A community that excludes even one member is no community at all.
DIVERSITY

Gender
Racial
Cultural
Ethnic
Physical ability
Socio-economic
Sexual orientation

Intellectual Diversity?
Graduation . . . . It’s like fall off a cliff.
By 2020, it is estimated that 70% of new job created in Colorado will require some post-secondary education.
85% of families are not satisfied or are only partially satisfied with options after high school

Almost 75% are very interested or extremely interested in attending college

80% prefer an in-state option
Vision

**Inclusive** access to higher education for students with intellectual disabilities will be part of the fabric of all Colorado colleges and universities, enabling students to become active, independent and contributing members of our community.
Inclusion . . . . .

It’s not a program. It’s a belief system.
It’s Life.
Inclusive College

- 100% Supported by the Hierarchy of the institution
- Students enjoy all of the rights and responsibilities afforded typically matriculated students
- Normative Pathways
- Institution conferred credential
Barriers to College

- Perception of Student Ability
- Standardized Testing
- Adequate Supports
- Accommodation vs Modification
- Funding
- Perception of Institution
- Student Preparedness
Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008

• Recognized need to establish opportunities to pursue higher education for students with intellectual disabilities

• Awarded 27 TPSID grants to create model demonstration sites
  • 20 additional grants were awarded in 2015

• Established National Coordinating Center: Think College! at UMass – Boston

• Developed CTP Certification granted by DOE, enabling students to access federal financial aid
Today there are over 253 colleges and universities with paths to higher education in the USA including:

- George Mason
- Vanderbilt
- University of Cincinnati
- College of Charleston
- University of North Florida
- Utah State
- Cal State Fresno
- University of Georgia
- Western Kentucky
- University of South Carolina
- Ohio State
- Clemson
- UCLA

Colorado?
Students with intellectual disabilities who successfully complete a quality inclusive post-secondary education realize a competitive employment rate over **70%**, compared to less than **30%** for similar adults with no post-secondary education.
Collaborative

Bring all the key stakeholders and best minds together

Arapahoe Community College
Aims Community College
Autism Society
Bresnahan Halstead Institute
Community Link
Colorado Christian University
Colorado Department of Education
Colorado Department of Higher Education
Colorado State Legislature
Colorado Mesa University
Colorado Community College System
Denver Academy
Down Syndrome Association of Colorado Springs
Easter Seals
El Grupo Vida
Firefly Autism
Global Down Syndrome Association
PEAK Parent Center
JFK Partners
Rise School of Denver
Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association
Students and Parents
The Arcs of Colorado & 13 area chapters
Think College!
University of Northern Colorado
University of Colorado System

Colorado Initiative for Inclusive Higher Education
Colorado Inclusion Consortium

- University of Northern Colorado
- Arapahoe Community College
- University of Colorado – Colorado Springs
- Colorado Mesa University
- JFK Partners – University of Colorado Medical Center
- Colorado Initiative for Inclusive Higher Education
Senate Bill 196
Inclusive Higher Education Act 2016

Passed!

Senate President Bill Cadman
Representative Dave Young
Senator John Cooke
Representative Lois Landgraf

Advisor – Senator Kerry Donovan
SB 196
Inclusive Higher Education Act 2016

Funding: State $75k/year
IN! $25k/year

4 Year Pilot Project

Collaboration: IN! – JFK Partners – The Arc of Colorado
University Pilot Sites – UNC and UCCS
Community College Pilot Site – Arapahoe Community College
External Evaluation – JFK Partners
Four Pillars of a Quality Model

Inclusive College Education

Academics
- Integrated classes
- Accommodations/Modifications
- Credit/audit
- Full course catalog
- High standards

Independence
- Residential Living
- Life skills
- Safety Path to Independence
- Person Centered Planning
- Self Advocacy

Social
- Campus involvement
- Mentorships
- Leadership
- Volunteer/Give back
- Integrated Social skills

Career
- Paid job internships
- Peer job coaching
- Financial/budgeting
- Career planning
- On/Off campus

Collaboration

Normative

Evaluation

Sustainable
The College Path . . . . .

through the Eyes of one Student
Hannah

- 19 years old
- Graduated from Arapahoe High School
- 4 Year high school swim team member
- Competitive skier, cyclist, triathlete
- John Lynch Foundation Scholarship recipient
- Gave commencement speech at graduation
- Wants to attend college
- Can not meet ACT requirement
- Happens to have Down Syndrome

Dreams of becoming a wellness and Healthy Lifestyle Coach!
Determinants of Success:

- Desire and motivation of student
- Family support of student’s growth
- Goal setting and measurement
ACADEMICS:

- Not degree seeking
- Usually take 2 -3 classes per semester
- 4 year curriculum
- Active participatory audit/for credit
- Individualized course of study
- Portfolio & Institution conferred Credential
- Participate in commencement exercises
CAREER DEVELOPMENT:

- Freshman Year – On campus work study position
  *Focus on job stamina, work ethic, behavior, strengths, weaknesses*
  1st semester: Library  2nd semester: Admissions office

- Sophomore Year – On campus position
  *Start to focus on career area of interest*
  Position at the Athletic Center

- Junior Year – Off campus
  *Focus on relevant experience and networking*
  Internship at YMCA

- Senior Year – Off campus
  *Integrate into community, real world skills and relationships, no 2nd cliff*
  Internship at local Health Club
SOCIAL:

- Based on student interest
- Participate in rich offerings of campus
  On campus living, Student Government, co-leader of Wellness Fair
- Break down barriers to entry
  Mentors and natural supports such as dorm mates, study groups, sorority
- Community Service (value students not just receivers)
  Blood Drive, Community Clean Up Day, mentor new students
- Move towards independence & self determination
INDEPENDENT LIVING:

- Normative options
  On campus living, Off campus living with peers

- Support to reach independence goals
  - Topic based courses, seminars, groups

- Support vs Independence is a balancing act

- Support parent role change

- Develop student advocacy
GRADUATION

- Statewide Recognized Credential
- Walk at Graduation
- Paid work Experience in Career Field of Choice
- Rich resume and e-portfolio
Benefits to Colorado

- Students with intellectual disabilities become involved and contributing members of society
- Gains in independence lessen the depth of daily supports needed
- College campuses are enriched by the added diversity of the student body
- Families are able to participate more fully in their community as their students become more independent
- Professors acquire new teaching techniques, benefitting all student in the class
- Barriers are broken as students learn and appreciate differences in a normative manner
- Future teachers, social workers, business leaders, therapists gain better insight through practicum experiences
- Employers have access to a new pool of capable employees
How Can You Help?

- Encourage your student to dream
- Start a college fund
- Educate your students, teachers, and school
- Insist on Inclusion and work WITH the school to make happen
- Include college as an option in IEP planning
- Financially Support the efforts of IN!
- Offer your ideas and expertise
A community that excludes even one member is no community at all.