

Fall 2024 Webinar Series

Using Personal Networks to Prepare for College



PATHWAYS TO INCLUSIVE
HIGHER EDUCATION

Welcome!

- [Full Fall 2024 Webinar Series](#)
- Q&A time allotted throughout
- Brief feedback survey directly following
- Video recording & resources will be available



Who We Are

IN! exists to create **inclusive** college opportunities in Colorado for students with intellectual disability (ID) to foster **academic growth, social development, career advancement, & independence.**

What We Do:

EDUCATION

OUTREACH

EXPANSION

OUTCOMES

*IN! does not provide direct services on campus

Meet Our Staff

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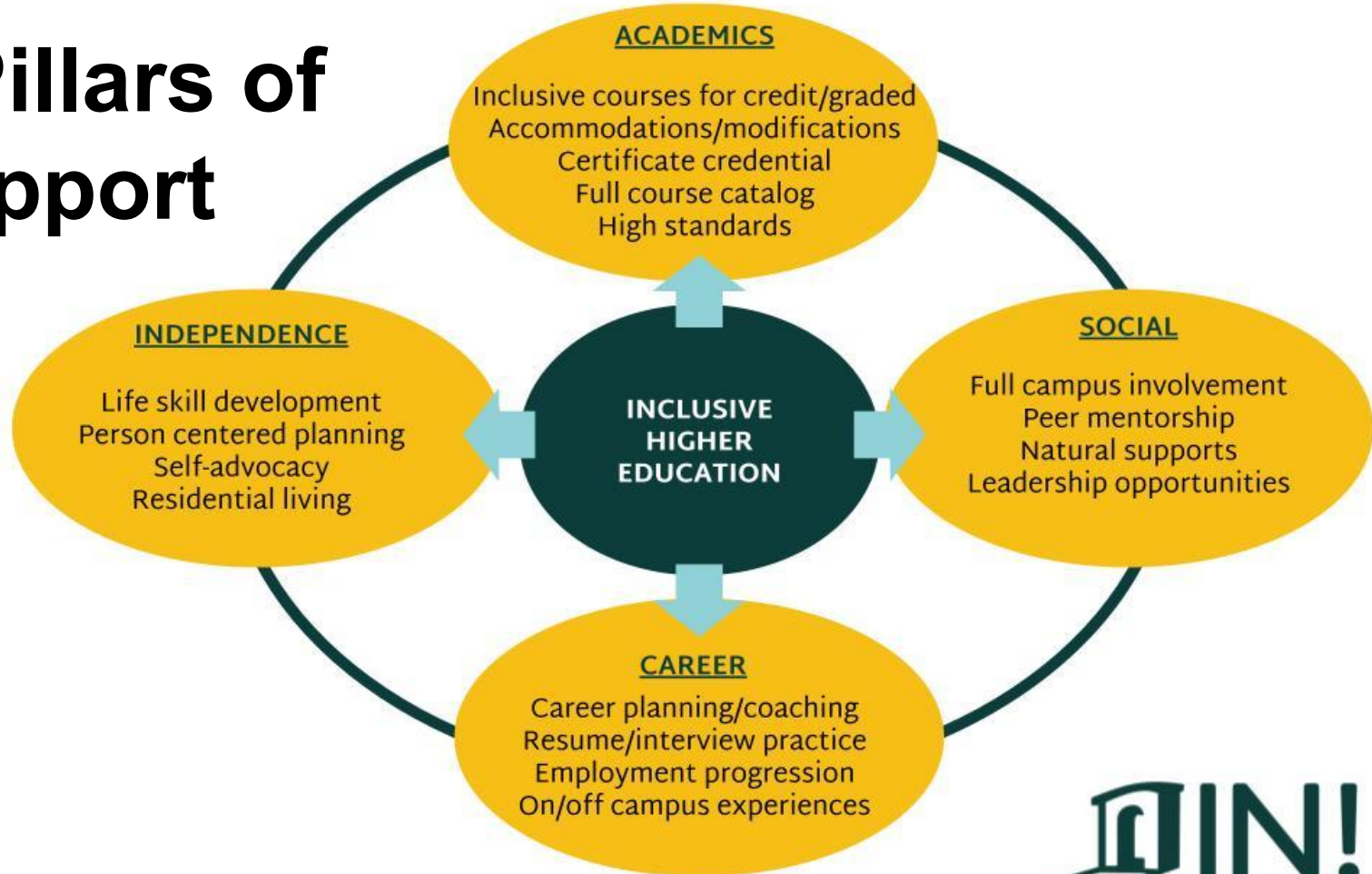
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What is IHE?

- **Alternative admission pathway** for students with intellectual disability*
 - Traditional diploma not required
 - EEOs are common
- Fully inclusive & normative
- Students take courses that align with **career goal** and daily life skills
- Access accommodations **and** modifications
- Earn **certificate** credential
- Participate in **career readiness**
- **May** experience independent living
- Staff and peer mentor support in **4 domains**:

4 Pillars of Support





- Office of Inclusive Services (OIS)
- University of Colorado
- Colorado Springs, Colorado
- **On campus living**
- 4 year program
- inclusiveservices.uccs.edu

*Accredited inclusive postsecondary program!



- Elevate
- Arapahoe Community College
- Littleton, Colorado & Castle Rock, CO
- **Commuter Campus**
- 3 year program
- arapahoe.edu/elevate-acc



- GLOBAL Inclusive Program
- Regis University
- Denver, Colorado
- **On campus living**
- 2-3 year program
- regis.edu/global



- GOAL – Go On And Learn
- University of Northern Colorado
- Greeley, Colorado
- **On campus living**
- 4 year program
- unco.edu/unc-goal

- Comprehensive Transition & Postsecondary Program (CTP) = Financial Aid
- Statewide Comprehensive Higher Education Certificate = Meaningful Outcome
- Admission for Fall semester opens the prior winter/spring





- CSU RAM Scholars
- Colorado State University
- Fort Collins, Colorado
- Experiential learning and agriculture focus
- 4 year program
- <https://www.chhs.colorado.state.edu/ramsolars/>



- Inclusive Higher Education Solutions
- Metropolitan State University of Denver
- Denver, CO
- **Commuter Campus**
- 4 year program
- msudenver.edu/IHES



- Launching Fall 2025
- Cultivate@LCC
- Lamar Community College
- Lamar, CO
- Program specifics coming soon



- Launching Fall 2025
- ASPIRE Scholars
- Pikes Peak State College
- Colorado Springs, CO
- Program specifics coming soon

→CTP in progress
→Statewide Comprehensive Higher Education Certificate



IN! - Webinar 2024

Using Personal Networks to Prepare for College

A little bit about PEAK Parent Center...

PEAK Parent Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that has been serving families and self-advocates across the State of Colorado, and beyond since **1986!**

PEAK Parent Center serves as:

- **Colorado's federally-designated Parent Training and Information Center**
- **Parent Technical Assistance Center for Region D of the National Parent Center Network**
- **Rehabilitation Services Administration's Transition Parent Center for the western U.S.**

So what exactly is a Personal Network?

A Personal Network is a group of people who are personally interested in and intentionally invited to lend their minds and energy toward creating a safe and secure future with a person who has a disability label.

These people know the “center person” and see their gifts, ways they contribute, and are interested in supporting all of that being shared in the community at large.

A Personal Network can be the difference between a person living on the edge of community and being actively included and contributing to their community in meaningful ways. Personal Networks develop a range of relationships that lead to varied places to belong based on gifts, roles, identities, and uses person centered principles to do that.

We do all this for the sheer joy of connecting people with each other.

Culture & Core Values of Personal Networks

Culture is not a thing. It's not something an organization has or doesn't have. Culture is something an organization is.

- Person-Centered
- Strengths-Based
- Community-Based

Person-Centered Thinking



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y77y7XW8Gt>
E

Beth Mount

What Is Your Focus?

Person-Centered

- Do you see the PERSON?
- Do you search for capacities and gifts?
- Do you depend on people, families, and direct service workers to build good descriptions and ways to move forward?
- Do you gather folklore from people who know the center person and others well?
- Do you see students in the context of their community?
- Do you bring people together by discovering common experiences?

Systems-Centered

- Focused solely on the diagnosis
- Identifies deficits & needs only - for eligibility
- Uses standardized testing, assessments for tracked (or grouped) services matching
- Depends primarily on professionals to make decisions, suggestions and options?
- Only uses written reports?
- Sees students exclusively in the context of human service systems and eligible benefits?
- Emphasis differences which create distance in meaningful relationships?



The 5 Key Elements of Life

Belonging

Friends, acquaintances, group membership, positive relationships

Choosing

Opportunities to make own choices and decisions based on wants and need



Being Somebody

Recognition and respect as an individual

Contributing

Using strengths and interests to make a contribution and build confidence and competence

Sharing Ordinary Spaces

Active member of the community

© O'Brien & O'Brien



Five Questions that Guide the Development of the Dream

1. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION - How can we expand and deepen people's friendships?

2. COMMUNITY PRESENCE - How can we increase the presence of a person in local community life?

3. PROMOTING CHOICE - How can we help people have control and choice life?

4. ENCOURAGING VALUED SOCIAL ROLES - How can we enhance the reputation people have and increase the number of valued ways people can contribute in community life?

5. SUPPORTING CONTRIBUTION - How can we assist people to develop competencies?

© Beth Mount

Social Role Valorization

Today's society...

values:

Intelligence

Beauty

Wealth

Education

Youth

Possessions and Material Wealth

devalues:

Incompetence

Imperfection

Poor

Uneducated

Old

Lack of possessions and Material Wealth

— Wolf Wolfensberger

When people are devalued, they experience:





- Loss of control and choice
- Lost opportunities for individualization
- Mass management
- Impoverished experiences that lead to more devaluation

To counteract devalued roles, we look at the giftedness of ALL people

Gifts of the.....

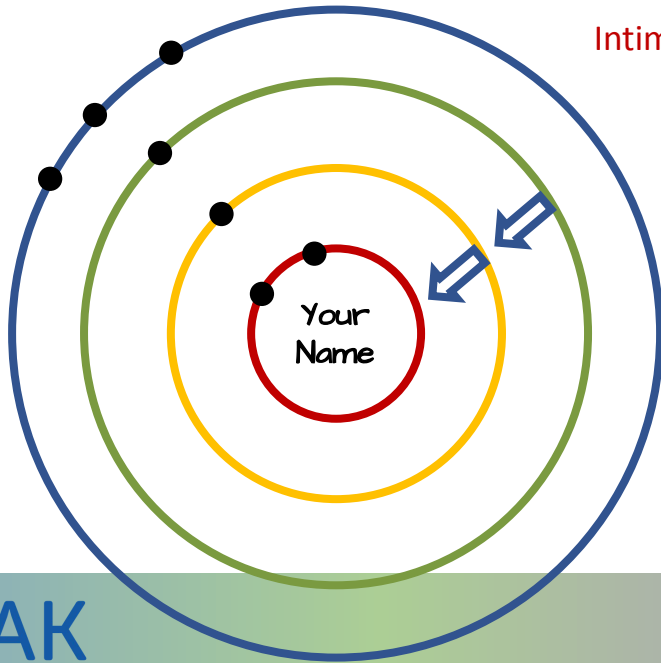
Name:

Date:

Head	Heart	Hands	History of you and your family
 <p><u>- things that you know a lot about and like to ask about.</u></p>	 <p><u>- what do you care about and feel passionate about?</u></p>	 <p><u>- things that you like to do, build or create.</u></p>	 <p><u>- things that are important to family, culture, etc.</u></p>

Gifts of presence and Gifts of doing

Using Gifts to Identify Places for Participation in Circles of Support...



Intimacy Meaningful relationships – people who are intimately involved in your life

Friendship Well...um, your friends 😊

Participation Those you meet in places you go to regularly - formal and informal

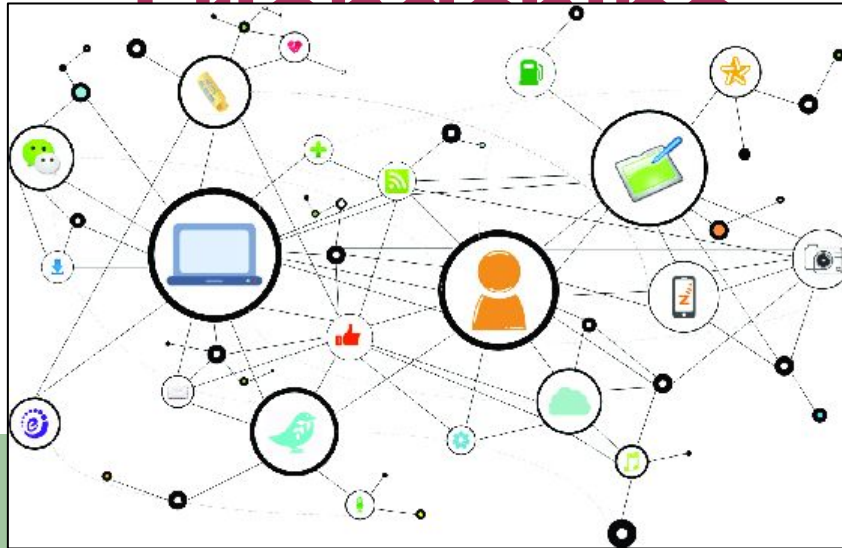
Exchange Those who you pay to provide a service in your life

Our **Gifts & Interests & Strengths** → **Roles/Identities**

which then leads to → **Places in the Community to**

Participate → resulting in **Relationships &**

Friendships



"What are next steps you could take to implement these core values and practices in your role tomorrow?"

PEAK Parent Center

<https://www.peakparent.org/>

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