



Community College Interventions for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities Demonstration and Evaluation

SUMMARY

In 2014, the Chief Evaluation Office (CEO) partnered with the Office on Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) to fund contractor Westat to conduct an evaluation of the [Pathways to Careers](#) project. The outcome evaluation aims to examine the implementation and impact of innovative models for providing integrated education and career development services to youth and young adults with disabilities.

Two grantees, Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, New York and Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, Tennessee, enrolled a total of 457 students and provided several services, including outreach and recruitment activities and academic and career counseling and support services (including opportunities for work-based learning). Grantees used the Guidepost for Success framework to develop services and support for participants and the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principle for the training of faculty and staff to ensure greater student access to the curriculum.

This Department of Labor-funded study includes a final report and an issue brief. It was a result of collaboration between CEO and ODEP during the annual process to determine the Department's and contributes to the growing labor evidence-base to inform [community college](#) and [employment and training](#) programs and policies.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **More than half (57.1 percent) of participants surveyed said the project was “very closely aligned” with personal career goals** and 39.0 percent said it was “somewhat aligned.” Only 3.9 percent said that the project did not align with their career goals.
- **Among participants who started Pathways in fall 2016, 67.2 percent were still enrolled through fall 2017** and 45.2 percent through fall 2018.
- **Onondaga Community College devoted substantial effort to building college-level capacity and experienced significant institutional change as a result of the grant.** Administration officials speak positively of their desire to sustain several elements of their project, including the Onondaga Pathway to Careers Scholars program and the UDL Academy.
- **Pellissippi State Community College emphasized increasing capacity to provide comprehensive student services.** With its larger staff, all student participants receive extensive one-on-one support, with individualized counseling tailored to their own needs and aspirations.





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- **The role of administration support was important but not the only key to building capacity** to serve students with disabilities. The study found improving capacity also requires accurate identification of student needs and this may require intensive, individualized services.

[SEE FULL REPORT](#)

TIMEFRAME: 2014-2019

SUBMITTED BY: Westat

DATE PREPARED: December 2020

PARTNER AGENCY: Office of Disability Employment Policy

SPONSOR: DOL Chief Evaluation Office

CEO CONTACT: ChiefEvaluationOffice@dol.gov

The Department of Labor (DOL) Chief Evaluation Office (CEO) sponsors independent evaluations and research, primarily conducted by external, third-party contractors in accordance with the [Department of Labor Evaluation Policy](#). CEO's research development process includes extensive technical review at the design, data collection and analysis stage, including: external contractor review and OMB review and approval of data collection methods and instruments per the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), review by academic peers (e.g., Technical Working Groups), and inputs from relevant DOL agency and program officials and CEO technical staff. Final reports undergo an additional independent expert technical review and a review for Section 508 compliance prior to publication. The resulting reports represent findings from this independent research and do not represent DOL positions or policies.

