



*An **innovative collaborative** approach that brings together a **comprehensive** array of traditional and **non-traditional** services designed to **empower** the college student with a disability to achieve career path **employment and independence.***

C2C-Bridging the Gap

The Bridging the Gap Program in California has completed four semesters of classes at San Diego State University, California State University Fullerton and University of California Berkeley. This project was funded by the Kessler Signature Grant program. One of 5 grants funded nationally for the 2014-2015 cycle.

The C2C- Bridging the Gap program combined a pioneering core curriculum, workplace experience, mentoring and placement supports for college students with disabilities attending three universities.

SSA data indicates that 1 of 2 students who graduate with a college degree- baccalaureate through doctoral programs is not working within 5 years of graduation (SSA/Baccalaureate Study/2010). With the help of the Kessler Foundation, the Bridging the Gap Team is changing those odds and students are able to bring their skills and talents to the marketplace and fully participate in the economic rewards.

The core curriculum was developed by Paul Hippolitus at Berkeley and is now available at the Interwork Institute's Center for Distance Learning. As an on-line instructors guide, the curriculum is available at no cost to colleges, universities and other service organizations across the country.



151 students have participated in the program and have completed the “Professional Development and Disability” course. Each student was matched with a peer mentor and the project placement team identified opportunities that matched the students career goals. Continuing follow along activities were provided to support a successful college to career transition for the students at the each location.

Participant Flow Chart



Measuring Success: Course Reviews, Testimonials and Placement Snapshots.

In a study by Victor Pineda, Ph.D., UCB, all students enrolled completed a pre/post-test survey. Results from these surveys reveal shifts in attitudes and perceptions about work and their ability to compete successfully in the marketplace with their non-disabled peers.

Testimonials from the students who have completed the course indicate a transformation in their career expectations and professional development skills.

Early placement snapshots reveal that students are participating in sequential work experience including volunteering, internships and summer employment while in school and are seeking and attaining career path employment after graduating.