Increasing Student Access and Success in the STEM Disciplines

Partner: Center for Community Inclusion & Disability Studies – Maine’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Pilot Program: development, implementation, and evaluation of a model for supporting the transition of Maine students with disabilities into STEM-related postsecondary educational opportunities.
The Barriers

- Lack of career awareness;
- Limited skills related to self-determination & self-advocacy;
- Failure to actively involve both the student and their family in postsecondary planning;
- Low expectations and a lack of challenging curricula; etc.

The Model

- Up to 3 student and family-centered planning meetings;
- 3 6-hour trainings on a college campus (Orono & Portland); and
- Mentorship, internship, and summer camp opportunities introduced and provided support for participation.
Training Sessions

Include:

• Self-determination & self-advocacy;
• Mentorship;
• Instruction & support to access assistive technology;
• Career awareness;
• STEM-related camp & internship opportunities; and
• Tours of research facilities & introduction to projects.

Outcomes

• 10 students enrolled in the first year, 9 have enrolled in the current year;
• First visit to a college campus for some students;
• One student expressed interest in enrolling at UM;
• Mentorship connections made.
Thank you!

For more information, please contact:

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