

Focus

To provide an *individualized, person centered* curricula based on student's needs, strengths and interest that will lead to increased knowledge and skills gained through access and participation in postsecondary education and on campus experiences.



Program Objectives

- The recruitment, preparation, and retention of students with ID that meet eligibility criteria.
- Initial and ongoing advising and support through academic mentoring, peer coaching, faculty advising, and job coaching.
- The development of self-determination and self-advocacy skills.
- The development and generalization of independent living skills in the community.

This product is funded by the State of Florida Department of Education, Division of Public Schools and Community Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B, Special Projects, and state general revenue funds. It is developed by the Office of Special Education and Educational Services, Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County

Ms. Perla Tabares-Hantman, Chair
Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Vice Chair
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Mr. Carlos L. Curbelo
Ms. Susie Castillo
Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway
Dr. Marta Pérez
Ms. Raquel A. Regalado
Dr. Martin Karp

Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Marie Izquierdo
Chief Academic Officer,
Office of Innovation and Accountability

Office of Exceptional Student Education
Ms. Ava Goldman
Administrative Director
Ms. Liliana Salazar
District Director
Ms. Jill Brookner
Instructional Supervisor

Mr. Rene Sierra
Ms. Angela Obregon
Project Coordinators

Florida International University

Mark B. Rosenberg, President
Delia Garcia, Dean, College of Education

Diana Valle-Riestra, Director
Project Panther LIFE

Parent to Parent of Miami

Isabel C. Garcia, Executive Director
info@ptopmiami.org
305-271-9797

If TTY assistance is needed please access Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TTY) at (305) 995-2530

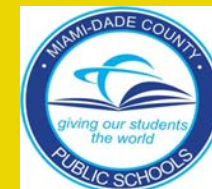
Project Panther LIFE

Panther Learning Is For Everyone



Post-Secondary Transition Program for Students with Disabilities

FIU
FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY



What is Project Panther LIFE?

Florida International University (FIU) in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc. presents a newly designed postsecondary transition program for students with Intellectual Disabilities (ID). Project Panther LIFE will prepare students with intellectual disabilities to complete a well planned, structured, and individualized curriculum with a system of supports. It is a non-degree seeking certificate program and will include academic mentoring, peer coaching, faculty advising, and job coaching.

Eligibility Criteria

- Have finished the necessary credits for graduation
- Be 18-21 years of age
- Be a resident of Miami-Dade County
- Have a desire to receive transition services in a college setting
- Have a documented Intellectual Disability
- Will benefit from participation in a variety of non-paid internships
- Are interested and capable of using public transportation to access Project Panther LIFE (travel training to be provided by the program during the summer prior to the beginning of the school year)
- Have a desire to work competitively at the end of the Project Panther LIFE program
- Be able to communicate effectively with others
- Display a level of social maturity conducive to a college environment
- Be able to maintain personal self care and hygiene appropriately
- Have satisfactory attendance from previous schools

Student Benefits

- Access to University Classes
- Support of Academic Mentor and Peer Coach
- Access to Online Transition and Academic Curricula with Support
- Faculty Advisor
- Daily Access to FIU Fitness Center
- Non Paid Work Experience/Job Shadowing
- Access to On-Campus Activities (Football Games, Sporting Events, Clubs, etc.)
- Job Coaching/Job Placement upon Completion of the Program



PROJECT Panther LIFE

For more information please contact
the Division of Exceptional Student
Education

Jill Brookner, Instructional Supervisor

at

(786) 268-4757 or

Email jbrookner@dadeschools.net

Program Goal

To provide students with intellectual disabilities (ID) an **Inclusive**, integrated postsecondary program with an individualized, person-centered curricula based on student needs, strengths, and interests that will lead to increased knowledge and skills gained through **access and participation** in postsecondary education and on campus experiences at Florida International University (FIU).

