

# VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELORS



# CAN **THINK** COLLEGE



**"It is important for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) to review its approach toward inclusive higher education, and extend support to students with intellectual disability to participate in such programs. By doing so, the rehabilitation counselor provides informed choice, meets the intent of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and impacts individuals in achieving their vocational and overall potential. VR counselors can and should Think College."**

—Russell Thelin, M.S., LVRC, CRC, UMass Boston ICI, Senior Policy Fellow, Past VR agency Executive Director, and former VR Counselor

## Did You Know?

College is shown to improve employment outcomes for everyone, with those with at least some college education capturing 11.5 of the 11.6 jobs created in the past 10 years<sup>1</sup>.

65% of program graduates who responded to our survey were employed one year after graduation.

## Think College has

- ✓ Professional networking opportunities such as the online Vocational Rehabilitation Affinity Group offering ongoing discussion and problem solving.
- ✓ Resources like this archived webinar: [Pre-Employment Transition Services in Inclusive Higher Education Settings](#)
- ✓ Personalized technical assistance provided by an experienced professional, Russ Thelin

<sup>1</sup> Carnevale, A. P., Jayasundera, T., & Gulish, A. (2016). *America's divided recovery: College have and have-nots*. Retrieved from Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce website: <https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/Americas-Divided-Recovery-web.pdf>, and Watson, A. (2017, September). Employment trends by typical entry-level education requirement. Monthly Labor Review. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.21916/mlr.2017.22>



Think College is a national organization dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving inclusive higher education options for people with intellectual disability.

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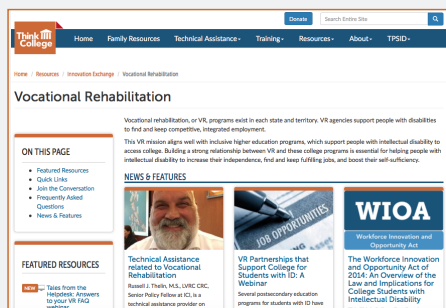
The Rehab Act and related regulations includes inclusive higher education within the scope of VR services provided to students with intellectual disabilities, and emphasizes that services must meet individualized needs. Citations include:

- ✓ **Required Pre-ETS (Pre-employment Transition Services) > Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs (34 CFR 361.)**
- ✓ **Support of IHE Services > “vocational and other training services specified in final § 361.48(b)(6) encompass tuition and other services for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities in a Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities, as defined by the Higher Education Act of 2008.” (34 CFR 361.48(b) [Comments Section])**
- ✓ **Policies; VR agency policies “must ensure that the provision of services is based on the rehabilitation needs of each individual... and is consistent with the individual’s informed choice... [and] may not establish any arbitrary limits on the nature and scope of vocational rehabilitation services to be provided to the individual to achieve an employment outcome. (34 CFR 361.50)**

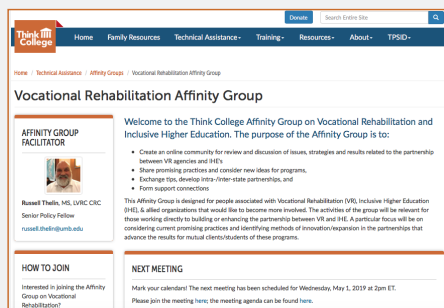


The Think College website is the trusted source for information, training, and resources about inclusive higher education for students with intellectual disability.

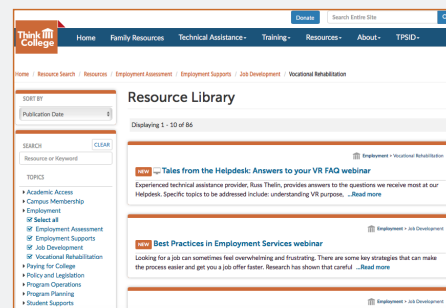
Learn more @ [www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)



**VR Innovation Exchange**  
Our featured resources on the topic, plus frequently asked questions and helpful links.



**VR Affinity Group**  
Join quarterly online meetings with a diverse group to discuss relevant issues.



**Employment resources in the Resource Library**  
Includes practical guides, archived webinars, student success stories and more.

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