


## California Systems Change Activities in Postsecondary Education

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and Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities  
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### Our Invitation September 2005

Isn't it time to conceive of a world where anyone can access post secondary education throughout California? You are invited to a newly formed work group on postsecondary education and students with developmental disabilities. We want to envision a 'master plan' that supports universal access and multiple points of entry for students with developmental disabilities. At the same time, we want to address how to align and capitalize on existing systems, and imagine new ones being put into place. Our aim is to articulate and identify sources of support for a range learning opportunities for students, whether it is community college, state, university or continuing education.

We are asking for your commitment to join a work group that will bring together a variety of professionals from the developmental disabilities service system, education, rehabilitation, parents and students. The participants will formulate the focus, direction and goals of the workgroup.


### What is Systems Change and What Do These Efforts Have in Common?

- \* The building of the CA Consortium on PSE for People with Developmental Disabilities
- \* The Dept. of Rehabilitation establishes the College to Career Project at 5 Community Colleges.
- \* The Los Angeles Unified School District and Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center implement a joint person centered thinking IEP/IPP process.



### CA Consortium on PSE Options for People with Developmental Disabilities


1. What is the work of this group?
2. What assets and opportunities currently exist?
3. Who else needs to be invited to participate?
4. What could some of the benefits be to the larger community?
5. What process could help the group move forward



## Systems Change


“Systems change refers to making changes in the way major parts of community service systems are linked together and how they function”

Center for Civic Partnerships,  
2001 Public Health Institute



### CA Consortium on PSE Options for People with Developmental Disabilities Vision Statement

**In the year 2012, students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities will have the opportunity and support to pursue postsecondary learning options that bring personal, social, vocational and economic fulfillment.**





## Impacts

- \* Local and Regional Coalitions
- \* New or Enhanced Programs (TPSID)
- \* College to Career – new linkage and relationship between Dept of Rehabilitation and Community Colleges
- \* Joint IEP/IPP Process
- \* Public Policy: Testimony at legislative hearings

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## The Consortium's Systems Change Activities

- \* Provide resources and awareness of the need for and benefits of PSE
- \* Increase the number of available options for postsecondary education (PSE)
- \* Research existing programs and resources across California
- \* Training and technical assistance to develop local capacity

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## California Postsecondary Education Consortium (Regional Teams, March Training Conference)

- \* California State University Fresno
- \* East Los Angeles Regional Center
- \* University of California, Los Angeles
- \* Harbor City Regional Center
- \* West Hills College in Lemoore
- \* California State University East Bay
- \* University of California, San Diego
- \* University of California, Davis
- \* Southwest SELPA
- \* South Orange County Task Force
- \* Postsecondary Education Transition Consortium at Cypress College

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## The Consortium's Systems Change Activities (cont.)

- \* Disseminate information by creating a user-friendly website that provides available resources  
[Http://semel.ucla.edu/opendoors](http://semel.ucla.edu/opendoors)
- \* Develop mechanisms for collaboration amongst CA Dept. of Education, higher education, Dept. of Rehabilitation, the Dept of Developmental Services and supporting organizations to increased access to PSE

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## Lessons Learned from Our Systems Change Work

1. Requires leadership
2. Be inclusive –invite everyone and their grandmother
3. Support students and families as partners
4. Systems change requires information

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## Lessons Learned from Our Systems Change Work (cont.)

5. Involve decision makers
6. Be respectful of the self interest of the participants
7. Be flexible
8. Relationships are everything