






**Student Transition Conference**  
**University of West Florida**

Opening




Lori A. Garcia, Ph.D.  
 Region 1 Transition Representative

On Behalf of Bryan Vaughn  
 Executive Director for Governors  
 Commission on Disabilities &  
 Project 10: Transition Education Network,  
 University of South Florida- St. Petersburg, FL

**Today's Topics:**




- Project 10
- Governor's Commission on Disabilities
- Project 10 STING RAY

**Project 10**

- **Mission:** is to assist Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes.




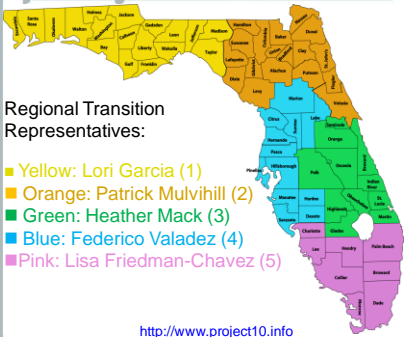
<http://www.project10.info>

**Project 10**

- **Purpose:** Project 10 serves as the primary conduit between the Florida Department of Education, specifically the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES), and relevant school district personnel in addressing law and policy, effective practices, and research-based interventions in the area of transition services for youth with disabilities.



<http://www.project10.info>

**Regional Transition Representatives:**

- Yellow: Lori Garcia (1)
- Orange: Patrick Mulvihill (2)
- Green: Heather Mack (3)
- Blue: Federico Valadez (4)
- Pink: Lisa Friedman-Chavez (5)

<http://www.project10.info>







**Major Initiatives**

- Project 10 is currently focusing on four major initiatives:
  - Capacity Building,
  - Interagency Collaboration,
  - Transition Legislation and Policy, and
  - Student Development and Outcomes.

<http://www.project10.info>





## Governor's Commission on Disabilities

- Created by Executive Order 07-148, July 26, 2007, and continued by Executive Order 08-193.
- **Purpose:** identify barriers faced by persons with disabilities and the elderly, then to develop recommendations to overcome those barriers in the areas of education, employment, independent living, and transportation.






## Governor's Commission on Disabilities

- **Mission:** advance public policy for Floridians with disabilities and to provide a forum for advocates representing Floridians with disabilities to develop and voice unified concerns and recommendations.

## 2009 Governor's Commission on Disabilities

- Continue to work in areas identified in July 2008 Report to the Governor and advocate for implementation of recommendations
  - **Healthcare ... newest addition!**
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Transportation
  - Independent Living
  - Civil Rights
- Web site [www.dms.myflorida.com/gcd](http://www.dms.myflorida.com/gcd)

## 2008 Recommendations



### Education Recommendation (A-2)

- The Commission recommends that the Governor consider the issuance of an executive order that requires the Commissioner of Education to initiate the following:
  - Have the Florida Department of Education, Division of Public Schools, and the Division of Community Colleges develop a strategic plan for implementation of a comprehensive research-based statewide transition program at each community college that offers ...




## 2008 Recommendations



- (1) inclusive educational opportunities for students with disabilities in a degree-seeking program;
- (2) inclusive educational, vocational, and community-based living training opportunities for students with disabilities who are not eligible for acceptance into degree programs; and
- (3) educational and clinical opportunities for college-level students interested in careers devoted to working with persons with disabilities.

## Implementation of 2008 Recommendations



### Education Recommendation (A-2)

- The Commission will work with DOE and community partners to establish a means by which an appropriate curriculum could be developed and exploration of both federal and state funding opportunities could be identified.



**Implementation of 2008 Recommendations**

- Implementation strategies (A-2)
  - Continue to collaborate with Project Source at UNF;
  - Identify evidence-based practices that facilitate inclusive educational opportunities for students with disabilities in degree-seeking programs;



**Implementation of 2008 Recommendations**

- Implementation strategies (A-2)
  - Develop a work group under the Transition Steering Committee's Postsecondary Education Subcommittee to consider the requirements of implementing recommendation A-2;

**Implementation of 2008 Recommendations**



- Develop a research-based strategic plan;
- Develop curriculum models; and
- Develop a curriculum, staffing plan, assessment plan, outcomes, goals, and objectives for the program.

**2008 Recommendations**

**Education Recommendation (A-6)**

- Implement a standardized curriculum statewide in community colleges and state colleges to educate students with disabilities on issues concerning their transition from school to work.

**2008 Recommendations**

- Implementation strategies
  - Develop formal standards for a curriculum that community colleges can use in educating students with disabilities on the issues concerning their transition from school to work.
  - Develop a research-based marketing plan that Project 10 staff and school district staff can use in approaching community colleges regarding the development of such programs.





**Project 10**  
**STING RAY**





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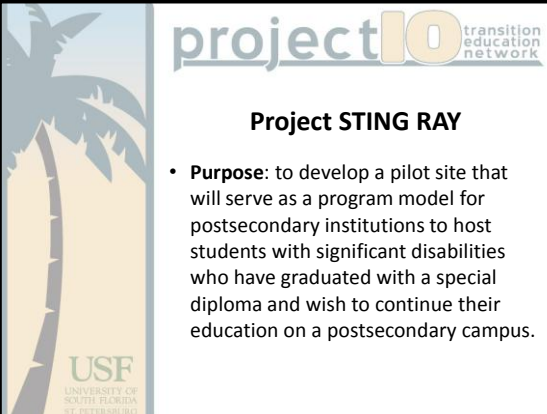
- Students
- Transitioning
- Into the
- Next
- Generation
- Recognizing
- Alternatives for
- Youth



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**Project STING RAY**

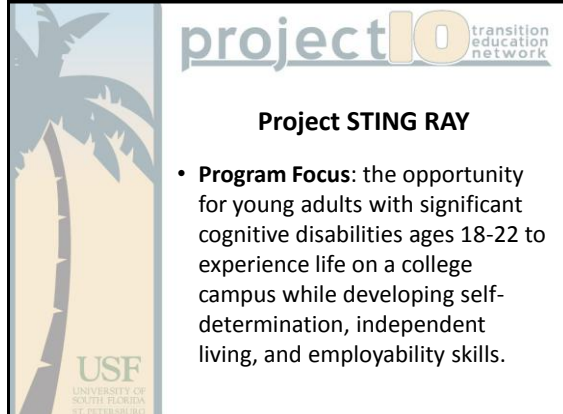
- **Mission:** To provide an innovative and transformational postsecondary learning experience that will empower young adults with significant cognitive disabilities to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to become an independent and productive citizen.



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**Project STING RAY**


- **Purpose:** to develop a pilot site that will serve as a program model for postsecondary institutions to host students with significant disabilities who have graduated with a special diploma and wish to continue their education on a postsecondary campus.



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**Project STING RAY**

- **Program Focus:** the opportunity for young adults with significant cognitive disabilities ages 18-22 to experience life on a college campus while developing self-determination, independent living, and employability skills.



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Two Pilot Sites for 2010


- 1 University 4 Year Setting
  - University of South Florida, St. Petersburg Campus, starting March 2010!
- 1 Community/State College 2 Year Setting
  - Site currently being determined ...stay tuned!



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**Potential Participating Agencies:**

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities, The Florida Department of Education, The ABLE Trust, The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, County School District, University or Community/State College, FIN Project, Project 10.




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**The Graduate!**

*The Employability Readiness Certificate*

The Certificate is a portable credential that shows employers across the State of Florida that the graduate has achieved a basic level of workplace employability skills in customer service, co-worker relations, work place etiquette, problem-solving strategies, basic mathematics, basic reading, and ability to locate information/resources.

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*Enjoy the Day!*

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