



University of
CINCINNATI

GET CONNECTED

ATS • TAP • CEES • IMPACT

**Advancement and Transition Services
Year in Review 2019-2020**



Dear ATS families, friends, colleagues and supporters,

The ultimate goal of ATS is to engage in research and programs that empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live their best lives. While 2019-2020 was full of surprises, it was also a year of growth, learning, and many successes. In this inaugural report we hope to highlight some of our recent efforts and share our strategic approach for the coming year.

The ATS Research Network

In 2019, the ATS Research Network was established to help ensure that our efforts are innovated and driven by best practices. Members of the network include faculty and students from within the UC community who are passionate about improving the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Research focus areas include best practices for increasing employment, increasing STEM employment access, building communication and relationships through social media, and healthy living and exercise programs for better lives, to name a few.

The 2020 Red & Black Blast

In February 2020, the 3rd annual Red and Black Blast took place at UC's Fifth Third Arena. More than 300 people attended the event to celebrate ATS and helped raise over \$130,000. The night was one of fun and excitement, providing opportunities for us to connect with friends, honor our supporters, and showcase the strengths and achievements of students and associates. We are grateful for our sponsors, especially the presenting sponsor MasterCard, and gold sponsors Aramark, Impact Autism, and Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil, for their support in making the event our most successful!

In Response to COVID-19

Due to the Ohio governor's Stay at Home Order in March 2020, all ATS activities became virtual. TAP students moved out of their dorms, the IMPACT associates stopped in-person programming, and CEES students transitioned to remote learning. Yet, despite the challenges of such sudden and life changing shifts, the students, associates, and staff excelled. Our staff worked with students and associates to develop creative ways to stay connected, even from afar. We all continued to learn, grow, and found new ways to lead. Several TAP students worked with other UC students to host weekly, online sessions for high school students to learn about college life. We partnered with faculty from engineering to implement a new course to teach visual spatial skills that are essential to employment in STEM careers. Most importantly, we stayed connected. We saw each other for meals, classes, and social activities. We talked about our challenges, shared our emotions, and supported each other through video calls, texts, and social media. It was hard and will continue to be hard, but the dedication of our ATS staff, students, and associates will ensure that even during these difficult times, we will persevere.

What is NEXT?

2020-2021 is sure to be another unique year, full of challenges and opportunities. Our primary focus will be to continue to engage in innovative research and programs with and for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We will build on our recent successes so all of our students and associates have access to meaningful learning and life experiences that meet their individual needs no matter where they are. We will also look inward to refine our mission and strategic plan so that ATS continues to evolve in a way that promotes inclusion and quality of life for people with disabilities locally and on a national level.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are truly grateful to our staff, students, associates, community partners, and supporters.

Sincerely,

Christi Carnahan
Director, Advancement & Transition Services

ATS FINANCIALS

Red & Black Blast : \$130,000 raised

**Endowment Principle
Contributions: \$79,889**

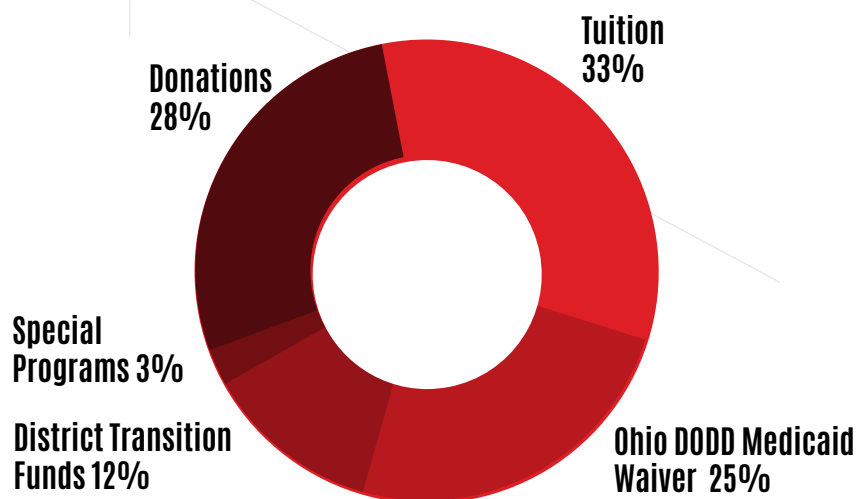
Pledges: \$329,483

Foundation Grants: \$55,000

Revenue:

Tuition: \$386,620
Ohio DODD Medicaid Waiver – \$287,862
District Transition Funds - \$145,650
Special Programs - \$30,242
Donations - \$324,004

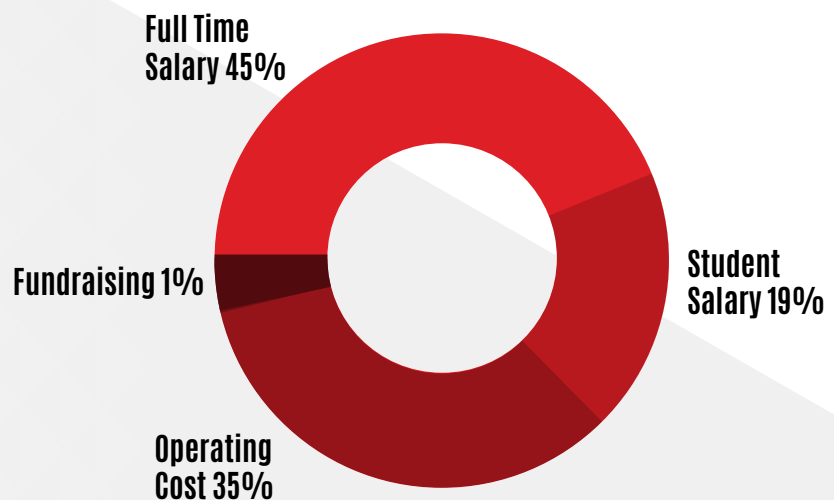
Total: \$1,174,378



Expenses:

Full Time Salary: \$493,955 - 45%
Student Salary: \$212,083 - 19%
Operating Costs: \$379,482 - 35%
Fundraising: \$13,320 - 1%

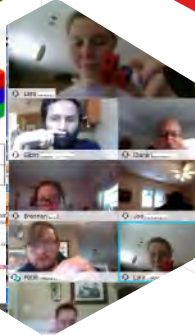
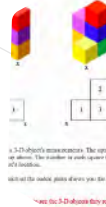
Total: \$1,098,840





RESEARCH RECAP

This year, the ATS Research Associate Network was established to promote innovative, research driven programming. The network is made up of faculty and students from across the University and Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Medical Center (CCHMC). Our goal is to create an atmosphere in which faculty, students, and people with disabilities work together to engage in research that guides our programs and allows us to make a difference in our own community and beyond. Currently, there is at least one ongoing research focus in each program, with additional activities that occur across ATS.



A research team lead by faculty from special education, curriculum and instruction, and engineering is identifying STEM related employment opportunities for individuals with IDD and investigating effective approaches for developing the skills necessary for success in these careers.



Dr. Amie Duncan leads the TAP research team focused on understanding the learning profiles of students who enroll in the program, and tracking student progress during and after graduation.



Dr. Christina Carnahan leads a team with Communication Science Disorder students developing an intervention for people with communication differences.



Dr. Laura Nabors leads a research team focused on developing healthy eating and exercise habits.



IMPACT Innovation

IMPACT Innovation is a year-round program at UC for adults with autism and/or communication, behavior, or sensory differences. IMPACT associates participate in meaningful, inclusive experiences throughout the day on UC's campus.

2019-2020 year was full of life-changing successes from increasing enrollment, adding fun and thoughtful programming, providing meaningful employment opportunities, expanding transportation, and quickly adjusting services to keep participants engaged and connected despite physical isolation brought on by the pandemic.

Enrollment

Enrollment increased from 18 to 23! IMPACT is a highly sought-after program, but capacity is limited due to space and funding. The IMPACT team was able to streamline schedules and re-design the office space to welcome several new associates to the program.

Employment Skills

Developing employment skills is a major focus in IMPACT. Associates engaged in internships at ACE Hardware, UC Greenhouse, UC Biology research, the UC Rec Center and many Aramark/UC Dining services locations. Three IMPACT associates became part-time employees working on campus in a variety of jobs.

New Activities

Providing activities based on interests is a high priority. This year, IMPACT partnered with Art with Intention, Project Yoga, and Ensemble Theatre to provide a variety of fun and engaging weekly programs. IMPACT also hosted three art shows inviting friends, family, and supporters to showcase the beautiful projects. In addition to the arts, health and wellness is an important part of IMPACT. A partnership with physical therapist, Puja Gaitonde owner of Big Blue Canopy, lead to the development of individualized exercise plans for each associate. The plans were implemented daily at UC's Rec Center along with accessing small group nutrition classes. Associates unleashed their creativity, engaged in mindfulness, and achieved health and fitness goals, all of which have become essential to the program.

Transportation

Transportation is a challenge for people with disabilities and often limits access to the community, programs, and employment. IMPACT remedied this problem by starting and expanding a transportation service. With the support from a generous donor and a creative partnership with UC Night Ride, IMPACT successfully ran two routes providing transportation to and from UC to 13 associates. Not only does this provide families with a reliable service, but it also provides a secondary revenue source to support the program.

In Response to COVID-19

IMPACT Innovation, like many other services, was forced to temporarily close its doors and stop in-person services. This was devastating for so many, but the IMPACT team quickly responded by implementing virtual services that included weekly classes focused on communication and health and wellness, opportunities for socializing with friends, mindfulness meetings, and regular calls, emails, and texts. Staying connected and having a routine was critical to managing the isolation.

Why is IMPACT Important? What People are Saying!

“ You assume intelligence. What a refreshing, awesome offering for our kids. They are often surrounded by people and language that assumes they are unable to understand. You kicked off the class assuming everyone was capable, and they were! ”

~ Tammi Stauber, Parent of IMPACT Associate

“ You are a lifeline for our daughter. I'm not sure how she would continue to cope with the isolation without you. Her connection to IMPACT is crucial right now. ”

~ Tim Holt, Parent of IMPACT Associate

“ The associates motivate me. They are an amazing group of individuals and I personally care for each of them so much. All I want is for them to succeed and grow. IMPACT provides a place for that to happen. ”

~ Erika Haines, UC Student Worker

“ Impact has provided me with a great experience working with this adult population. Every day is a different day here. It's a fun learning experience each day. Not only have I learned how to work with this population, but I've learned more about just being a friend to the associates. ”

~ Chelsea Feist, UC Student Worker

Transition & Access Program (TAP):

The Transition & Access Program (TAP) is a four-year residential, college certificate program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. TAP students embrace college life and live, work, learn, and lead on UC's campus and become independent, contributing members of the Bearcat community. During the 2019-2020 academic year, 26 TAP students were enrolled and six students graduated. These Bearcats made some very bold achievements.

Academic Achievements

5 students earned the CPR/AED certification.

16 students made the Dean's list.

2 students received the Ruby's Rainbow Scholarship, a scholarship awarded to adults with Down syndrome who are seeking post-secondary education.

TAP sophomore, Regan Connors, is the first recipient of the TAP into the Future Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a TAP student who exemplifies academic achievement, demonstrates leadership, and strives to engage in the community.

Senior Spotlights

One TAP senior graduated with the TAP Certificate, as well as, a bachelor's degree in Journalism.

Two TAP seniors lived off campus in a shared apartment.

All seniors gave virtual capstone presentations.

Visit the Senior Recognition Webpage to learn more about this amazing group.
<https://cech.uc.edu/schools/education/ats/tap/senior-recognition.html>

Alumni Accolades

30 graduates as of 2020

86% employed or continuing education

45% living independently

Read this success story about a TAP alum!

https://thinkcollege.net/sites/default/files/files/resources/TCS20_Independent_Educator.pdf



Why is TAP one of the best college options for students with disabilities?

“The Transition and Access program has provided our son with an amazing opportunity to begin his journey to independence. The support staff and faculty have provided valuable tools, programming, and curricula that foster growth within a community atmosphere. We are looking forward to the rest of our time at UC. Go Bearcats!!”

~ Ryan Hourigan, parent of TAP student

“Our TAP students pivoted and thrived during remote learning. So great to see our students demonstrating resiliency!”

~ TAP Faculty, Alison Rubel

“My favorite class is Women's Gender Studies - it looks at women's activism and looks at first, second and third wave feminism.”

~ TAP Student, Anne Stevenson



College fun!

TAP students traveled to Columbus, OH, New Orleans, LA, and Greenville, NC with the Rally Cats to cheer on the Bearcats!

Two students were featured on Local Channel 12. Visit this page to see the Local Channel 12 story <https://www.uc.edu/news/articles/2019/10/n20867015.html>

TAP students participated in 33 campus clubs. Some favorites included the American Sign Language Club, Bearcat Support Network, H2O, Rally Cats and Unified Sports Club.

77

My favorite memory of Freshman year is meeting everybody, especially at the summer orientation workshop. I was nervous at first, but I was blown away by the opportunities and I like it.

~ TAP Student, Josh Hourigan

In Response to COVID-19

Due to the stay at home order, students, staff, and faculty demonstrated flexibility and resiliency. In a matter of days, 14 classes, 37 credit hours transferred to remote learning in addition to scheduling virtual social activities and meetings.



Collaboration for Employment & Education Synergy (CEES)

The Collaboration for Employment & Education Synergy (CEES) partnered with local school districts to provide transition services to 100 high school students with disabilities. These students engaged in internships on UC's campus and developed goals around self-determination. Six special education students also completed their field experiences with CEES, creating and implementing lessons, job-coaching, and applying effective classroom management strategies. The 2019-2020 academic year was full of accomplishments.

Work Experience

CEES provides an integrated field experience for preservice professionals from a variety of fields who want to work with adolescents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This year, 15 UC students had an opportunity to engage in work opportunities in CEES.

Local School Districts

CEES partnered with three new school districts. Special thanks to all our partnering districts: Fairfield, Hamilton County ESC, Madeira, Mariemont, Milford, Mount Healthy, Northwest (Colerain and Northwest High Schools), Ohio Virtual Academy, Princeton, Warren County ESC, and Wyoming.

In Response to COVID-19

Due to COVID-19, the spring semester was cut short, but the CEES staff and student teachers created YouTube lessons focused on the essential job skills employers look for in candidates. In addition to the online lessons, all of the end of semester meetings were scheduled virtually which increased participation from families.



Why is CEES Beneficial for Students and School Districts?

CEES provides opportunities for students to engage in work-based learning in a new community.

CEES students develop meaningful relationships with students from other high schools, which provides opportunities for practicing important social skills.

CEES students learn to advocate for themselves in a new setting.





EMPLOYMENT

ATS dedicates much of its work to creating inclusive employment and community integrated opportunities for people with disabilities. ATS believes that all individuals possess unique power, value, and potential and have the right to employment to discover and fulfill their purpose. ATS implements evidence-based employment supports to foster independence, to gain life skills, work skills, and ultimately improved quality of life. The ATS job development staff made some great strides this year.

Co-Op 2.0

ATS has partnered with UC's Division of Experience-Based Learning and Career Education to create eight Co-Op 2.0 placements for the 20-21 school year which will open doors to new career paths for TAP students. Diane Weinbrandt, the ATS director of job development shared, "This is UC embracing diversity in terms of disability. Yes, we mean ALL students."

Department of Labor Power Grant

After receiving the Department of Labor Power Grant, ATS partnered with colleagues in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences to offer a free online course to young adults with disabilities. Developing Spatial Thinking is a course designed to improve spatial visualization skills through a series of 3-D sketching exercises. Developing these skills may lead to more STEM education and employment opportunities, in addition to improving social communication, problem solving, and forming meaningful relationships.

Dedicated Partnerships

Because of the dedication and compassion of our employment and community partners, ATS students and associates experience life-changing internship and employment opportunities. A special thanks goes out to the amazing community partners <https://cech.uc.edu/schools/education/ats/employment.html>.





THE 2020 RED & BLACK BLAST PRESENTED BY MASTERCARD

The 3rd Annual ATS Red & Black Blast on February 28, 2020 at UC's Fifth Third Arena was a huge success. Through sponsorships, ticket sales, auction, and raffle items ATS raised over \$130,000. Aramark executive chefs showed off their culinary talents with a delicious gourmet spread, guests enjoyed music by Swampthang, and two extraordinary people were honored for their dedication to inclusion and people with disabilities. Terri Hogan, Cincinnati small business owner, received the Champion for Inclusion Award and Daniel Cummins, UC's Associate Dean of Students, was honored with the Chuck Altenau Outstanding Service Award. Learn more about the success of the Red & Black Blast here.

<https://cech.uc.edu/schools/education/ats/events/red-and-black-blast.html>

WHAT IS NEXT FOR ATS?

Embracing the University of Cincinnati's strategic direction of Next Lives Here, ATS accepts challenges and turns them into opportunities. In the wake of COVID-19, the 2020-2021 academic year will look very different, but the ATS mission and core values will still be at the forefront to provide life-changing programs for people with disabilities. Innovation, perseverance, compassion, and resiliency are what drives the ATS strategic approach and here is how ATS will embody Next Lives Here:

Ensure Long-term Sustainability

- Develop new funding streams that can support across programs
- Increase donor support
- Foster new partnerships and increase community engagement
- Coordinate clear mandates and directives for ATS Network and establish a system for communication and collaboration

Strengthen ATS Brand

- Create marketing/communication campaigns to reach specific audiences
- Engage UC Marcomm to develop brand and naming to reflect strategic direction
- Host events to increase visibility and create awareness of programs

Establish Sustainable Employment Opportunities

- Create new employment partnerships
- Offer a continuum of vocational opportunities for people with I/DD
- Increase training and providing resources to employment partners

Become a Leader in Research

- Increase research grant submissions
- Foster interdisciplinary relationships with researchers and increase their engagement with ATS
- Increase manuscript submissions
- Refine our data collection systems across programs

Develop Innovative Programming

- Integrate research to drive programming across ATS
- Align data collection processes to programming (use data to inform our programs at the individual and program levels)

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES - NEXT, NOW

What's next, starts with our generous donors and supporters. This is your chance to change lives, to make dreams of college, employment, and living independently come true. This is your opportunity to support a community of inclusion, diversity, and belonging where everyone is valued for their contributions. Next is now.

<https://foundation.uc.edu/atsfund>



ATS • TAP • CEES • IMPACT

f @atsuniversityofcincinnati

@ @ats_univcincy

Web: cech.uc.edu/ats.com

Email: ats@uc.edu