



USF Leads the Country with a Model Certification Process Designed to Aid Persons with Significant Disabilities Secure Employment

Online Course to Certify Community Partners - Available Summer 2012

The Florida Center for Inclusive Communities is collaborating with national experts from Marc Gold & Associates, Southeast TACE, and Florida Vocational Rehabilitation to develop and implement an online certificate course in the Discovery process. Successful completion of the course will allow participants to become certified vendors for the provision of the Discovery process as a service to customers of Florida Vocational Rehabilitation. This customized employment process is utilized in lieu of traditional vocational evaluation for individuals with significant disabilities. It is a strength-based, qualitative process that has been shown to be extremely effective in facilitating achievement of competitive, integrated employment goals. The course will be offered 3 times per year through University College (formerly the Department of Continuing Education). Dr. Tammy Jorgensen Smith, Assistant Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, is the USF lead on the project and will co-teach the course in Summer 2012. Southeast TACE has awarded start up costs of \$15,000 for the project. Florida will be the first state to develop a certification process and will serve as a model for other states that wish to improve service options for job seekers with the most significant disabilities.

