

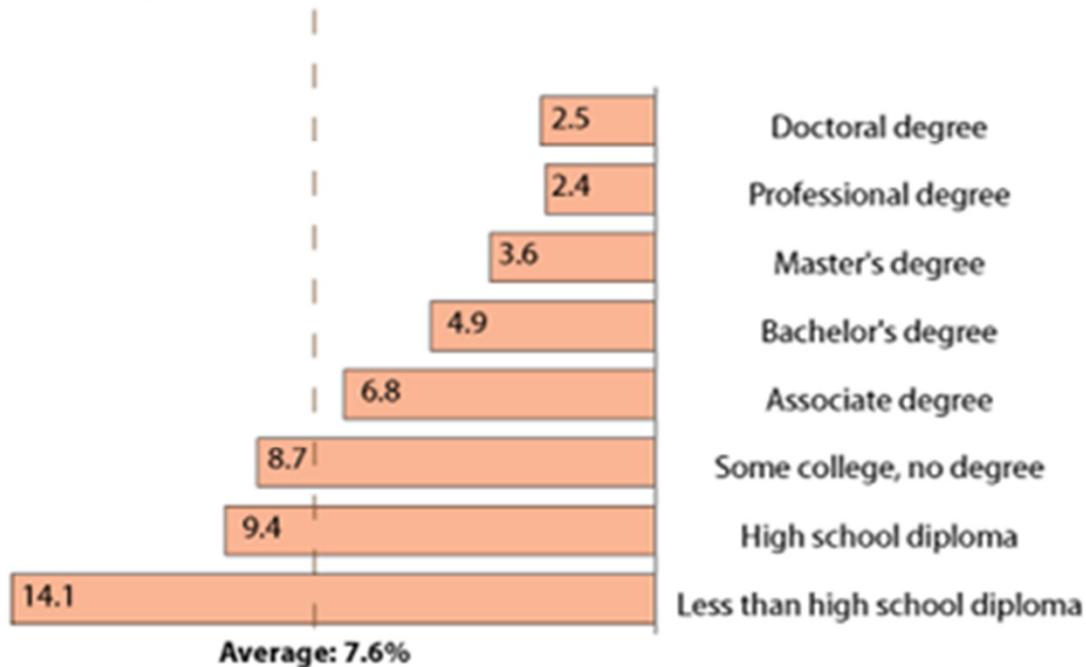
AZ Special Higher Education Learning Plans (HELP)

- Employment is a top goal for the AZDDPC.
- The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that in January 2010, the percentage of people with disabilities in the labor force was 21.8% compared with 70.1% for persons with no disability.

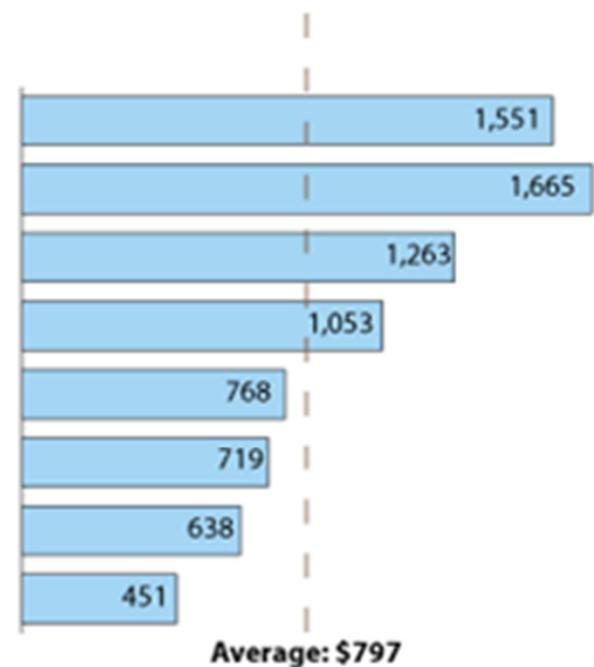
AZ Special HELP

Education Pays

Unemployment rate in 2011 (in %)



Median weekly earnings in 2011 (in \$)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

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- A comprehensive employment strategy for individuals with developmental disabilities to increase the abyssal un- and under-employment rate simply must contain a plan to increase postsecondary access and educational attainment levels both in quality and quantity.
- The past four years have seen unprecedented friendly policy changes at the federal level aimed at supporting and dramatically increasing postsecondary education.

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- The research is also clear that postsecondary success is dramatically increased when students have support and guidance.
- As a result many college access programs have developed. Many of these programs specialize in underrepresented students which are typically thought of as low-income and/or minority.
- Together these programs form the Arizona College Access Network and the National College Access Network.

Home > College Access Program Directory

College Access Program Directory

Use the directory below to browse College Access Programs, or use the [Search Page](#) to view a filtered list of programs.

Program	Director	City/State/Zip	Phone	Website
2NAU	Brenda Sutton	Phoenix, AZ 85053	602 776-4609	http://extended.nau.edu
Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center South Mountain	Linda LaFontain	Phoenix, AZ 85042	602-323-9890	http://www.aaechighschools.org
AVID- Yuma School District One	Terry Lowe	Yuma, AZ 85364	928-502-4310	http://www.yuma.org
Early Childhood and Education Professions Programs	Maria A. Goatcher	Tuba City, Arizona 86045	(928) 282-1050	http://tcusd.org
PUSD Career Centers	Cindy Aylward	Peoria, AZ 85345	623-486-6358	
TRiO - GateWay CC Upward Bound Program	Wiley Davis	Phoenix, AZ 85034	602-286-8198	
Education For Life	Jeremy Wood	Phoenix, Arizona 85009	602-818-9929	http://NMAZ.net
College Bound Mesa	Liz Paulus	Mesa, Arizona 85201	602-550-3161	http://collegeboundmesa.org
Maricopa Hoop of Learning Program	Pam Yabeny	Tempe, Arizona 85281	480-731-8032	

HOT TOPICS

College Access
Curated by AzCAN



Report shows charter school enrollment on the rise, highest rates in

Scoop.iff

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- Issues such as rising tuition costs and confusion about complex college admission and financial aid processes keep many qualified students from entering college. Many of those who do enroll face additional challenges finding the support and resources they need to graduate

(http://www.collegeaccess.org/About_NCAN).

- NCAN summarizes the dilemma particularly well, however doesn't contemplate the additional layer of complexity a student with DD faces.

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- Arizona has the opportunity to be a national leader and create the first statewide College Access Program for students with developmental disabilities.
- The advantage of a college access program is to be much more student-centered rather than campus centered as are many of the new programs starting around the country.
- Campus-centered programs are at-risk when funding sources deplete or supportive administrators depart.

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- AZ Special HELP is person-centered and supports Arizona's school choice spirit.
- The organization would support students regardless of their postsecondary choice and could have the same grant-writing and fund-raising capabilities as other College Access Programs.
- Finally, this facilitates the possibility of students entering campus simply as students, not enrollees in a special program, or even worse the perception that the idea of special education is being re-created in higher education.