Postsecondary Opportunities and Options for ALL Students with Autism

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THINK COLLEGE, UMASS BOSTON

Changing Expectations. Increasing Opportunities.

Think College is a national organization dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving research and practice in inclusive higher education for people with intellectual disability.

www.ThinkCollege.net

The Think College website is a trusted source for information, training, and resources related to inclusive higher education for students with intellectual disability. The website includes:

- A searchable program directory to learn more about available college options
- A resource library that includes published research as well as field-created tools and resources
- Online learning modules on a variety of topics
- Research to practice briefs, e-newsletters, and journal articles
- Topical information on the critical issues
- A policy and legislation clearinghouse

College Options for Students with Intellectual Disability

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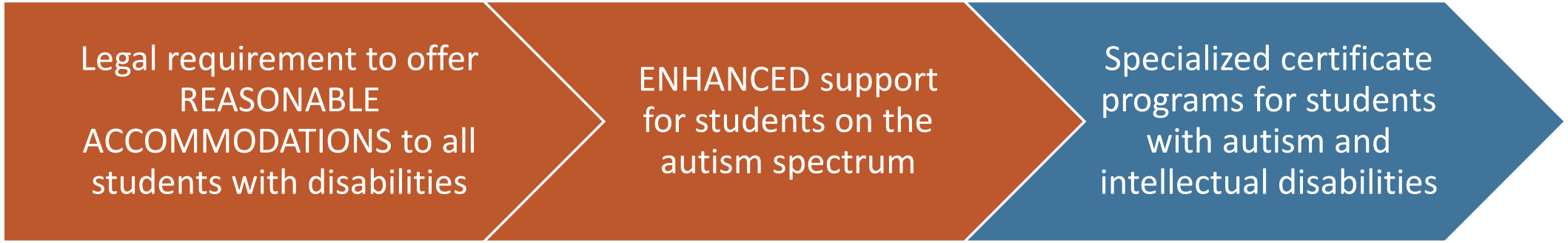
College IS an Option!



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Americans with Disabilities Act

Required to offer reasonable accommodations

Different than the protections of IDEA in K-12 Education

No modifications of requirements

Students must be deemed “otherwise qualified”

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Higher Education Opportunity Act

Refers specifically to students with intellectual disabilities

Defines a “comprehensive transition program”

Allows for use of federal financial aid

Requires 50% inclusive academic access

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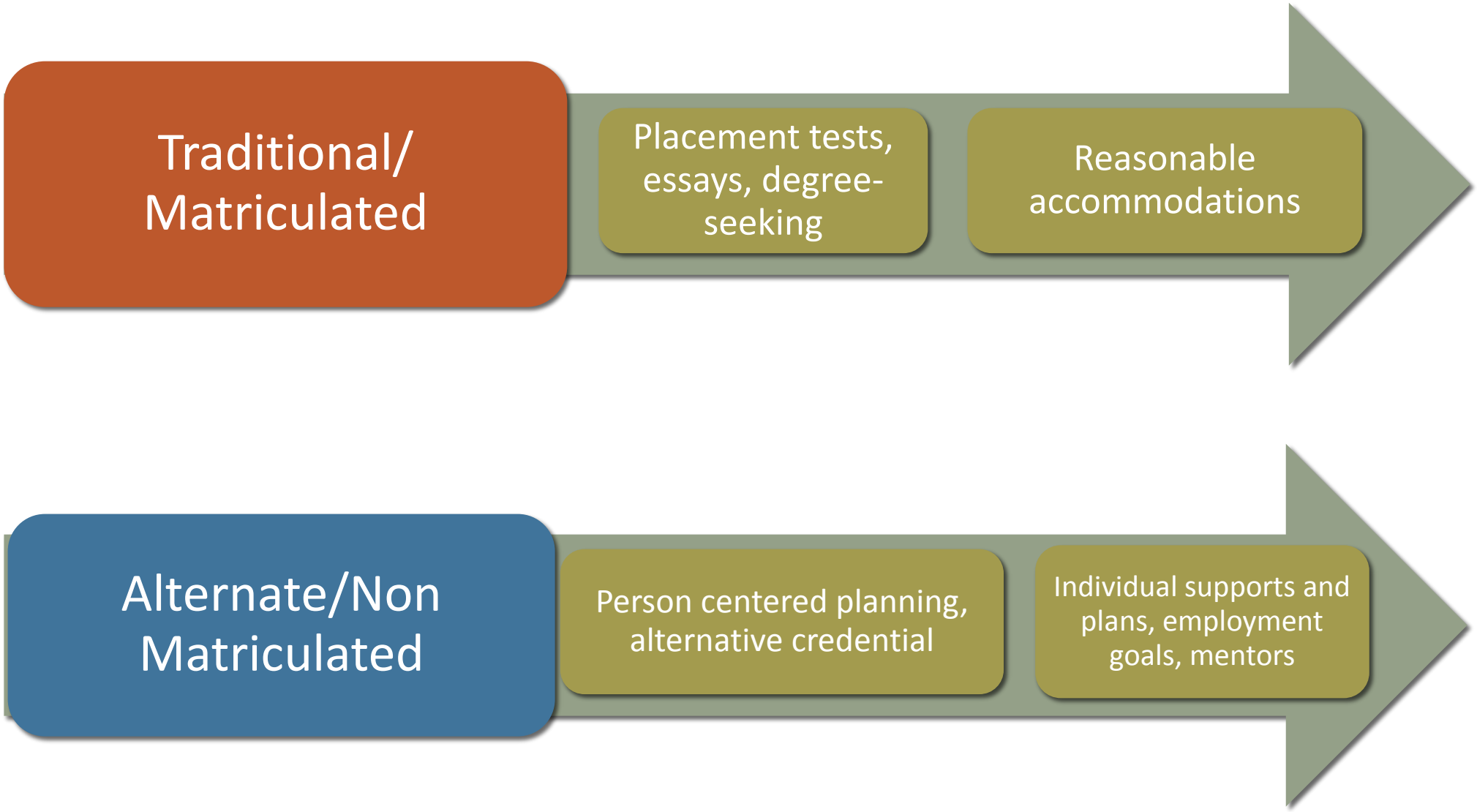
Traditional/ Matriculated
Placement tests, essays, degree-seeking
Reasonable accommodations
Alternate/Non Matriculated
Person centered planning, alternative credential
Individual supports and plans, employment goals, mentors

What Families can do

LEARN about the options that are the best fit for your child

- How supports are provided
- Different models
- Availability

PREPARE for college

- Independent Living Skills
- Safety strategies
- Visit college campuses

Understand the **changing role of families**

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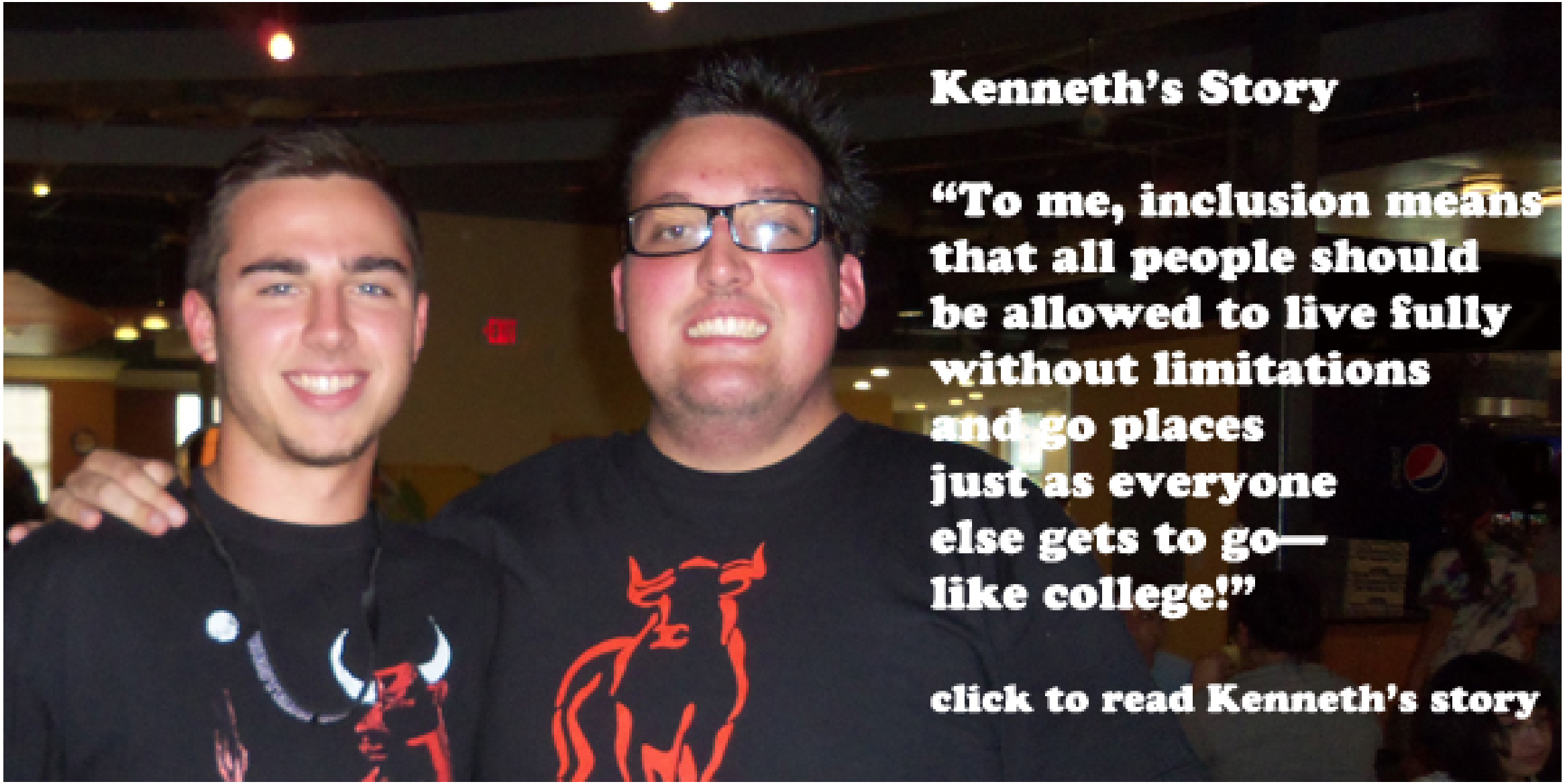

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Web Resources

Think College: College for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Featuring a searchable database of programs that serve students with autism who also have intellectual challenges, as well as listing of colleges with support programs or services for students with autism.

Navigating College: A Project of the Autism Self Advocacy Network

Featuring blogs and the Navigating College Handbook, written by adults with autism who have attended or are attending college.

College Autism Spectrum Resources

Featuring a video on preparing students with high functioning autism for college by Dr. Jane Thierfeld Brown ad Dr. Fred

Autism Speaks: Postsecondary Education Resources

Listing of web resources on funding, services, scholarships, etc related to PSE for students with autism

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