

November 16, 2010

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Human Development Center Recipient of \$1.791 Million Grant



Alisa Lowrey, PhD, an Associate Professor within the Human Development Center (HDC) received a 1.791 million dollar grant from the Department of Educa-

tion. Dr. Lowrey is a Louisiana native and graduate of Louisiana College in Pineville, Northwestern in Natchitoches, and achieved her doctorate at University of Illinois. Dr. Phil Wilson, Director of the Human Development Center, is Co-Principal Investigator.

The purpose of this five year grant is to develop a fully inclusive system of post-secondary education in Louisiana for students with intellectual disabilities by creating a model site demonstrating this practice.

This grant will support the mission of the Human Development Center as a University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Education, Research and Service (UCED). HDC's mission is to:

Disseminate information to strengthen and increase the capacity of local communities to include Individuals with developmental disabilities and support these individuals and their families in all aspects of life in the community.

In order to increase equal access, it is crucial for all students to have a typical educational experience. Currently, students with disabilities have access to public education until the age of 22. However, most non-disabled peers graduate high school at age 18. This age disparity puts individuals with disabilities at a social, emotional and vocational

disadvantage. This program will offer students with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to further their educational, vocational, and relational goals.

The program will offer approximately 28 students with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to experience college life. This is the only model demonstration of postsecondary education in the state and will target students who are in the process of achieving a certificate of achievement from their local education agency. This program will increase access and decrease segregation of students with intellectual disabilities seeking additional educational and employment opportunities. By the end of Year 5, a comprehensive model of postsecondary education will be shared with interested Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) across the state.



The reauthorization of the 2008 Higher Education Act provided funds for this grant. Delgado Community College will be the host site for this program, and Deborah Lea, Vice Chancellor for Learning and Student Development will lead the Delgado partnership.

The HDC will also partner with 4 Louisiana School Districts, including the Recovery School District of New Orleans and Plaquemines, St. Charles and St. Tammany parishes. These Local Education Agencies will assist in creating comprehensive transition plans that lead to postsecondary education outcomes.



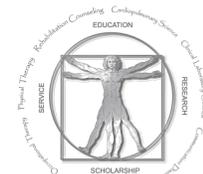
Louisiana Department of
EDUCATION



GOALS

- Provide training to high school personnel on transition planning and postsecondary options for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- Further an individual's vocational goals and/or receive a certificate in an area of interest.
- Provide mentorship by peers who have the same vocational, social and recreational interest.
- Provide instructional design training to Delgado faculty for multiple types of learners.
- Provide training to the Office of Disability Services at Delgado to develop procedures and supports for students with intellectual disabilities.
- Collaborate with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services to assist with job placement.
- Provide training to IHEs across the state interested in developing a postsecondary program to serve these students.

To learn more about this national initiative, visit www.thinkcollege.net



Promoting Leadership & Collaboration
within an Interdisciplinary Network

Please address any suggestions or comments to tgunal@lsuhsc.edu
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