

SRC Meeting 5/12/25

in light of proposed cuts to the community colleges adult transition centers for the upcoming budget cycle, I wonder if DVRS would be willing to explore possible partnerships in ensuring this CC pathway to community integrated employment for young adults is explored as a viable option. For integrated college programs, where students pursue inclusive course content or certifications, and adjust to student life and other resources, the elimination of up to 50% of funding will severely limit the ability to explore careers/jobs of interest in the community AND seek experiential learning or internships that non disabled peers automatically are eligible for. As career options continue to change based on the economy and critical need, frequently young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities may struggle to gain a successful foothold on their own. Knowing that GCU and TCNJ have established funding options through DVR for 4 year students enrolled in Inclusive programming, It seems prudent to look to the even more likely, cheaper options at the community college level which many families are beginning to see as options.

In addition, It has come to my attention that CTP status is being delayed at the Federal level, with colleges being asked by the Dept of Education to withdraw applications until more guidance is available. If NJ would consider creating its own certification process, the standard could be continued for funding access. I submitted to Margaret a 4 minute video about student success at internships which, if time permits, I would encourage you to play as an illustration of my points. Thank you.

I've been reading Undaunted Courage, the account of Lewis and Clark as they explored the West to reach the Pacific Ocean. The great unknown if you will. Do we have the same vision and courage- or resolve- to open new horizons and worlds for young adults with developmental disabilities when IEP's have historically rarely included such goals? I see proof, daily, of the short sighted thinking that has limited those horizons. I seriously hope we can share a vision similar to 200 years ago to by going against the currents, like the Missouri and Columbia Rivers to open new doors. I am in this effort for greater success, and my students know it. I hope you will consider joining it!