



# BUFFALO STATE

The State University of New York

The background features a large, faint watermark of the Buffalo State College crest. The crest is a shield with a central figure, surrounded by a laurel wreath. Below the shield is a banner with the text "EDUCATION TO EXCELLENCE".

# Access BSC

## Bridge to Success in College

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# What is Access BSC?

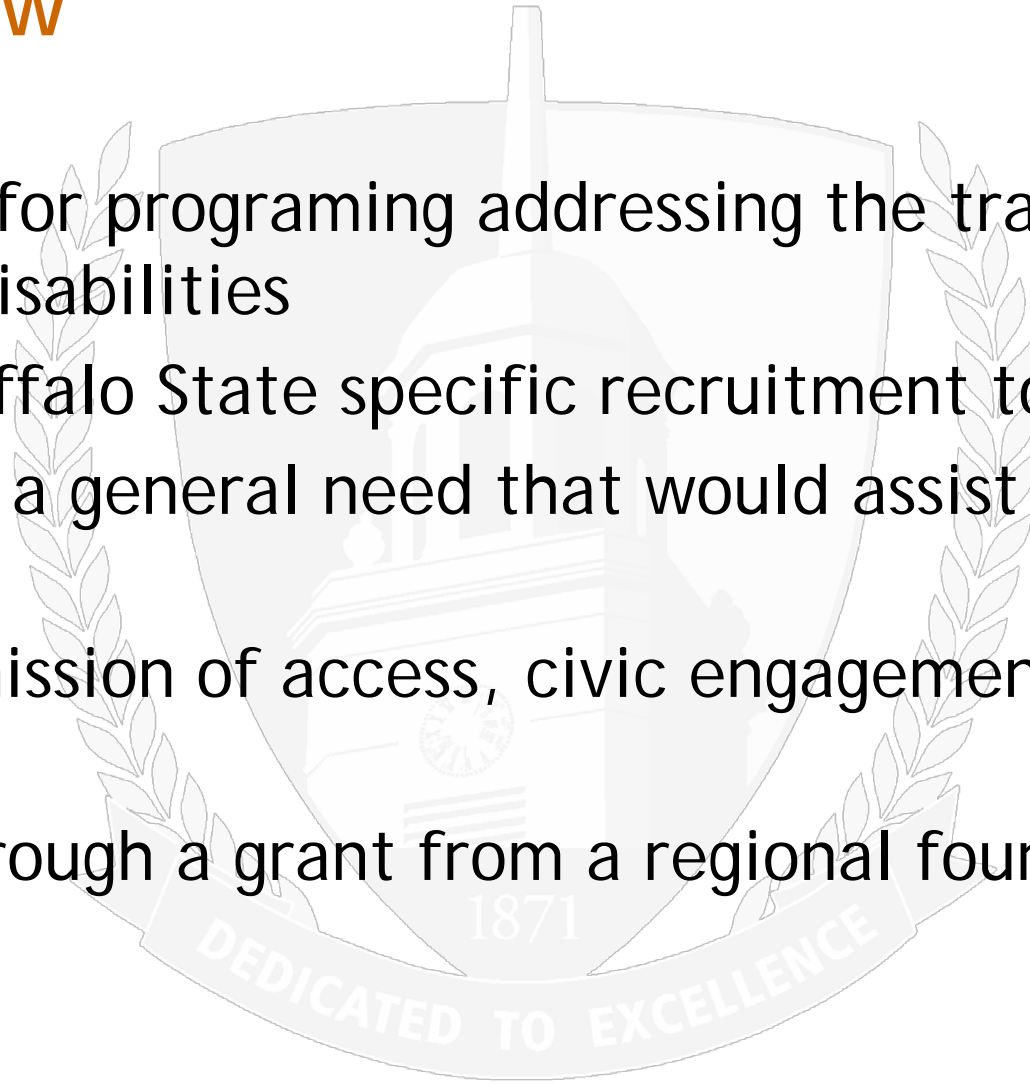
A free week-long summer program for high school students (sophomore-seniors) with learning differences, focusing on the skills students need to transition to a college environment.

- Study Skills
- Self-advocacy
- Time Management
- Assistive technology - Apps/Devices
- Learning styles
- Introduction to college life
- Mentoring



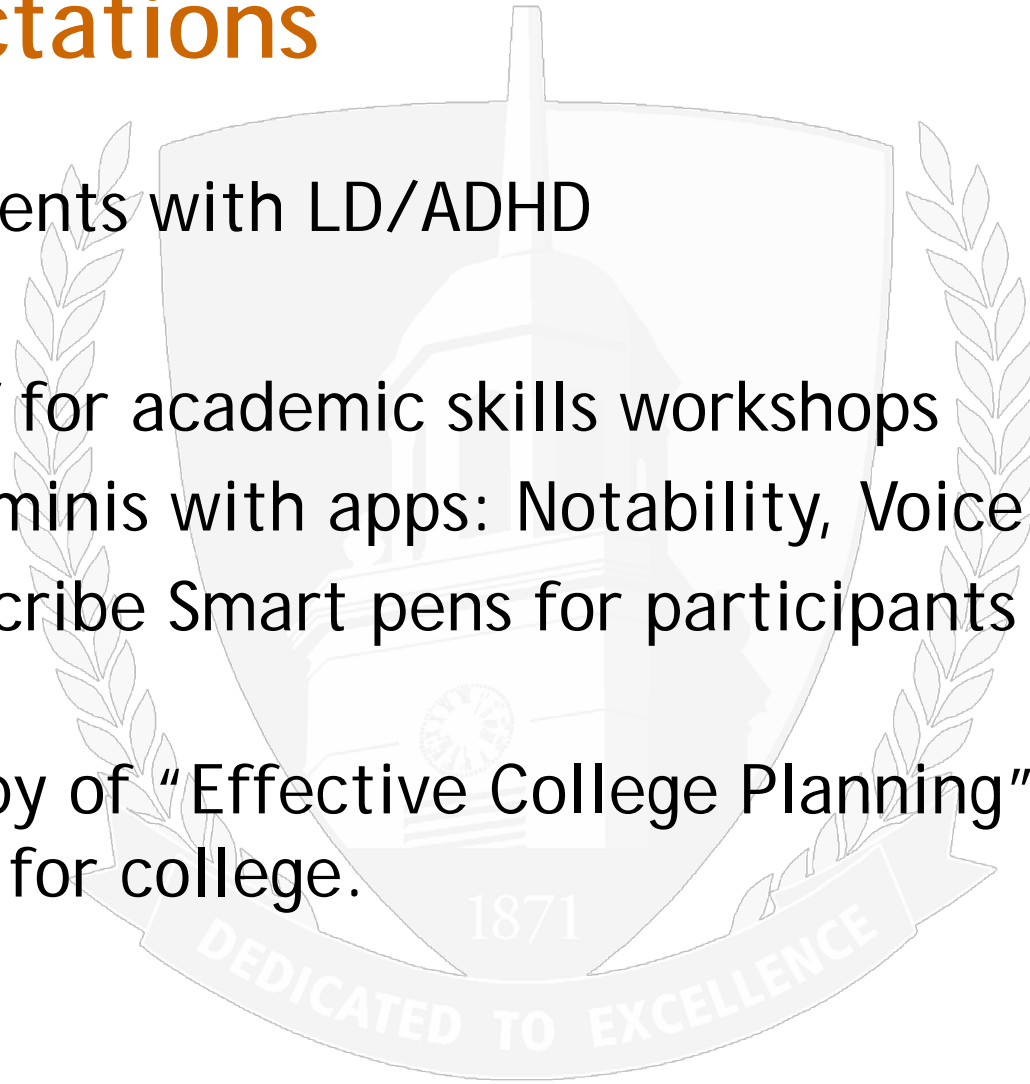
# Program Overview

- A recognized need for programming addressing the transition to college for students with disabilities
- Not designed as Buffalo State specific recruitment tool
- Focus was to fulfill a general need that would assist all area colleges and universities
- Aligned with BSC mission of access, civic engagement and social responsibility
- Funded entirely through a grant from a regional foundation



# YEAR 1: Expectations

- 25 high school students with LD/ADHD
- 1:5 mentor ratio
- 2 professional staff for academic skills workshops
- Purchased 15 iPad minis with apps: Notability, Voice Dream Reader etc.
- Purchased 25 Livescribe Smart pens for participants to take home at end of program.
- Parents receive copy of “Effective College Planning” to utilize in their child’s preparation for college.



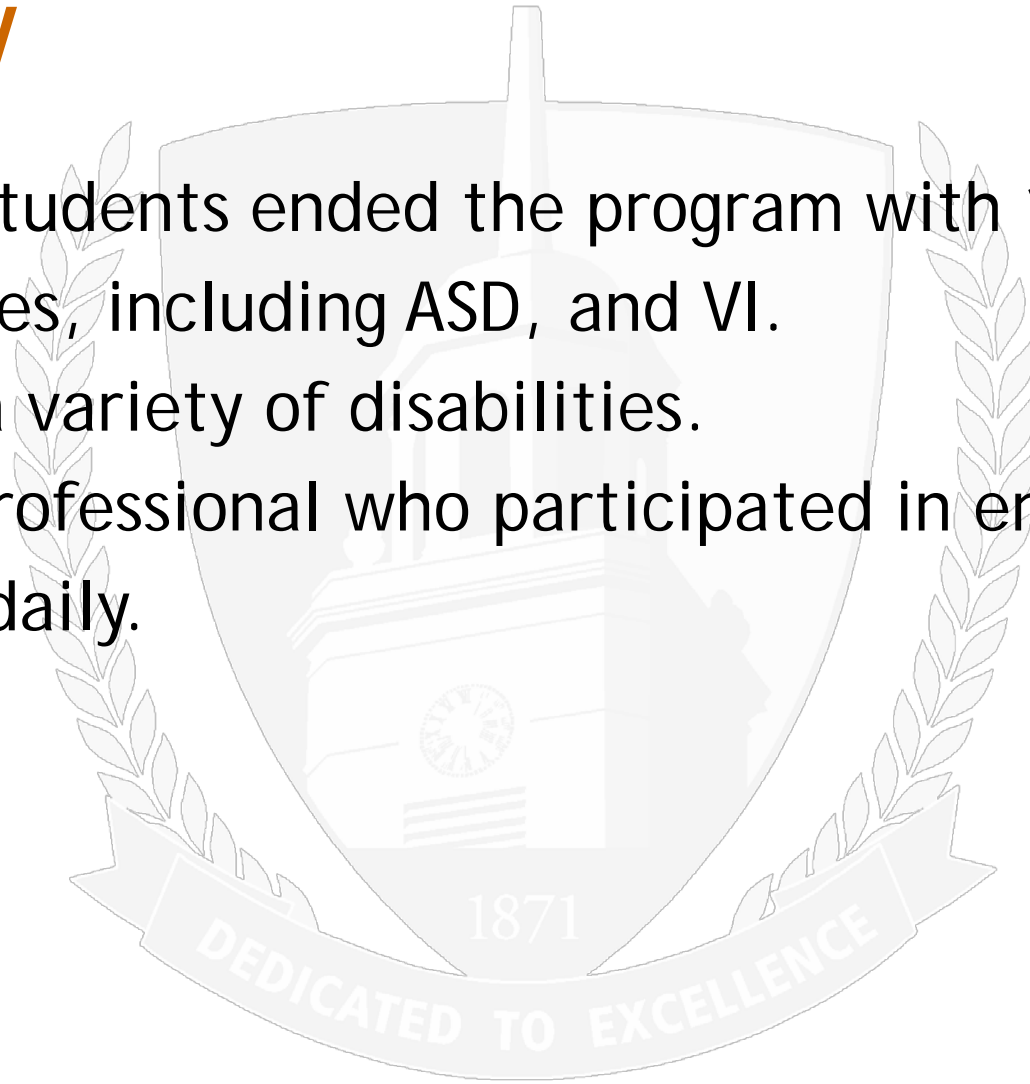
# Sample Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning-Intros	Morning- meeting	Morning-meeting	Morning-meeting	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning Styles</li><li>• Livescribe</li><li>• Library Tour</li></ul>	Study Skills Read & Write Gold	College search Self Advocacy iPad Apps	Small group projects Note taking/ Livescribe	Student presentations Parent Celebration!



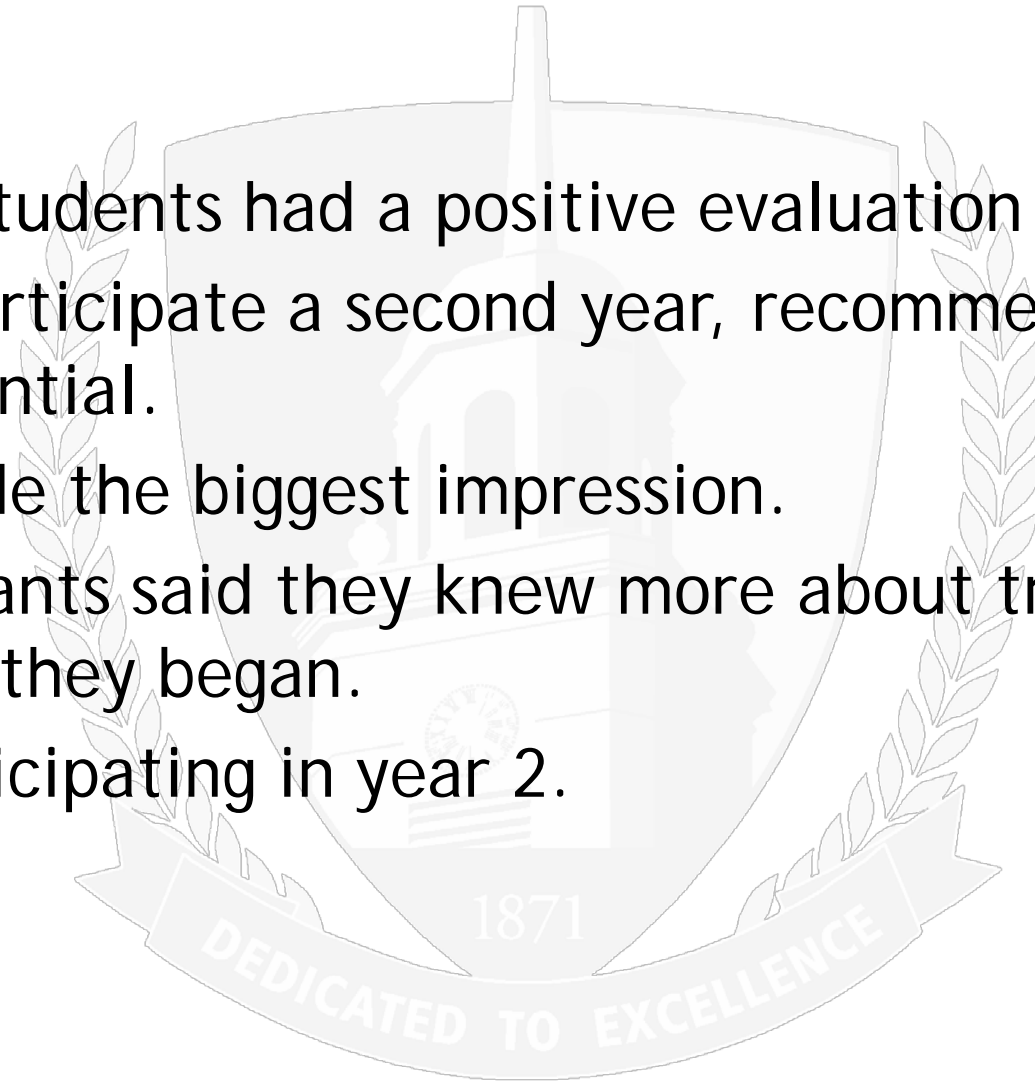
# Year 1: Reality

- Recruited 21 H.S. students ended the program with 19.
- Variety of disabilities, including ASD, and VI.
- Mentors also with a variety of disabilities.
- 1 academic skills professional who participated in entire program.
- Schedule changed daily.



# Outcomes

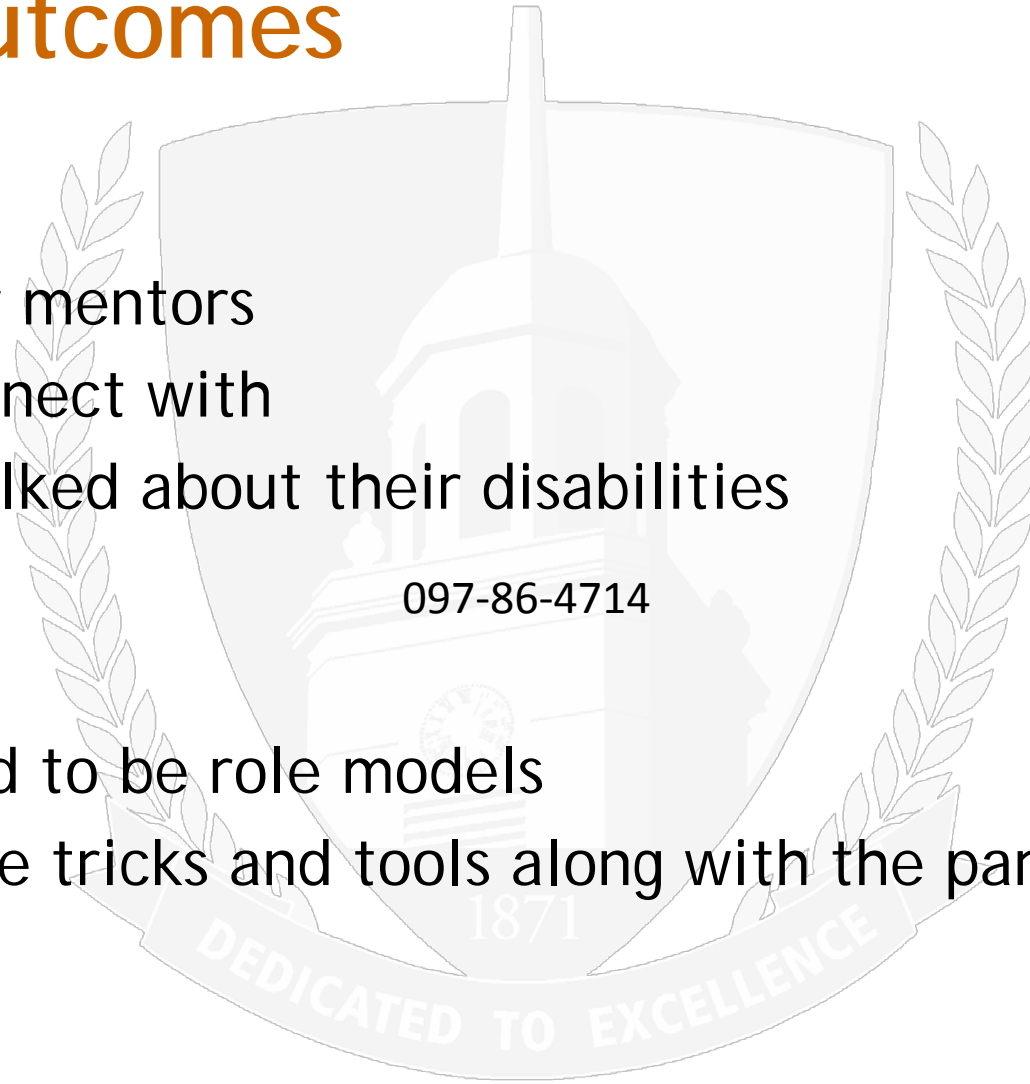
- Both parents and students had a positive evaluation of the program.
- Many wanted to participate a second year, recommended the program be longer or residential.
- Livescribe pen made the biggest impression.
- Almost all participants said they knew more about transitioning to college than when they began.
- 2 participants participating in year 2.





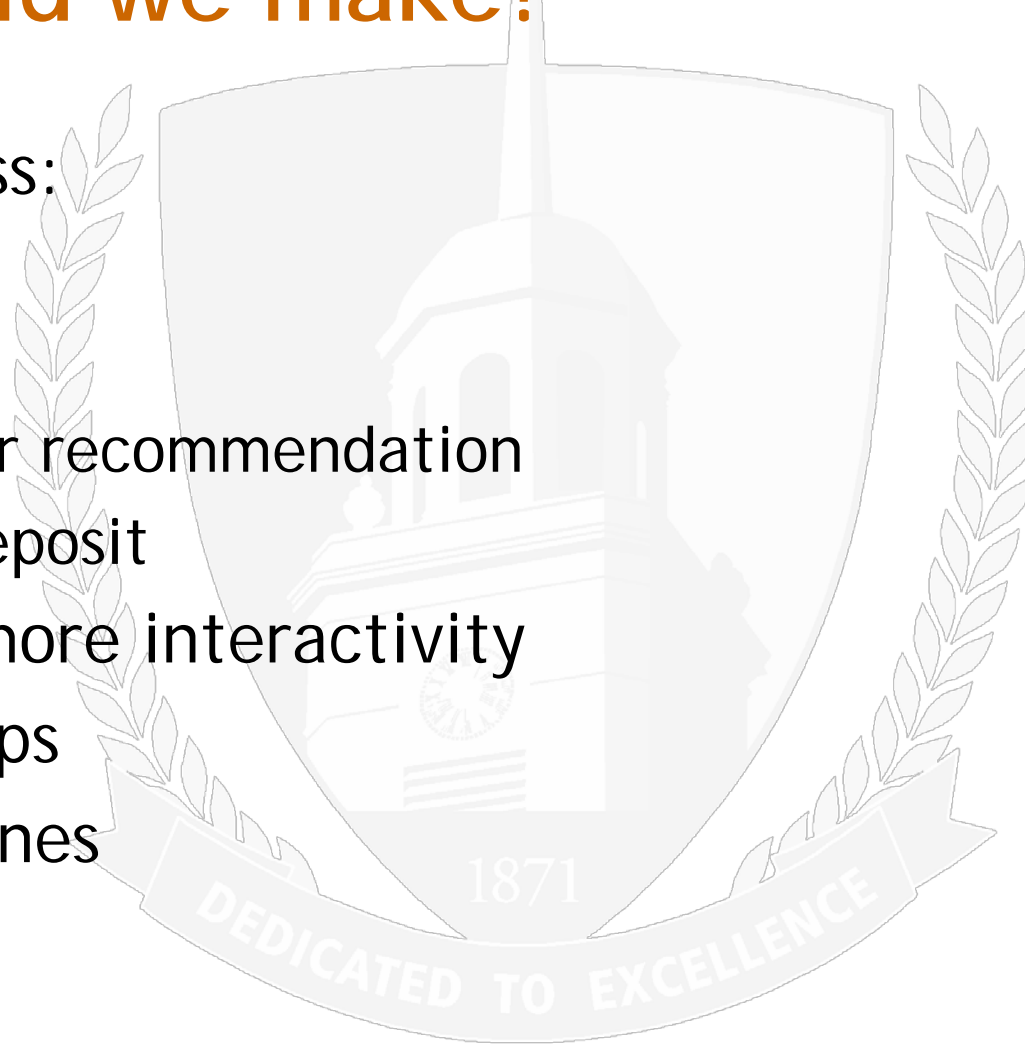
# Unexpected Outcomes

- Participants
  - bonded with their mentors
  - found peer to connect with
  - Opened up and talked about their disabilities
- Mentors
  - Were empowered
  - They were excited to be role models
  - They learned some tricks and tools along with the participants



# What tweaks did we make?

- Recruitment process:
  - Student form
  - Parent form
  - Teacher/counselor recommendation
  - \$25 refundable deposit
- Ice breakers with more interactivity
- Work more with apps
- Use their smartphones



# Take-a-ways



- College mentors were invaluable to the success of program.
- Look to regional and local foundations for funding opportunities.
- Start recruitment early.
- Advantage in having diverse group participants.

# Questions

