

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

4   HOUSE  
5   RESOLUTION 1065

                                  By: Nelson

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8                                   AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

21                   WHEREAS, the employment rate for Oklahomans with disabilities is  
22                   thirty-six and four-tenths percent (36.4%), less than half that of  
23                   the general population; and  
24

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

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

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

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

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

18       WHEREAS, postsecondary education substantially increases the  
19 likelihood of a person with a disability securing a job and becoming  
20 economically self-sufficient.

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

23       THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives believes there is an  
24 opportunity to create and supports the development of comprehensive

1 transition and postsecondary education programs for students with  
2 intellectual and developmental disabilities. And furthermore, the  
3 Oklahoma House of Representatives urges the following:

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

8 THAT Oklahoma IHEs work with families of youth with intellectual  
9 and developmental disabilities and the youth themselves to explore  
10 ways to create such programs.

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

14 THAT Oklahoma businesses and IHEs work together to create work-  
15 based learning experiences that provide opportunities for youth with  
16 intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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

23 THAT such pilot programs work with national groups creating high  
24 quality comprehensive transition and postsecondary education

1 programs to ensure models created in Oklahoma are high quality,  
2 collect appropriate outcomes data, and result in increases in  
3 employment for youth with intellectual and developmental  
4 disabilities.

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

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23 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.  
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