# NACDD SA Discussion SeriesFebruary 17, 2022

### **Topic: Higher Education**

28 people in attendance.

Discussion Starters

Pat Nobbie shared some information about an important research project with PCORI – the Patient Centered Outcome Research Institute. The study which is being conducted by Vanderbilt University is called ASSERT which stands for All StakeholderS Engaged in Research. The study will include asking questions of people with I/DD and participating in video discussions over 6 months. Participants will be compensated. See the attached flyer for more information or to sign up.

Pat also talked about the work she did to establish IPSE programs. IPSE stands for **Inclusive Post- Secondary Education.** Patsaid she worked on establishingprinciples for the programs when she was with the Georgia DD Council. She said she worked on the initiative from the beginning and had some very strong ideas about the integrity of the experience for youth with IDD. From 1 program at Kennesaw State with 3 students to 10 programs and several hundred students, they are still using these principles to guide the programs. Click this link to see the principles:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/\_\_http://www.gaipsec.org/principles-of-ipse.html\_\_;!!IZ3lH8c!mqK9kLJjNWkR49Gyk8cu5MQezkpm57hXhlDLtkpF3oaEXVivMj\_CYaSh1VINYtaHIPoA$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http%3A/www.gaipsec.org/principles-of-ipse.html__;!!IZ3lH8c!mqK9kLJjNWkR49Gyk8cu5MQezkpm57hXhlDLtkpF3oaEXVivMj_CYaSh1VINYtaHIPoA$)

Starr Bruner of the Georgia Developmental Disability Council (GCDD) then spoke about the work that GCDD has done to create and grow the number of IPSE programs. otherwise known as college! Starr noted that Georgia currently has 8 state universities running IPSE programs and a ninth will start in the Fall of 2022. She said that graduating from an IPSE program offers the following things: marketable job/career skills, help in improving your independence (managing your finances, transportation, living with others perhaps on campus), making friends and networks for life, opportunities to engage in all things on a college campus including living in a dorm, playing sports or attending sporting events, and Greek life (sororities and fraternities).

Starr said that the requirements to attend an IPSE program are:

You must have had an IEP

You must be able to read at a 3rd – 5th grade level

Be able to work independently

Have few if any behavioral problems

And most importantly – you must want to do this for yourself – not because Mom or Dad wants you to!

Starr presented slides with more details about IPSE, which states run IPSE programs (most all except Wyoming), and she also shared information about ThinkCollege which is a program that can help people with I/DD and their families or supports identify the best college options.

We discussed that the reason for going to college is to get a better job that you would really like, and to earn more money. We further discussed that getting a better job may mean losing your SSDI benefits but one attendee reminded the group that this is the purpose – to get a good enough job to be independent and not be on SSDI. Several states have worked with their Medicaid programs (NY, PA, CA) to have college covered by Medicaid.

Several attendees shared their own personal experiences about participating in IPSE programs and what it meant to them to be able to get a degree or certificate (your choice depending on the program you choose), be a member of a Fraternity, build friendships with other students both with and without disabilities and live on campus.

Other resources/ideas shared by participants that may be useful for housing

Think College - <https://thinkcollege.net/resources>

Pennsylvania’s IPSE program – <https://pihec.com>

ThinkCollege Report on DD Councils Supporting IPSE programs [IB49\_Role\_of\_CouncsilsonDD\_F4\_R.pdf](file:///C%3A/Users/dmelt/OneDrive%20-%20NACDD/Documents%20-%20NACDD%20Shared/04%20-%20Self-Advocacy%20Initiative/SA%20DISCUSSION%20SERIES/SA%20DISC%202022/FEB%2017%202022/IB49_Role_of_CouncsilsonDD_F4_R.pdf)

**Save the Date:** The next NACDD Self-Advocacy Discussion Series will be Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 4:00 pm Eastern. Our topic will be on Current Advocacy Activities. We want to hear about your experiences with the March Disability Policy Seminar if you attend, Ways you advocated during DD Awareness Month (DDAM), how you may have participated in a state Day at the Legislature or other ways you have advocated recently.

**Save the Date:** We will meet again on June 16, 2022, when our topic will be Civil Rights and Voting.

Stay tuned for more information on these upcoming meetings and information about NACDD’s Annual Conference in July.