

The logo for The Able Trust features the word "ABLE" in a large, bold, blue serif font. The letter "A" is stylized with a white triangle pointing upwards inside it. Above "ABLE" is the word "THE" in a smaller, blue serif font. Below "ABLE" is the word "TRUST" in a large, blue serif font, with a small "TM" trademark symbol to its upper right.

THE  
ABLE  
TRUST™

*Twenty-five years providing job & career services to young  
job seekers with disabilities*

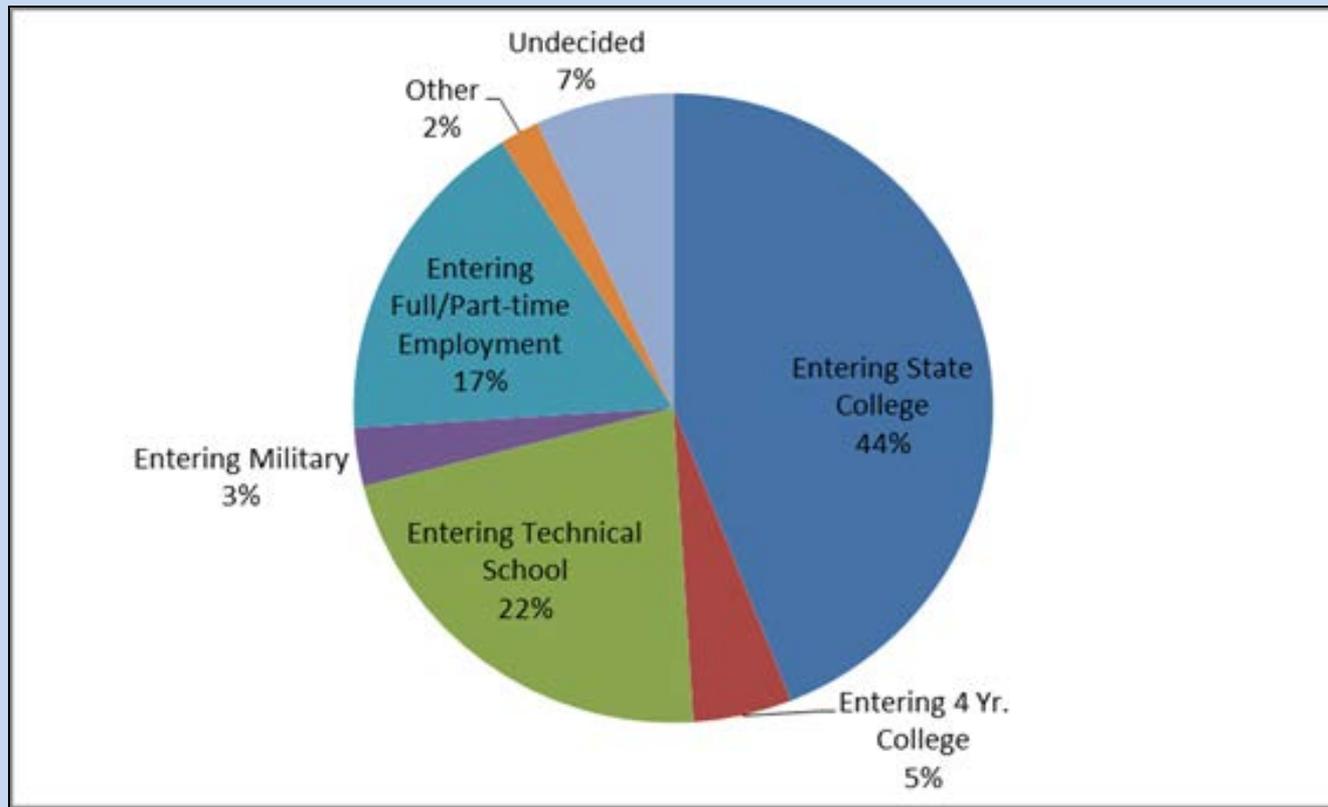
Dr. Susanne Homant, President & CEO  
Allison Chase, Vice President of Youth Programs



# HSHT – Signature Youth Program of the Able Trust

- HSHT Signature Youth Program of The Able Trust
- Designed for HS Students with Disabilities
  - 43 Sites in 40 Counties
  - Administered by Able Trust for 18 Years
  - Funded 1/3 by DOE and 2/3 by Able Trust
    - Nationally Envied and Copied

# Outcomes Motivate Support



# Program Features

- Guideposts for Success
- Job Shadowing and Internships
- Industry and PS Tours
- Business Advisory Councils



# HSHT Learning Experiences





My internship woke me up to the reality of having a job. I realize it is nothing like going to school, it is much harder. Always be on time, do not be rude or you will get fired, play nice with others or you will not get hired. These were true life lessons that influenced me.

*Zuhaily S.*

*– Hillsborough HSHT*



# Research-Based Program Design & Outcomes

- Continuing National Research Review
- 2 Studies of Florida Business Executives
  - 1 Program Quality Study
  - 1 Employment Study



# HSHT in Closing

- Business Execs: General sentiment that opportunities to bring people with disabilities (PWDs) into the workplace through internship or mentoring-type program was very useful in breaking down misperceptions of employers and employees with regard to PWDs work capabilities
- Internships and use of interns is negatively correlated with the perception that positions in their companies are unsuitable for PWDs



# HSHT in Closing

- Young job seekers who participated in Able Trust programs reported 2-3 years later, that career skills training and internships were the most valuable in getting and keeping a job.
- The value of internships and work experiences is supported by research and anecdotal information, a strong case for including in all HS students' education, especially HS student with disabilities.