

## How to teach students with and without disabilities equally

Mexico – Universidad Tecnológica Santa Catarina

### SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Through this project, persons with disabilities are granted the academic, technological, and logistical support necessary for them to advance successfully through the various educational levels, to achieve and pursue a professional career, or to be incorporated successfully into the labour market. The school groups consist of students with and without disabilities who are taught together using the same curriculum and who are subject to the same academic criteria. Students with disabilities are supported by facility adaptation, specialized materials and equipment, teacher training, technicians, administrative assistants, teacher assistants, and consultants.

*“Universidad Tecnológica Santa Catarina is probably the only public university that is truly accessible in Latin America. It fulfils in a comprehensive manner article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.”*

—Mr. Felipe Ramos, The Trust for the Americas, Organization of American States

### FACTS & FIGURES

- Current enrolments stand at 628 students with disabilities (196 in higher education, 415 in upper secondary education, and 17 in basic education).
- More than 1,450 students with disabilities have attended the program; of this, 476 have completed their studies and 144 are in higher education, 117 in upper secondary education, 33 in elementary education, and 182 in job training.
- 340 teachers and support personnel have participated in the program in 36 educational institutions..

### PROBLEMS TARGETED

Disabled people often live in vulnerable situations, and one reason for this is their low level of academic achievement due to barriers that prevent or impede their participation in the education process and the

workforce. Furthermore, the lack of public policies that strengthen optimal educational conditions for the inclusion of people with disabilities at all levels of education is a major issue that needs to be addressed.

## SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

The programme supports students with disabilities with technological tools, academic and logistical support, and educational programmes to enable them to enter the labour market. Those in need also receive economic support, free transportation, psychological and pedagogic advice, diagnostic and psychological orientation, and a linking with job markets. Going forward, “facilitators” – that is, graduates without disabilities from the previous semester – will be brought in to support the current students with disabilities in various academic activities.

## OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

A significant increase in student enrolment with disabilities – as high as 40% – is forecasted. To address the increasing demands of people with disabilities who claim their right to education at all levels, public awareness campaigns and specialized educational inclusion training for the staff of schools and educational institutions are planned. The time required for implementing the programme will depend on the established goals of a given institution regarding its population and which disabilities are considered. The fundamental axes are: trained personnel, specialized equipment, and accessibility.

Photo: Yes

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