

April 16, 2018

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Validating Students' Career Dreams

Supporting students in gaining meaningful employment after college is a hallmark for those involved with the TPSID inclusive postsecondary initiatives across the country. In achieving this end, I often hear questions ranging from “Is it the college’s position to help students gain meaningful employment?” to “how can we give our students more support beyond the scope of what already exists on campus?” The issue of “how” to help with employment after college becomes more complex when we listen to students’ desires, and dreams of what they would like to do upon completion of the program. Through the initial person-centered planning process and sometimes beyond, the question that often arises is, “How do we respectfully validate students’ dreams or desires for careers when we suspect that these hopes may be beyond the scope of what is possible?” Dale DiLeo, a respected professional for his training and advocacy for individuals with disabilities, notes that “Dreams, however seemingly unreachable, must be treated with respect...helping people to approach their dreams is always possible. And learning what we can from their desires can help guide us in their job search” (DiLeo, 2012). DiLeo gives a more in-depth understanding in this two minute video clip: <https://daledileo.com/learning-to-respect-peoples-dreams/>. Providing college experiences, patience, and skillful listening that is necessary, students can begin to understand and have access to employment options that they could only have imagined. Inclusive postsecondary education assists with the realization of these dreams.

Ann Marie Licata, Ph.D., Director

DiLeo, D. (2012). Learning to Respect People's Dreams. Retrieved from <https://daledileo.com/learning-to-respect-peoples-dreams/>



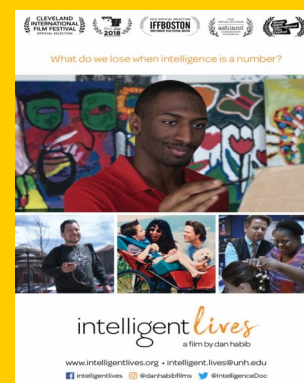
Millersville University students, Dr. Thomas Neville and Alan Holdsworth, disability rights activist, prepared for Disability Pride Day which is being held on campus April 16, 2018. PIHEC supports this event which aligns with one of our seven strategic objectives—raising awareness and increasing expectations for people with intellectual disability.

Check photos and videos at [#DisabilityPrideMU](https://twitter.com/DisabilityPrideMU)

WHAT IS HAPPENING

- [State of the Art Conference—Syracuse, NY: Call for proposals deadline April 20, 2018](#)
- Check out this free lecture: *Changing the Conversation Engaging Communities in Improving Outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities* by Erik Carter on [May 2, 2018 in Philadelphia, PA](#) and [May 3, 2018 in Pittsburgh, PA](#).
- Don't miss the next [ThinkCollege Webinar](#): How a Parent Initiative Changed the Face of Postsecondary Education in Pennsylvania—May 9th 3:00-4:00pm
- [Register for The Arc of Pennsylvania's Advocacy & Policy Conference on June 4-5, 2018](#)
- [Save the date - June 22, 2018 - Third Annual Regional Summit Post-Secondary Inclusive College Programs](#)
- [Need more info on authentic inclusive postsecondary programs? Plan to attend SRV training at Millersville University on June 25-27, 2018](#)
- [Equity & Excellence Access in Higher Education: AHEAD Annual Conference—July 16-20, 2018 in Albuquerque, New Mexico](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



Watch Trailer Clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rHr-q1W3YY>

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR...Intelligent Lives Premiere in Pennsylvania:
Tuesday October 16, 2018 at Millersville University**

From award-winning filmmaker Dan Habib comes INTELLIGENT LIVES, a catalyst to transform the label of intellectual disability from a life sentence of isolation into a life of possibility for the most systematically segregated people in America.

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