

Ancillary Unit Annual Report
Wayfinders
July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

Purpose of Ancillary Unit

Wayfinders is an inclusive postsecondary educational, vocational and residential program for young adults, ages 18 – 28, with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Wayfinders provides unique learning opportunities for these students which allow them to fully engage on the Fresno State campus while receiving specialized instruction and support dedicated to increasing independence by experiencing life in an age appropriate setting.

Wayfinders at Fresno State is one of 27 Model Demonstration Projects called Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities into Higher Education, or TPSIDs, funded to fulfill Congress's intent to develop inclusive college options for students with intellectual disabilities as authorized under Title VII, Part D of the Higher Education Act (P.L 110-315).

The Fresno State Campus serves six counties of the San Joaquin Valley of California. It is one of the most diverse and impoverished areas in the country. The premise for housing Wayfinders on the Fresno State Campus is as follows:

- All young adults go through a similar development process that requires certain activities, experiences and supports.
- All young adults must develop skills and understanding about themselves and the world around them, in order to fully participate in society and to successfully become independent.
- Post-Secondary Education has value as a vehicle for self-empowerment and access to social networks, work and independence.
- Post-Secondary learning promotes the development of critical thinking, self-reflection, self-regulation and a better understanding of the inter-relatedness required for civic responsibility.
- Group membership provides essential motivation and support for learning and participation in community life.

Students with intellectual disabilities are the least likely to go to college or become employed after leaving high school. However youth with intellectual disabilities who participate in postsecondary education are 26% more likely to exit their vocational rehabilitation program with employment and earn a 73% higher weekly income.

Administrative Housing of Ancillary Unit

Wayfinders is operated under Kremen School of Education and Human Development as a grant-supported program with oversight from the Associate Dean's Office. Dr. Jenelle Pit is the PI on this grant.

Major Accomplishments of July 1 2012 – June 30 2013

2012 – 2013 was Wayfinders second year of operation.

Overall Accomplishments

- 9 of the 12 students who began in Fall 2011 graduate June 2013.
- 80% of students of the graduating class of 2013 are successfully transitioning into independent living situations of their choosing. 100% of these students are placed in off campus internships.
- Wayfinders accepted 10 students for cohort two in Fall 2012.
- Hired a Transition/Academic Coordinator to coordinate evening and weekend activities with students at the Palazzo.
- Held 8 Preview Days for potential incoming students and parents. The result of which was 15 applicants applying for Fall 2013 to Wayfinders.
- Invited to 6 regional centers and post-secondary fairs around California to represent Wayfinders.
- Wayfinders Director was the keynote speaker on Post-Secondary Practices at Porterville College.
- 7 Wayfinders Students participated at the Disability Capital Action Day at Capitol Hill in Sacramento May 22nd 2013, and met with a number of senators.
- 3 Wayfinders students and 1 staff member presented at the National TASH Conference in December 2012.

Academic Accomplishments

- Proposed a Certificate of Special Study in Academic and Career Advancement to the College Curriculum Committee. The certificate will be housed in the Counseling Department and is designed to expose students to basic general education courses. Students take recommended core classes. However they may substitute core units by completing coursework in the same GE area as required by the certificate. Core units must be taken for credit. Students may also choose to focus on a particular course of study through their elective units. The certificate program is 36 units and includes a 12 unit work experience component.
- Wayfinders now offers two tracks of study to their students. The first is the above mentioned Certificate of Special Study in Academic and Career Advancement and the second is the Certificate of Completion which is targeted for those students who want to experience university inclusion but would like to focus more on independent living and vocational skills.
- A total of 79 courses were completed at Fresno State by students receiving supports through Wayfinders. Students passed their courses at a rate of 53% while the fail rate was 22% and the withdrawal rate was 1%. 18% of the courses were audited by students. There was also a 6% incomplete rate with 100% of those students making progress towards completing their course work over the summer. Two students receiving support from Wayfinders attempted courses at Fresno City College with a total of 3 courses attempted 2 were failed and 1 was passed for credit.
- Students took courses from the Department of Music, Department of Communication, Department of Biology, Department of Theatre Arts, Department of Philosophy, Department of English, the Culinary Program, Department of Kinesiology, Department of Animal Science, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, Department of Computer Science, Department of Child, Family and Consumer Sciences, Department of Environmental Sciences, Department of Public Health, Department of Art and Design, Department of Management, Department of Sociology, Department of Psychology and Department of Art and Design.

Residential Living Accomplishments

- Developed Independent Living workshops for both cohorts addressing student needs.
- Developed and implemented a room mentor program whereby two non-Wayfinders students live in each of the Wayfinders girls' apartments and serve as peer mentors working not only on independent living skills but also socialization skills and social integration.
- Implemented an ongoing coach training twice a month. Coaches have also participated in suicide prevention training, CPR and First Aid, and ABA training.
- Developed a system which improved communication with academic and vocational coaches and provided better academic supports to the students.

Vocational Accomplishments

- Hired a Job Developer
- Established 12 different off-site work experience placements
- 15 students working at non-Fresno State locations - 14 these students utilize the city transit system to get to and from work.
- Developed and implemented Career e-portfolios for each student. Students all have a thumb drive where their e-portfolio is kept and are able to continue to update after they complete the Wayfinders Program.

Sources of Funding

- a. Funding for Wayfinders comes from a grant provided by the US Department of Education called Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities into Higher Education or TPSIDs.
- b. Wayfinders is also vendorized with the California Regional Center System who authorizes funding for services provided by Wayfinders on the residential portion of the program. Private Pay students pay fee for service. The fee for structure is identical to that of the Regional Center.
- c. Other revenues include Program Application Fees and Donations.

Space and Equipment Utilization

Wayfinders is housed in the Kremen School of Education, Room 151 which houses three sub-offices and a reception area for the Director, Vocational Specialist, Academic Coordinator, a student intern and Administrative Assistant. Wayfinders does not have its own classroom space. Currently we book classrooms for Wayfinders classes through the Dean's office or the Chair's office. Wayfinders Residential Coordinator and Transition Specialist Offices are housed at the Palazzo Apartments.

Goals and Objectives 2012 – 2013

For the period July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 Wayfinders will:

1. Goals for the Educational Component by:
 - Continue streamlining curriculum benchmark and evaluation procedures.
 - Continue to build strong partnerships with other departments.

- Increase the pass rate of courses attempted by students through streamlining of supports, increased accountability and more effective monitoring of students.
2. Goals for the vocational component of Wayfinders:
 - Continue to provide internship opportunities for Fresno State students emphasizing the vocational domain.
 - Continue to collaborate with Fresno State programs and offices to create work experience sites that develop the interests and skills of each student's career interests/goals.
 - Become Vendorized by Department of Rehabilitation
 - Build a partnership with ARC Fresno and incorporating Project SEARCH into the Wayfinders core vocational program
 3. Goals for the independent living component:
 - Develop accountability with the Residential Coaches
 - Develop trust with the parents
 4. Continue to work with Development to help find donors for the program
 5. Wayfinders will accept 15 more students into the program. The goal during this period will be to serve a total of 25 students (10 from cohort 2, 15 from cohort 3).

Request for Renewal of Unit

Please allow this report to serve as our formal request to continue the Wayfinders Program as an ancillary unit of California State University, Fresno for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Appendix

- A. The unit's financial statement prepared by the California State University, Fresno Foundation.