-determination
- Educate IEP participants on the college options available
- Utilize Think College ([thinkcollege.net](http://thinkcollege.net)) resources for IEP goal development

# Inclusion as College Preparation



Early inclusion is an important component of transitioning students to inclusive communities when they finish k-12 schooling

# Preparing for Higher Education

- Encourage students to dream!
  - Many students with disabilities are never asked if they want to go to college
- Discuss the student's disability
- Prepare for independence
  - Self-advocacy, learning from failure, self-care, decision making



# Skills for Higher Education

- Work on:
  - Communication skills
  - Coordinating a schedule
  - Navigating and travel
  - Managing money transactions
  - Developing healthy habits
  - Safety and appropriate behavior

# Finding the Right College

All students need to think about factors such as the size of the college, its location, and whether or not to live on campus or at home.

- Considerations:
  - Is there a counselor at the high school that meets with other students to discuss college options?
  - Are there college visits or fairs in which students with disabilities are not included?

*Together we can redefine  
what is possible  
for students with disabilities!*



# Contact Us

\*For more information on inclusive higher education, check out ThinkCollege.net

**Website:** [inclusivehighered.org](http://inclusivehighered.org)

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Colorado Initiative *for*   
Inclusive Higher Education

# Partners

IN! is fortunate to have strategic partners who have the shared belief that individuals with ID should have the opportunity to pursue a college education that provides the potential for achieving a more fulfilling and independent life.

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