Purpose

- To give students with disabilities the opportunity to meet non-disabled peers and build relationships in a college environment, increasing inclusion opportunities.
- To increase basic life skills and work experience skills in order to foster maximum independence and success in entering the work force.
- To provide a “learning lab” type environment for undergraduate FKCC students to work with students with disabilities.
- To provide an environment where FKCC students could do observations, conduct lessons, consult with MCSD staff, etc., thereby receiving on campus, practical experiences.

Project ACCESS
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What is Project A.C.C.E.S.S.

Project A.C.C.E.S.S. (Accessing Community College Educational experiences, Social experiences and Skills for careers) is a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program designed to support students with intellectual disabilities who are seeking to continue academic, career and technical, and independent living instruction at an institution of higher education in order to prepare for gainful employment.

Eligibility Criteria

- Have finished their necessary credits for graduation with a special diploma
- Be 18-22 years of age
- Be Dual Enrolled within the Monroe County School District
- Have a desire to receive transition services in a college setting
- Be able to follow simple directions
- Be capable of changing classroom independently
- Will benefit from participation in a variety of non-paid internships
- Are interested and capable of using public transportation to access Project ACCESS (travel training to be provided by the program during the summer prior to the beginning of the school year)
- Have a desire to work competitively at the end of the Project ACCESS program
- Be able to participate in small group activities
- Be able to communicate effectively with others
- Be able to remain seated in a chair without supervisor and/or assistance for a one-hour period
- Display a level of social maturity conducive to a college environment
- Be able to maintain personal self care and hygiene appropriately
- Does not require extensive supervision for acute or chronic conditions, such as special diets or seizures
- Have satisfactory attendance from previous school

Program Goals

- To provide a smooth transition from high school to work that allows for the on-the-job training.
- To provide a learning environment that allows students who are 18-22 years of age to learn and grow socially among their peers.
- To utilize the rich resources of the College setting in order to teach students the skills necessary to find and maintain employment in the community.
- To enable the student to secure employment and also to ensure that natural supports are in place to help the student through his/her adult career.
- To open avenues to greater independence

Benefits

- Access to a learning environment with appropriate peers
- Work focus
- Tailored instruction
- Job support
- Assistance in securing paid employment
- A network of supports between education, families, employers and service providers
- Access to college resources and expertise

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