TAPESTRY: Access to postsecondary education for students with intellectual and/or cognitive disabilities

Photo by: Treston – TAPESTRY student - Photography 101

Presenter Disclosure

Karen Ward
Catie Wheeler

(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months: No relationships to disclose.

Postsecondary Transition Programs

- Nationwide over 200 programs
- Common Features
  - Integrated at campuses
  - Focus on life, social, academic, and career skills
- National Coordination by Think College
  - http://www.thinkcollege.net/
TAPESTRY Postsecondary Transition

- Located at the University of Alaska Anchorage
- 2 year program
- Non-academic Workforce Credential
- Stresses 21st century employment skills
  - Initiative and self-direction
  - Productivity
  - Social skills
  - Technology

TAPESTRY Program Features

- Blended Program: students audit courses within their career and personal interests and take TAPESTRY specific courses
- Embedded technology training
- Social Skills training through classes and mentorship
- Paid internships (earning at least minimum wage)
- Social Involvement in campus and community

Academic Mentorship
- Dedicated study lab 5 days a week for TAPESTRY students and Mentors
- Targeted tutoring

Social Mentorship
- Meeting new people
- Attending sporting and university events
**TAPESTRY Students**

**Cohort 1 – 4 students**
- 4 male
- Ages at application: 19-21
- Korean, African American, Caucasian

**Cohort 3 – 5 students**
- 4 male, 1 female
- Ages at application: 18 – 21
- African American, Hispanic, Caucasian

**Cohort 2 – 5 students**
- 4 male, 1 female
- Ages at application: 18 – 21
- African American, Caucasian

**Cohort 4 – 7 students**
- 3 male, 4 female
- Ages at application: 18 – 21
- African American, Caucasian

**Social Networks**

The data show the number of peers within a social network increase during the program.

**Social Activities**

**Informal**
- Phone conversations
- Texting
- Coffee
- Going out to eat
- Study groups within and outside of TAPESTRY

**Formal**
- Anime club
- Sustainability club
- Sporting events
- Homecoming activities and dance
- Howl days (student orientation)
Technology

75% of the students did not use an iPad before TAPESTRY

"I think that having an iPad increases your abilities with technology. Very helpful with classes."

"The iPad helped a lot. Helped with homework. Helped with new classes."

"[The iPad] is quicker, faster, and I can get a lot more done on the iPad than a typical computer."

"I feel pretty knowledgeable about iPad now."

Apps Used by Students for College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apps Used by Students for College</th>
<th>100%</th>
<th>91.7%</th>
<th>75%</th>
<th>75%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackboard Mobile</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DropCam</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pages for iPad</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notability</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ExamSoft</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Self-Determination

In 2013 TAPESTRY began to use the Self-Determination Scale-Short Form (Wehmeyer, 2011).
After 1 semester, overall scores increased
Subscales: autonomy, self-regulation, psychological empowerment, self realization
Scores on the Psychological Empowerment Subscale significantly increased from 4.4 to 6.4 (p = 0.047).
Types of Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort 1</th>
<th>Cohort 2</th>
<th>Cohort 3</th>
<th>Cohort 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competitive Employment</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship/Supported Job</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Preparation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Above Minimum Wage</th>
<th>Minimum Wage</th>
<th>Sub-Minimum Wage</th>
<th>Unpaid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact Information

Karen Ward, Ed.D.  catiew@alaskachd.org
karenw@alaskachd.org