

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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