

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 HOUSE
4 RESOLUTION 1065

By: Nelson

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6
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution supporting the development of
9 comprehensive transition and postsecondary education
10 programs for students with intellectual and
11 developmental disabilities; urging collaboration
12 between higher education, governmental agencies,
13 families, students, businesses, organizations and
14 other advocates; and providing for distribution.

15 WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau estimates there are
16 over 600,000 people with disabilities in Oklahoma; and

17 WHEREAS, Oklahoma, at sixteen and one-tenths percent (16.1%),
18 has the fifth greatest percentage of individuals with disabilities
19 living within its borders of any U.S. state; and

20 WHEREAS, the employment rate for Oklahomans with disabilities is
21 thirty-six and four-tenths percent (36.4%), less than half that of
22 the general population; and

23 WHEREAS, when Oklahomans with disabilities are able to find
24 work, they earn only three-fourths (3/4) what the average Oklahoman
earns in a year; and

1 WHEREAS, a young person with some postsecondary education earns
2 twenty-three percent (23%) more than a person with only a high
3 school diploma; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2013 the average annual cost of supporting a person
5 with a disability in the community in Oklahoma was Twenty-nine
6 Thousand Six Hundred and One Dollars (\$29,601.00) per person; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2013 the total cost of supporting over 8,600 people
8 with disabilities in Oklahoma was over Two Hundred Fifty-seven
9 Million Dollars (\$257,000,000.00); and

10 WHEREAS, the 2014 annual report of the National Coordinating
11 Center for Postsecondary Education showed that postsecondary
12 education experiences for youth with intellectual and developmental
13 disabilities can result in over sixty percent (60%) of students
14 securing jobs above minimum wage; and

15 WHEREAS, postsecondary education substantially increases the
16 likelihood of a person with a disability securing a job and becoming
17 economically self-sufficient.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
19 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

20 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives believes there is an
21 opportunity to create and supports the development of comprehensive
22 transition and postsecondary education programs for students with
23 intellectual and developmental disabilities. And furthermore, the
24 Oklahoma House of Representatives urges the following:

1 THAT Oklahoma Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) explore
2 creating inclusive, comprehensive programs for youth with
3 intellectual and developmental disabilities that meet national
4 recommended standards.

5 THAT Oklahoma IHEs work with families of youth with intellectual
6 and developmental disabilities and the youth themselves to explore
7 ways to create such programs.

8 THAT Oklahoma IHEs establish public and private partnerships to
9 fund these programs with a goal of self-sufficiency over the next
10 three to five years.

11 THAT Oklahoma businesses and IHEs work together to create work-
12 based learning experiences that provide opportunities for youth with
13 intellectual and developmental disabilities.

14 THAT Oklahoma IHEs, the Department of Rehabilitation Services,
15 Developmental Disabilities Services, any governmental agency that
16 provides services to individuals with intellectual or developmental
17 disabilities, disability advocates, family members, and youth with
18 disabilities work with philanthropic groups to create pilot
19 comprehensive transition and postsecondary education programs.

20 THAT such pilot programs work with national groups creating high
21 quality comprehensive transition and postsecondary education
22 programs to ensure models created in Oklahoma are high quality,
23 collect appropriate outcomes data, and result in increases in
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1 employment for youth with intellectual and developmental
2 disabilities.

3 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Marie Moore,
4 Deputy Director of the Developmental Disabilities Services Division
5 of the Department of Human Services; Ann Trudgeon, Executive
6 Director of the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council; Joe
7 Cordova, Executive Director of the Department of Rehabilitation
8 Services; Kim Osmani, Transition Coordinator of the Department of
9 Rehabilitation Services; Dr. Blake Sonobe, Vice Chancellor for
10 Academic Affairs for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
11 Education; Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent of Public
12 Instruction; Todd Loftin, Executive Director of Assessment and
13 Instruction, Special Education, for the State Department of
14 Education; Doris Erhart, Leadership/Transition Family Support
15 Partner for the Oklahoma Family Network; Wanda Felty, Community
16 Leadership and Advocacy Coordinator for Oklahoma LEND; Kayla Bower,
17 Attorney and Executive Director of the Oklahoma Disability Law
18 Center; and Jill Harrison, Executive Director of the Down Syndrome
19 Association of Central Oklahoma

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