



## **New USF Program to Help Youth and Adults with Developmental Disabilities Gain Employment**

**\$300,000 state grant to increase the capacity of school professionals and community partners through use of the Discovery Process**

The Florida Center for Inclusive Communities has been awarded year one of a three-year grant totaling \$300,000 for an initiative entitled the Collaborative on Discovery and Innovation in Employment (CODIE). The project is being funded by Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. The purpose of the project is to build the capacity of school professionals in collaboration with community action partners to use the Discovery Process in supporting youth and adults with developmental disabilities (DD) in achieving customized employment. CODIE will train and support county-based implementation teams as they engage in systems change, provide technical assistance to teams in the implementation the Discovery process, and develop an authentic, sustainable learning community that will support teams in achieving skills to achieve mastery in implementing the Discovery process with fidelity for youth in transition and adults with developmental disabilities. Dr. Lise Fox, Director of the Division of Applied Research and Educational Supports, is Principal Investigator on the project. Nila Benito and Brenda Clark will be the project leads and will provide training and technical assistance to CODIE teams. Dr. Tammy Jorgensen-Smith is co-PI and will facilitate the evaluation of the project.

