

Transcript of the Think College Idaho Introductory video.

Posted on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVQOnlq_hqc

[Upbeat music]

>> Dr. Andrew Scheef (Assistant Professor, UI College of Education, Health and Human Sciences): Think College Idaho is part of a nationwide movement promoting meaningful access to colleges and universities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Think College Idaho collaborates with key stakeholders on program development, improvement, public policy initiatives, and research to create high quality inclusive opportunities to attend college for all Idahoans.

>> Charmaine Thaner (Collaborative Special Education Advocacy) : As Dylan grew older he knew that college was a pretty natural thing that you do after you go to high school. And he saw his brother and sister going to college, and it was like well that's what I want to do too. So it was an advocacy journey because we actually had to go all the way up to the Vice-Chancellor level to get permission for Dylan to audit classes on campus.

>> Dylan: College. College is fun, really focus, working hard, have good homework. We party! Fun!

>> Dr. Scheef: So why are we doing this? Number one I think because people with disabilities tend to be underemployed, so what we're doing in schools isn't sufficient. When you look at more philosophical reasons, students, high school students with disabilities, are seeing their peers go off to college and universities. This is almost like a normative pathway that many students follow, yet students with intellectual and developmental disabilities aren't able to meet the admission criteria for colleges and universities, so they're not afforded this opportunity that their peers are afforded.

Another reason for this is just the idea of inclusion, and that we really value inclusion in our K-12 schools, yet when we get to higher ed we say, "Yeah but, but not here." And it's also great for the colleges and universities. If colleges and universities, generally speaking, value diversity and are very interested in having a diverse student body, and if we're really trying to get a cross-section of the population, that would include students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

[background conversation between teachers and students.]

>> Bryce: Make sure they're following proper rules.

>> SPARC student: Safety!

>> Bryce: There you go!

>> Dr. Scheef: SPARC is a program at Lewis-Clark State College for students with disabilities. SPARC teaches key skills that lead to independence, employment, happiness, and success.

[background conversation of teacher about club sandwiches]

Bryce enjoys the challenges of his culinary class, and is preparing to start a new job at a local pizza restaurant.

>> Bryce: I wanted to go to college because I thought it would be a great learning opportunity for me. And I thought that I could make lots of new friends. College has helped me learn more knife skills and kitchen skills as I've worked in the Sodexo kitchen. And I'll be starting at Southway Pizzeria in October.

>> Dr. Scheef: The SPARC curriculum is adapted to fit individual needs, including vocational training and career development, social skills, and skills to promote personal independence.

>> SPARC student: Think College Idaho.

>> SPARC student: Think College Idaho.

>> SPARC student: Think College Idaho.

>> SPARC student: Think College Idaho.

>> SPARC student: Think College Idaho.

>> SPARC student: Think College Idaho.

>> SPARC student: Think College Idaho.

[Upbeat music fades]