

1. Title - Ensuring the Success of Students with Disabilities in Postsecondary Education

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6. Abstract on following pages...

The Individual Accommodations Model (IAM): Accommodating Students with Disabilities in Postsecondary Settings

Objective

This presentation will give participants the opportunity to see the Individual Accommodations Model (IAM) at work and learn its research-based approach to increasing the success of students with disabilities in postsecondary education settings.

Background

The session will share the research conducted and materials developed during a four-year U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs funded model demonstration project, the Individual Accommodations Model (IAM). The model was developed in response to the question of how to increase the recruitment, retention and completion of students with disabilities in postsecondary education. Faculty, staff, administrators and students from fifteen community and technical colleges in California, Kansas and Minnesota were key partners in addressing this question and played a major role in development and field-testing. In addition, the project was a collaborative effort of staff and faculty from the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning, the Department of Occupational Therapy Education at the University of Kansas Medical Center and the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee's departments of Occupational Therapy and Special Education. All activities conducted in association with this project had one encompassing goal: To make

obtaining a postsecondary education more accessible for students with disabilities in order to ensure their success and completion.

Despite legislation mandating accessibility, students with disabilities remain under-represented and are less likely to complete degree requirements. To overcome this under-representation, the transition services as well as the support services students with disabilities receive in postsecondary settings need to be inviting, welcoming and inclusive. These issues, along with others, are addressed by the IAM.

IAM Components

Environments a student encounters while in the transition process as well as at the colleges, technical schools and universities he or she is considering attending must be as accessible and inclusive as possible. To accomplish this, the IAM is structured with materials directed to various audiences and in various formats (print, on-line, alternate format and CD-ROM). Certain materials are tailored for students with disabilities, instructors, disability support services staff, college administrators, transition coordinators, and parents of students with disabilities. These materials include the following:

- Five brochures for students covering: 1) *Self-advocacy*, 2) *Rights and Responsibilities*, 3) *Accommodations*, 4) *Grievance Procedures*, and 5) *Disability Definitions*.
- *Student Assessment of Instructional Preferences*
- *Student Activity Accessibility Checklist*

- *A Parent's Guide to College*
- The Three-part Instructor Series: 1) *Facts on the ADA, Accommodations and Disability*, 2) *Accommodating Students with Disabilities in the Classroom*, and 3) *Accommodating for Disabilities Outside the Classroom*
- *Instructor Assessment of Instructional Preferences*
- *Assessment of Classroom Environment*
- *Campus Access Report Card*
- *Ensuring Appropriate Accommodations for Students with Disabilities*
- *Web Resources for Assisting College Students with Disabilities*
- *Staff Development Modules (CD-ROM)*, 1) *Creating an Inviting, Welcoming and Inclusive Environment*, 2) *Helping Everyone Feel Included*, 3) *Self-Advocacy*, 4) *Disclosure and Confidentiality*, and 5) *Accommodations*.

All of the above materials (with the exception of the CD-ROMs) are available to download free of charge at the project web site, <http://das.kucrl.org/iam.html>. Print materials are also available in alternate formats.

Presentation Content

The presentation of the Individual Accommodations Model (IAM) will provide participants with copies of the materials listed above as well as best practices for utilization. Primary focus will be on the five Staff Development Modules. The modules

contain an agenda, script, PowerPoint presentation utilizing open-captioned video segments, handouts, activities and evaluation materials. Through the presentation of each module participants will be prepared to adopt the IAM and conduct staff development activities at their own institutions. The presenter and Project Coordinator will also provide technical assistance following the conference to ensure high fidelity of implementation during the adoption process. In addition, major research findings as well as how and where the IAM is currently being utilized will be discussed.