

November 26, 2018

Volume 2 , Number 7

Staying the course of designing and implementing a fully inclusive experience for students with intellectual disability within our respective programs can be a challenge if we fall prey to the “chatter” that exists within our culture. The “chatter” is what I affectionately term words and ideas that are not based on what research is telling us about students within our programs. Specifically, the topic of a specialized course separate from those offered through the typical college catalogue on our campuses, is a best practice. Best practice for whom?

[ThinkCollege](#) shares a great deal of information regarding best practices, and to date, they have not shared that specialized courses are a best practice. In fact, in an analysis of their data collection, they have found that programs with specialized courses are producing employment opportunities for students who complete the program that are not as favorable as those who participate in fully inclusive college programs.

Too often, best practice is confused with accepted practice. Accepted practices that exist within our inclusive postsecondary education programs include in some instances, some specialized courses just for students with intellectual challenges. While there are groups who accept this practice of segregating students based upon their IQ score or cognitive functioning, that doesn't necessarily qualify it as a best practice. In fact, Dan Habib's latest documentary, "[Intelligent Lives](#)" challenges the very notion of what determines an intellectual challenge.

What kind of “chatter” is informing your practice within your program?

Ann Marie Licata, Ph.D., Director



Award-winning filmmaker Dan Habib is currently producing a short documentary on *integration as a key method* for our inclusive postsecondary programs. Above Dan is collecting footage for this PIHEC supported documentary.

WHAT IS HAPPENING

- [ODP, along with PA Family Network & Vision for Equality, invites self-advocates and their families to attend one of several meet-and-greet sessions with Acting Deputy Secretary Kristin Ahrens. Two webinars will also take place. Click this Link for Details: <https://bit.ly/2ADUmNy>](#)
- [2018 Mini Course/Lecture Series on Disabilities– Out of the Shadows: The Disability Rights Movement from No pity to Me Too. Tuesday, December 4, 2018 in Pittsburgh, PA and Wednesday, December 5, 2018 in Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [Register for the ThinkCollege webinar “Exploring Inclusive College Opportunities for Your Child with Intellectual Disability” on December 5, 2018](#)
- [Winter Research Summit: Evaluating the Impact of Dual Enrollment for Students with ID, a ThinkCollege Webinar will be held on December 13, 2018 via zoom.](#)
- [Save the Date April 8-10, 2019 for Disability Policy Seminar that will be held at Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

According to The Department of Labor and Industry :
“The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation provides Assistive Technology devices and services to eligible individuals with disabilities, if needed to get or keep a job. Assistive Technology devices include any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of an individual with a disability. “

More info at: <https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/ovr/Pages/Assistive-Technology>

