

BRIDGING the Gap in Meaningful Transitions

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Introduction

The Bridges Training Series is a transition program offered online that focuses on preparing young adults with disabilities for independent living, higher education, and careers. This program is for students between the ages of 18-24 years old with intellectual disability (ID), other disability that includes developmental disability, autism, traumatic brain injury, or for students who have received services under IDEA (i.e. IEP or 504 plan).

The goals of the Bridges Training Series is to promote a more inclusive higher education in New Hampshire, enable the unique gifts and talents of students, and support independent living, college, and career choices for individuals with disabilities.

Four Training Series

Tools for Academic Success

- Learn about computer programs used in college and many workplaces (Zoom, Microsoft Office)
- Learn about assistive technology that can help reach education and career goals

Setting and Realizing Goals Using Person Centered Planning

- Set goals for life after high school
- Learn about person-centered planning
- Learn to problem solve and advocate to reach goals

Healthy and Social Aspects of Life

- Learn about different parts of being a healthy and well adult, including; social well-being, spiritual well-being, financial well-being, and well-being at work.

Next Steps in Person-Centered Planning

- Plan for career and employment OR college
- Identify next steps for goals
- Learn and identify the people and resources available to help reach goals



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Leadership Activities

Support students' academic success through office hours, virtual meetings, and consistent line of communication

Facilitated small group discussion and engaged with students in the Bridge's online course

Sustain line of communication with students regarding check-ins, updates, and reminders

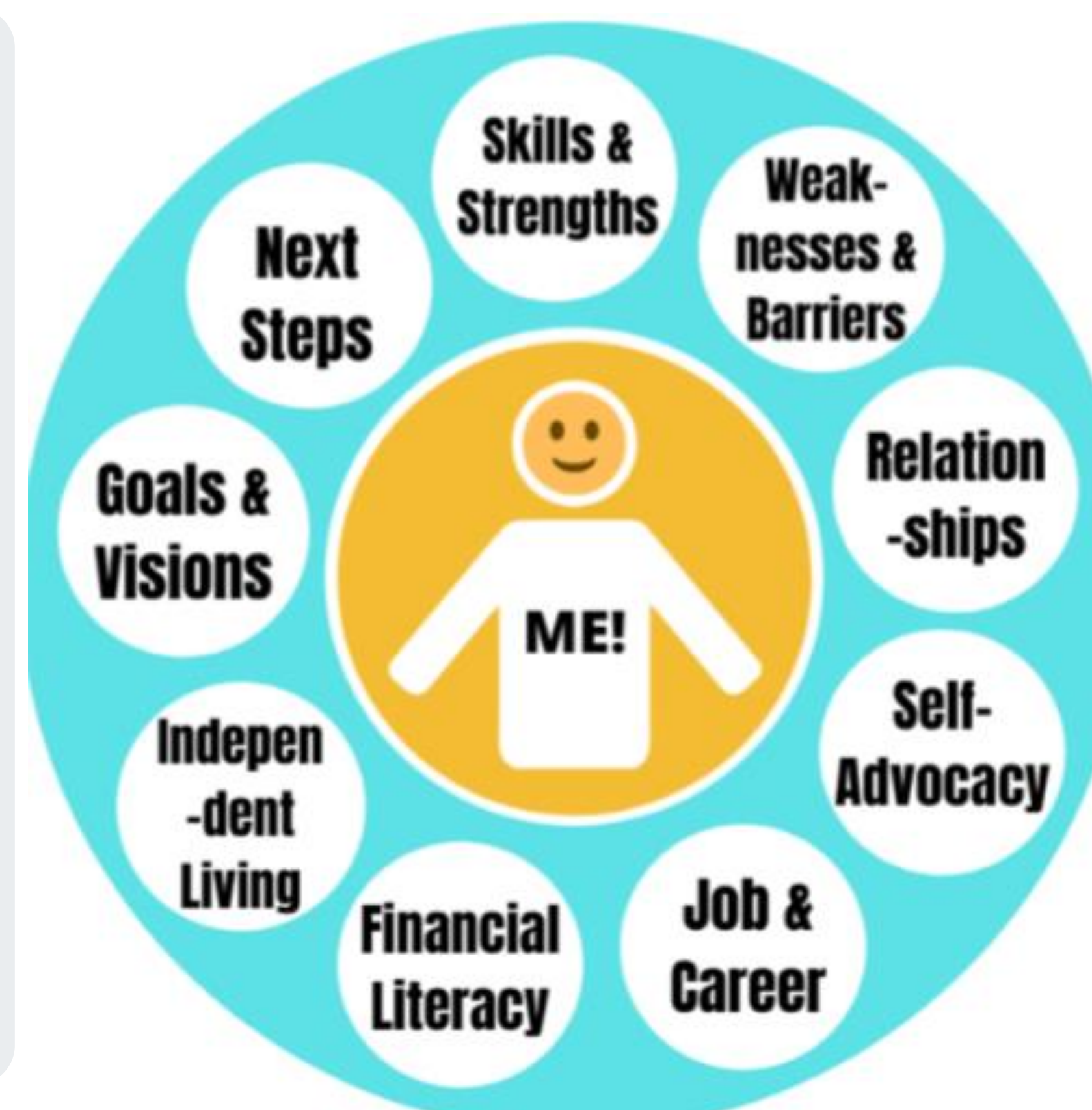
Monitor student progress and submission of assignments, offering clarification and direction for successful completion of assignments

Attended Next Steps Transitions summit to provide information and resources to parents and students regarding the Bridge's program

Participate in team meetings regarding curriculum, course trajectory, and proposed efforts in the program

Achieving Success through Person-Centered Planning

The Bridges Training series aims to help students achieve their goals through a Person-Centered Planning approach. This collaborative approach addresses the unique interests, desires, and talents of students with disabilities placing them at the center of their decision making.



UNH Bridges Program Person-Centered Planning Wheel

Outcomes

As a result of completing the Training Series, students walk away with enhanced:

- Self-awareness and discovery
- Goal setting
- Employment and academic direction and plan
- Advocacy
- Technology and personal computing
- Knowledge of resources
- Social connections

Following each training series, students receive a Digital Badge through UNH. Digital Badges are "micro-credentials" that demonstrate the accomplishment of learned specific skills and knowledge in training and learning experiences through the series. This training series allows for students and families to experience a smoother transition between high school and postsecondary pursuits.



Bridges Training Series: Tools and Technology for Academic Success, Setting and Realizing Goals, Next Steps, Healthy and Social Aspects of College Life, Bridges to College and Career Training badge image. Learning, Foundational level. Issued by University of New Hampshire

Next Steps: Enhancing the Role of Teacher Assistants

Continuation of offering additional academic support to students through office hours, virtual meetings, consistent line of communication to enhance their learning experience

Engage teaching assistants in training programs related to academic support, working with individuals with intellectual and related disabilities, and person-centered planning to enhance the support

Continue to develop program criteria and standards through measurable data and feedback for analysis of program delivery model, approaches, and student outcomes.



Cartoon Handshakes / clipart images

References

- Holburn, S., Gordon, A., & Vietze, P.M. (2007). Person-Centered Planning Made Easy: The Picture Method. Paul H. Brookes Pub. | Jade Doherty. UNH-4U Comprehensive Transition Program and Bridges Training Series. NH-ME LEND, Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire (2022). | <https://iod.unh.edu/about/UCEDD> | <https://iod.unh.edu/bridges> | <https://iod.unh.edu/unh-4u/faqs> | University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability (2024). Bridges Training Series 2024 Information Session. https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1GG1bayk90Eblptmx7SoINZzFXTwX90_/edit#slide=id.p1 | <https://www.aucd.org/template/page.cfm?id=850>



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