

## Instruction

**Program: Transition to Independent Living**  
**Instructional Division: Learning Support**  
**Program Lead: Robin Polski**

### **Program Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Transition to Independent Living program is to prepare intellectually disabled students with the skills necessary for independent living. We serve program participants in achieving a certificate of completion in Independent Living Skills. This is accomplished through a twenty two month program encompassing academic courses, vocational training, direct support services, social and leisure skills, and transition services. We value an enriched, interactive, and inclusive collegiate experience for program participants, Taft College student body, and the community at large.

### **Program Summary:**

The Transition to Independent Living program (TIL) is a post-secondary, twenty-two month, educational experience for adults with developmental disabilities. The program provides instruction, training, and support on the Taft College campus. The comprehensive program utilizes curriculum and practicum opportunities to promote the acquisition of functional skills, career skills, and social skills necessary for program participants to live a productive, normalized, independent life. The program screens, interviews, and admits between 50-52 students per academic year. Kern Regional Center funds for a total of fifty applicants each academic year. Students are funded through their community area Regional Centers. Upon entering the program, student's funding source remains their community regional center. During the second or sophomore year for students, their regional center case is transferred to Kern Regional Center for funding.

The TIL academic year commences at the beginning of August and concludes the last business day of June. Freshmen program participants occupy 28 dorms in the Wildcat Way residence hall on the Taft Community College campus. Sophomore program participants reside in one on-campus apartment and several one to four bedroom homes within the community of Taft. Taft College has offered programs and classes serving individuals with developmental disabilities since 1976; the TIL program began in August 1995 with funding from Kern Regional Center. Taft Community College serves as the sponsoring agency. The TIL program maintains a staff ratio of 3:1 and employs various staff including administrative, certificated, classified staff, and faculty.

Throughout the TIL program, participants receive transition services to formulate, establish, and implement individual transition plans. Transition plans identify individual short and long term goals, assist participants toward obtaining employment, and locate housing options within the transition community of their choice.

### **Annual Program Goals Update:**

TPSID (Transition Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities into Higher Education) grant was awarded on October 1st 2010, to the TIL program as a 5 year (\$2.5 million) grant. Now, in its fourth year, TPSID grant monies continue to be used to pursue businesses and companies within the community and county to provide jobs for students with Autism and Intellectual disabilities. There are two general

aspects of implementation for the grant. First, there is an inclusion model which provides support for TIL students enrolled in traditional Taft College courses in the form of accommodation specialists. These individuals provide one-to-one mentoring and support inside and outside of the traditional classroom. Additionally, the accommodation specialists provide typed notes, tutoring, study skills, and other needed accommodations as identified. The second component of the grant is the work experience model which provides a third year for TIL students with work experience, on-the-job training at various businesses with the county and post-third year participation job placements. Current employers participating in the grant are Frito Lay, Vintage Petroleum, Taft College Child Care Center, Taft College Office of Instruction, and Occidental Petroleum.

The new Center for Independent Living building was being constructed during the 2010-2012 year with an anticipated completion date near the end of April, 2013. TIL staff moved into the new Center for Independent Living (CIL) building in late June/early July of 2013. The official dedication of the building was held on October 11, 2013, hosted by Dr. Maloney, and attended by many community members, Taft College staff and faculty, members of the Wayfinder program at Fresno State University, Vince Fong, representing Congressman Kevin McCarthy, Taft College board members, and a speaking presentation from Dr. Olivia Raynor, Director of the UCLA Tarjan Center.

The annual Casino night fundraiser was held in September at the Bakersfield Jam Gymnasium in Bakersfield. The event was quite successful in regard to raising additional financial contributions needed to supplement the new building expenses.

**Course Enrollment Trends:**

Due to prescriptive nature of the TIL program design, enrollment numbers remain steady.

**Course and Section Success Rates:**

In general, courses in this program are moderately to highly successful.

**Major Counts:**

Major Counts have increased since 2010.

2010/2011 (28)

2011/2012 (44)

2012/2013 (55)

**Award Counts:**

There has been a gradual increase in award counts since 2009.

2009/2010 (18)

2010/2011 (25)

2011/2012 (22)

2012/2013 (25)

**Other Data (Accuplacer, Student Evaluation of Course, CCSSE, etc.):**

Student demographics for 2012-2013

Male students	62%
Female students	38%

Ethnicity:

Caucasian	76%
Hispanic	12%
African American	6%
Asian	6%

Diagnosis of students attending the TIL program:

MMR (Mild Mental Retardation, now Intellectually disabled per the DSM 5) 52%  
ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) 46%  
Williams Syndrome 2%

**Summary of Program Level SLO Findings:**

TIL Program Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the requirements for the Transition to Independent Living Program, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the understanding of good work ethic, employer expectations, and the skills necessary to become a valued employee.
2. Think critically about responsibilities.
3. Demonstrate decision making processes and advocacy.
4. Integrate, transfer, and apply the life skills necessary to live independently.

**Summary and Implications of Major Findings:**

The continued integration of technology has enhanced opportunities for overall learning. Students are receptive to using iPads and the desktop computers for research, as well as using selected applications for tutorial purposes. Recently, we acquired an Apple TV which will be useful in assisting students with hands-on skill building. Dedicated time is needed to enhance overall usage and integration of recent technologies into the ILS curriculum and authentic assessments.

**List of Annual Program Goal Statements:**

1. Hire another full time instructor or dually appointed instructor/counselor for the TIL program.
2. Infuse new technology into ILS curriculum to improve student learning outcomes.
3. Maintain student enrollment trends in ILS courses.