

ACT  
The Autism College Transition Program at Columbus State

A Partnership of the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio and Columbus State Community College Disability Services

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### CSCC/ESCFC Collaboration

- ESCFC proposed a program specific to students identified on the Autism Spectrum
- We recognized that the number of students on the Spectrum attending CSCC has doubled in the past year.
- The number of students identified with AS in the K-12 systems has also dramatically increased.
- Noted issues particular to students on the spectrum that we were addressing at CSCC
- Agreed on the Need for transitional services to postsecondary education

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### Collaboration

- Rationale: As these students transition into postsecondary education there are issues that are unique to this population that may have an effect on their learning process. Addressing these issues prior to or at the beginning of their postsecondary education, in a postsecondary environment, will provide for a more successful experience and eventual success in a career.

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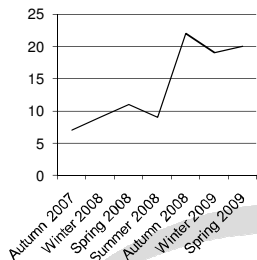
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### Students on the Spectrum at CSCC

- Autumn 2007 7
- Winter 2008 9
- Spring 2008 11
- Summer 2008 9
- Autumn 2008 22
- Winter 2009 19
- Spring 2009 20



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#### Principles of ACT:

- ❖ Affordable
  - ❖ Tuition Only
- ❖ Accessible
  - ❖ Open Enrollment
- ❖ Transitional
  - ❖ Goal is Independence



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### The Mission of ACT

1. To Support and Prepare the Student on the Spectrum for Success in the College Environment, and
2. To Support and Inform the Faculty for success in their work with the Student on the Spectrum

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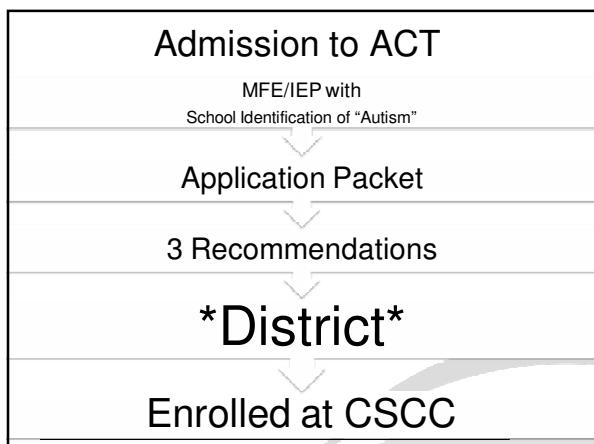
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### Program Outcomes for Student

- Independent attendance at a post secondary education facility
- Access and use of appropriate support services
- Successful completion of desired degree and competitive employment

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### ACT Student Criteria for Success

**Independence**

- Access Support Services on Campus: Advising, Disability, Career and Mental Health Counseling, Math and Writing Academic Assistance Centers
- Schedule Classes Independently
- Independently transport self to and from campus

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## ACT Student Criteria for Success

### Social Competency

- Negotiate Student/Instructor Relationships
- Participate in Non-Academic Events and Activities
- Understand and Follow the Code of Conduct

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## ACT Student Criteria for Success

### Future Planning

- Identify goals and develop a plan to reach those goals
- Choose a Program of Study and achieve passing grades
- Increase Self-Esteem by learning about the Autism Spectrum Community

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### Student's Criteria for Success: Student Responsibility and ACT Supports

Student Criteria for Success	Student's Responsibility	ACT Program's Consultive Supports
Access Office of Disability Services	Make and Keep Appointment with D.S. and follow through	Assist in paperwork, introductions, and implementation of services; Monitor ongoing academic challenges
Understand/follow Code of conduct	Attend, Learn and Pass (at least 80%) an educational module on the Code of Conduct	Teach Module on Code of Conduct; monitor behavior issues if they arise; mediate with Public Safety if needed
Negotiate Peer and Student - Instructor Relationships	Attend modules, make and keep appointments with Instructors	Teach Social skills modules; Academic Mediation; Raise Faculty awareness of A.S.; provide faculty instruction on A.S.
Achieve Passing Grades in Courses	Organize Study Plan and follow it; attend all classes; Self-Advocate; utilize writing and math labs; do your best	Teach and Monitor College skills; Time Management; Organization; Coach on how to find and interact with services on campus
ID Goals and Develop a Plan to Reach them	Attend modules and Transition Meetings; Interact with Campus Transition Resources	Provide Transition coaching on Employment, life planning skills, future plans
Participate in at least 2 non-academic activities or events	Attend and write-up at least two non-academic activities or events	Provide connections and information on Campus Events and clubs; Encourage Attendance and Involvement
Independently Schedule Classes	Utilize Advising services effectively; Learn how to use Web Site to get information; Register and choose Courses and Major	Provide Coaching and connections on registration, advising, and classes with fading support
Independently Transport Self to/from CSCC campus	Follow Instructions and/or lessons on accessing transportation	Provide transition services regarding transportation options
Increase Self Awareness and knowledge of AS	Read; Attend conferences and modules on A.S.	Access readings and conferences on A.S.; encourage Self-Esteem; monitor and address Mental Health issues that arise.

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### Services Provided by Educational Specialist:

- Individualized Coaching (2-5 hours/week)
- Direct Instruction (1 hour/week)
- Mediate Academic Success
- Encourage Relationship Building
- Assist in Accessing Services
- Foster Social Opportunities
- Construct a Community of Interest around A.S.

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### Just a few of the 2008-2009 ACTivities

- *Summer Bridge Week*
- Two-Five hours/week 1:1 with Ed. Spec.
  - Quarter Calendar
  - Student/Instructor
  - Academic Progress
- Weekly ACT Meeting
  - Guest Speakers
  - Independent Living
- Information Night
- A.S. Conferences
- Fall/Spring CSCC In-Service Trainings
- Book Studies/Films
- Departmental Presentations
- *ACT Basketball Night*

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### Services Provided by Transition Specialist

- Future Planning: goals & decision making
- Teach Modules on Self Determination
- Transition Meetings to discuss goals
- Follow up on career counseling for career planning
- Linkages to Adult Services

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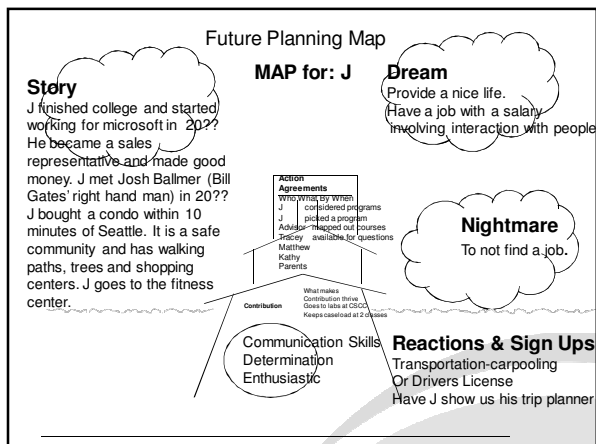
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### Change These Current Transition Outcomes for Students on the Autism Spectrum

- Percent "Engaged"=55.7% (third lowest level)
- Employment Only= 14.0%
- Postsecondary Education Only=14.0%
- Employment & Postsecondary Education=13.6%
- Job Training Alone or with Other=13.1%

(National Longitudinal Transition Study-2NLT2,2005)

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### Career Counseling

- Career Counselor
- BVR Counselor
- Interest Inventory
- O net online

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## Program Outcomes for CSCC

- ACT provides specific behavioral, social and academic support services to students on the autism spectrum who attend Columbus State and who are registered with Disability Services.
- ACT provides in-service trainings to Columbus State faculty and staff on working with students on the autism spectrum.
- ACT provides individual consultation to CSCC faculty and staff.
- ACT helps facilitate communication between faculty, student and family when necessary.
- Upon completion of the ACT program, students transition into a Columbus State program of study.

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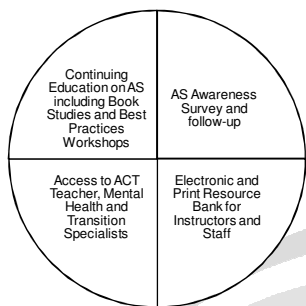
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## For the Faculty ACT Offers:



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## Making ACT Replicable

- **Research Initiative**
  - What are the characteristics and challenges which are specific to transitioning students on the A.S.?
  - For instance—what interrupts social competency for Students on the A.S. in regard to student/instructor interaction?
- **Current Developing Research**
  - 18 item survey to elucidate concrete issues in student/instructor communication
  - Workshops to increase awareness of these issues between students and instructors
  - Interventions designed to improve social competency in A.S. student/instructor communication

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### Quotes

- *"A journey of a thousand miles begins with just one step."  
..My thanks to ACT for taking that first step with me."  
"Paul", an ACT student*
- *"I feel that I am better off than if I came here without ACT's help. You guys helped me schedule my classes, and you have pushed me to do stuff that I wouldn't have done if there wasn't someone there—like finding out about the CSCC Gospel Choir."  
"Walter", an ACT student*
- *"Each of you in the ACT program has enriched the lives of those members of the campus community who've had the honor of working with you. Don't ever forget how much you have to offer. I'm already eternally grateful for what you've taught me."  
Tracy Koski, Assistant Professor*

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Stephan Shore

*"Once you've seen one student on the Autism Spectrum...*



*...you've seen one student on the Autism Spectrum"*

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educational service center  
of Central Ohio Serving Delaware, Franklin & Union Counties

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