

Dr. Meghan Blaskowitz

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College is an Option! Supporting Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to Pursue Inclusive College

Would you like to learn about options for your child when they transition out of high school? Are you a soon-to-be high school graduate and considering what to do next? This presentation will cover a range of options for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) post-high school, with a primary focus on inclusive college. The presenter is the co-director of an inclusive post-secondary education (IPSE) program for young adults with IDD in Pennsylvania. She will discuss specific ways to: (1) advocate to school districts to ensure college options are part of your transition plan, (2) increase independence and self-determination in preparation for college and/or work, (3) decide which IPSE programs are right for you, and (4) understand current supports, scholarships and funding that can be used to pay for college for students with IDD. Students with disabilities should have the same opportunities to pursue higher education as non-disabled students --- this session will provide valuable information to make college a reality.

Dr. Meghan Blaskowitz is an Associate Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. She's worked as an occupational therapist with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) for more than 20 years. Prior to academia, she was New York State's Self-Directed Services Coordinator at the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. In that role, she supported young adults and adults with IDD to access innovative funding streams and self-direct their own supports and services. At Duquesne, she co-directs the Compass Inclusive Education Program, which supports students with IDD to go to college, have an authentic and inclusive college experience, and achieve either a certificate or bachelor's degree.

