



MEET ROSA

Pre-Reading Question

- *How can students with intellectual disability (ID) be included in conversations about postsecondary education?*

Rosa is a Mexican-American high school student with Down Syndrome. She receives instruction in a community-based classroom. Recently, she began an internship at a local hotel given her interest in the hospitality and tourism industry. The classroom teacher received an e-mail from the district about the upcoming college week that all schools will be celebrating. She decides that the classroom will not participate in college week because the students' postsecondary goals do not involve attending higher education and it would be a better use of her students' time to follow their usual routine.

What's the Problem?

A local inclusive higher education program for students with ID connects students with internships and job coaching in their areas of interest. Many students in this program have held internships at hotels, which has led to full-time employment. Given that Rosa's postsecondary education and training goal is to hold internships and to receive job coaching to prepare for full-time employment, this postsecondary education program could be a great fit for Rosa. Unfortunately, by not participating in college week at school, Rosa and the other students might not have the chance to learn about inclusive higher education programs available to them.

What's the Solution?

Rosa's teacher should research local and national inclusive higher education programs for students with intellectual disability. During college week, Rosa's teacher can plan exploration activities to do with students to help them learn more about higher education programs. The teacher can also send home information about these programs so parents/guardians can familiarize themselves as well. Lastly, the teacher can plan a field trip to take a campus tour of one of these programs so students have a better idea of what it would be like to attend a program.

Post-Reading Questions

- *How can teachers gauge student interest in postsecondary education?*
- *How can you teach your students about postsecondary education opportunities?*