



Academy Newsletter

First Inclusive Post-Secondary International Student Symposium 2017

The first Inclusive Post- Secondary International Student Symposium was held on January 26 & 27, 2017 at Kennesaw State University. President Samuel Olens alongside WellStar College Dean Mark Tillman were present. The



symposium invited self-advocates and mentors to submit proposals to share their experiences

through inclusive post-secondary education programs in four different strands: academic, social, housing/daily living, and career/internship. Symposium sponsors consisted of All About Developmental Disabilities (AADD), Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD), Amerigroup, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA), and Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium (GAIPSEC).



The excitement of this opportunity still continues, as in the spring of 2017 the Academy will continue its world travels and cultural experiences with a third Study Abroad trip to the United Arab Emirates.



Welcome the new Kennesaw State University President Samuel Olens

First Advanced Leadership and Career Development (ALCD) Cohort Graduation



In fall 2014, the Academy launched an enrichment pilot program that offered four students the chance to continue their education with the Academy. This pilot program is now the Advanced Leadership and Career Development (ALCD). This second two-year program offers students a more in depth experience in leadership and career skills development, while also allowing students further experience in KSU's wide variety of academic classes. In Fall 2015, the inaugural ALCD program cohort came to campus. This group of students included two students that were successful in completing the enrichment pilot program and graduates of ASCE program alongside four other ASCE graduates. The first ALCD cohort will graduate during the spring 2017 graduation ceremony.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“My first year has been awesome. I am having so much fun and I have gotten to make some great new friends!” – Aysiah Simmons (1st year)

“My travel to the United Arab Emirates was a great experience. We visited different sport facilities and got to meet and have dinner with the Princess of Sharjah. The culture was really different. I gained a lot of valuable knowledge on a different culture of the world. I am very thankful for the opportunity to get to travel and spread information about inclusive education. I would love to be able to go again!” – Darien Todd (2nd year)

“I am very thankful for the Amerigroup Scholarship that I received. With their help, I was able to pay for school and continue my education with the Academy” -Daniel Bryant (3rd year)

“GVRA has helped me by helping me pay for school. Without their help, I wouldn't be in the Academy.” – Derek James (4th year)



Academy staff and students visiting Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts during fall 2016.



Disability Mentoring Day and Amerigroup Community Care Reception during fall 2016 semester. This event was a great opportunity for our students to gain networking skills and to practice them with Amerigroup executives. Amerigroup has provided great collaboration and support for the Academy and has done so for the past three years. During the event, the Academy was awarded a \$22,000 grant that is used to fund scholarships for students.



“The Academy has tremendously grown since its inception in 2009. We are delighted to have the Academy as part of the WellStar College. I enjoy meeting the students and being a part of their experience as they grow throughout the program.” – WellStar College of Health and Human Services Dean Mark Tillman.

GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Academy has had many global visitors during the fall 2016 semester:

- Mr. Saeed Butti Hadeed from Sharjah Center for Humanitarian Service, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- Her Highness Sheikha Jameela from the United Arab Emirates
- Aziz Sultan from Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat, Oman



Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Janet LaBreck, visits the Academy to learn more about inclusive post-secondary education programs in Georgia.



Academy students visit the capitol for IPSE Advocacy on February 1, 2017.