

IN! Colorado Initiative for Inclusive Higher Education

The Colorado Initiative for Inclusive Higher Education (IN!) is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 2014 by educators, disability leaders, students and families who have a vision for better and more fulfilling career opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities (ID). Our mission is to create fully inclusive college opportunities in Colorado for students with ID to foster academic growth, social development, and career advancement.

Until recently, low expectations coupled with limited opportunities have prevented individuals with ID from the benefits associated with a college education. Nationally, students with ID who are completing inclusive college programs are experiencing the advantages of higher education, including **better jobs**, **higher wages**, and **greater independence**. It's a paradigm shift that is showing promising results.

For the first time in Colorado history, individuals with ID were welcomed on three college campuses in 2016 through the hard work of IN!. They are fully included members of the student body and enjoy all of the rights and responsibilities that come with campus membership. The schools participating in the pilot initiative are the University of Northern Colorado, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and Arapahoe Community College.

It is IN's vision that students with ID are welcomed on all college campus throughout Colorado and allowed to continue their education and preparation for life, in an inclusive, normative setting.

Senate Bill 16–196 “Inclusive Higher Education Act”

An inclusive opportunity for students with intellectual disabilities to attend college in Colorado.

Four Year Pilot Initiative

Funding: \$75k annually from the State for each initiative

\$25k annually from IN! for each University initiative



University of Northern Colorado - GOAL (Go On and Learn)

UNC students live in dormitories with roommates or commute to campus

Visit: <https://www.unco.edu/unc-goal/>



University of Colorado at Colorado Springs - Office of Inclusive Services

UCCS students live in student apartments or commute to campus

Visit: <https://www.uccs.edu/inclusiveservices>



Arapahoe Community College - Elevate at ACC

ACC students commute to campus

Visit: <https://www.arapahoe.edu/elevate-acc>

“Inclusive Higher Education Act”

Admission Requirements:

Students must:

- Have completed high school (no SAT / ACT required)
- Have a documented intellectual disability
- Desire to go to college
- Be able to participate in class and campus activities with support
- Express an interest to live and work as independently as possible

Students will:

- Earn a state recognized credential.
- Complete three courses each semester – following an individualized Plan of Study.
- Take two courses from the school’s regular catalog and one specialized course designed to support students with ID each semester.
- Join clubs and participate in campus activities.
- Participate in career related internships.
- Create a personal portfolio.
- Engage in paid on –campus and off-campus employment.
- Set goals and develop a clear career path.

Each program is designed to reinforce the student’s success on campus with a hybrid and individualized model of support.

- Students receive both accommodations and modifications as needed in their courses.
- All students are provided additional academic and social support through person centered planning, peer mentors, and their schools’ office of disability services.
- Students do not receive a traditional undergraduate Bachelor’s degree, but work is under way by The Colorado Inclusion Consortium, led by IN!, to establish a standardized state-wide credential for students who successfully complete the program.
- The goal is for students to leave college prepared for employment and greater independence.
- Students participate in commencement exercises.

