

The  
Cutting-Edge  
*Program at*  
*Edgewood College*



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# Living the Mission of Edgewood College



The Mission of Edgewood College:

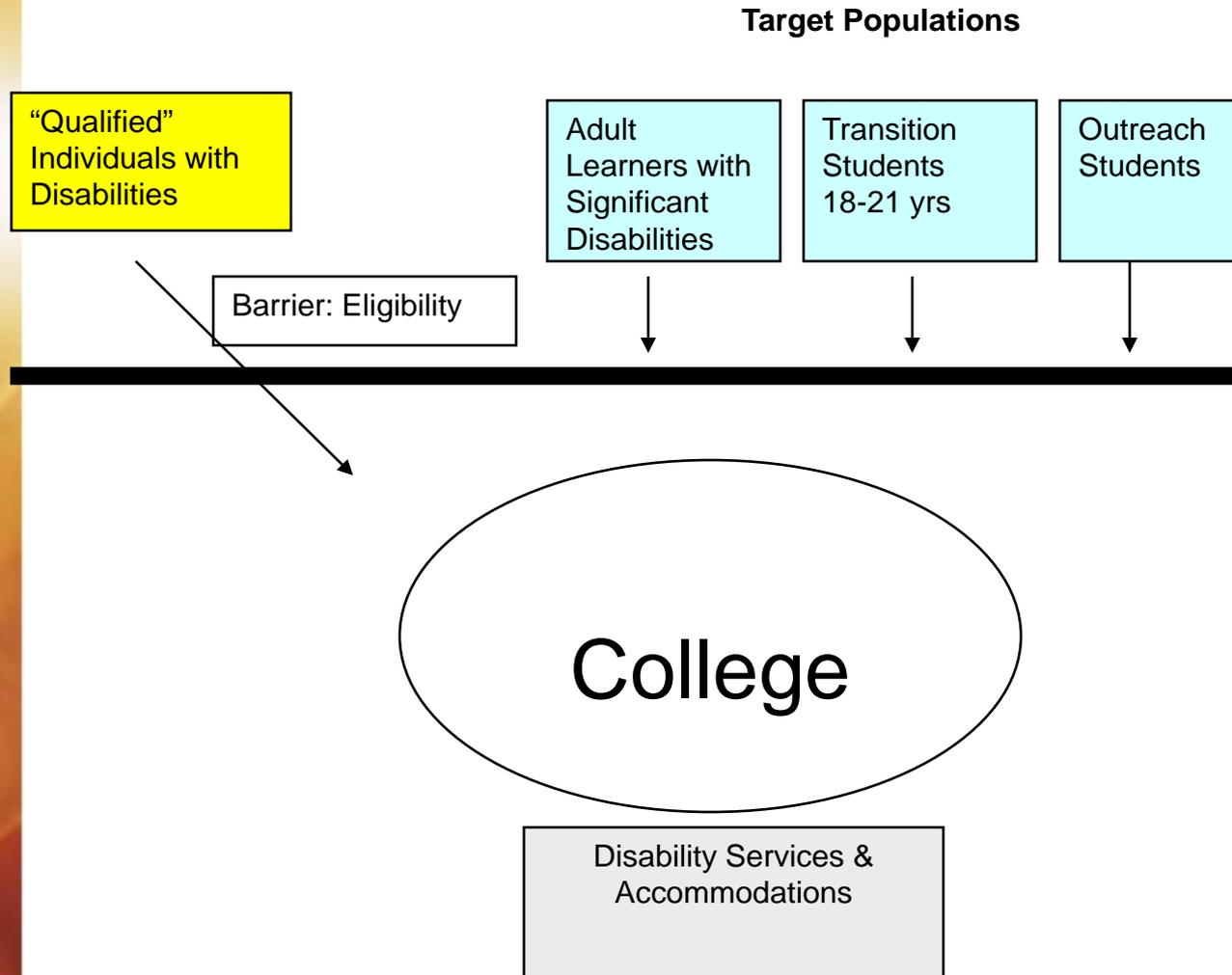
*Edgewood College, rooted in the Dominican tradition, engages students within a community of learners committed to building a just and compassionate world.*

*The College educates students for meaningful personal and professional lives of ethical leadership, service, and a lifelong search for the truth.*

(Board of Trustees, 2006)

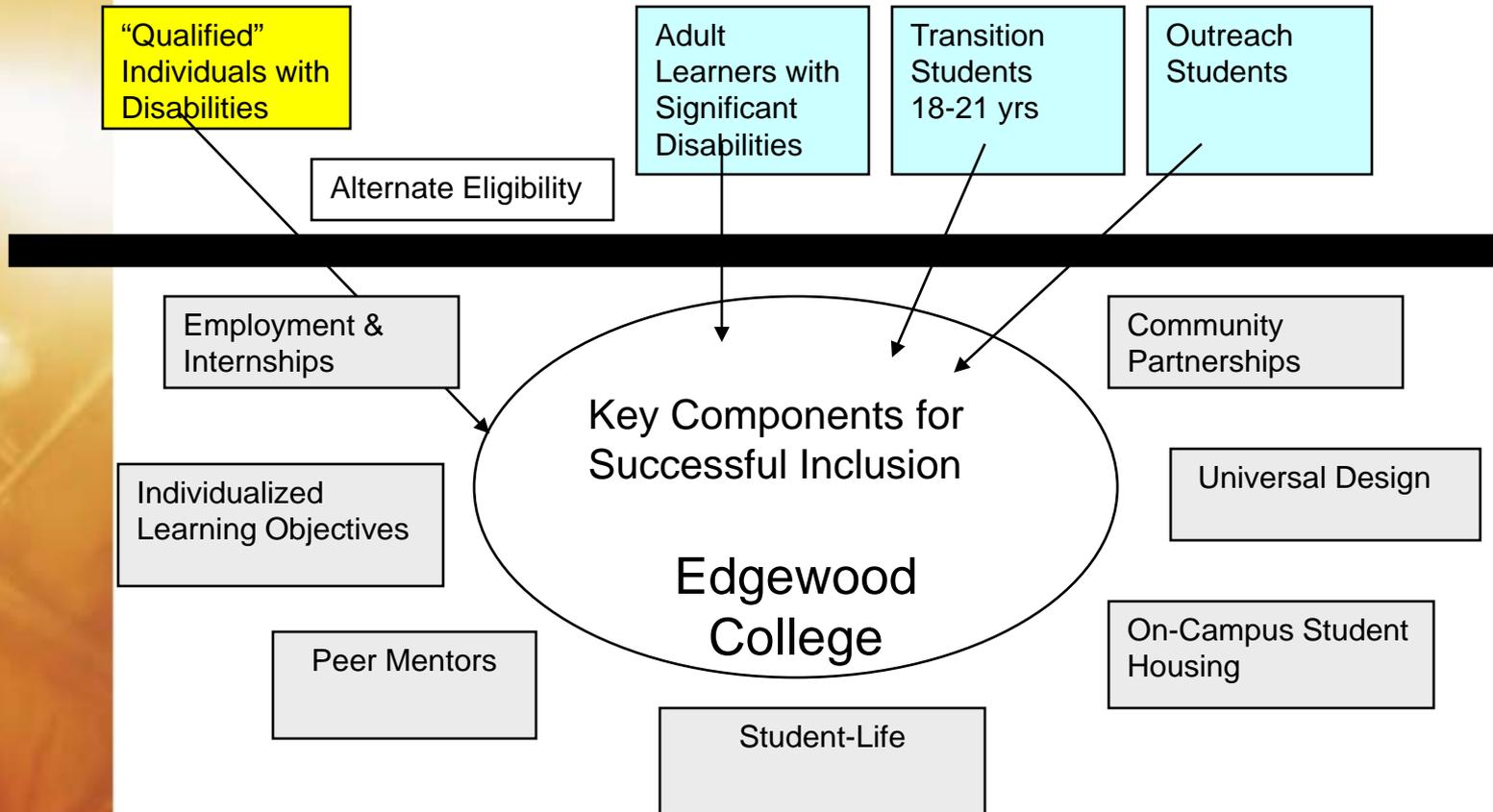


# Traditional Model for “Qualified” Individuals with Disabilities limits students with higher needs



# The Cutting-Edge Pilot Project

## Getting Into College through Inclusion





# This year our Cutting-Edge population consists of

- Twelve students - with a waiting list
- Cutting-Edge is serving individuals with:
  - Autism
  - Cognitive disabilities including:
    - Downs Syndrome
    - Brain injury
  - ADHD
  - Tourettes
  - Cerebral palsy
  - Epilepsy

# Inclusion in Public Education

- The practice of educating students with significant disabilities alongside their chronological age peers without disabilities.
- Inclusion on a college campus takes into account **academic** inclusion, integrated student **housing**, supported employment and access to normalized **recreation** and **social** activities.



# Inclusion grows

Inclusion at Edgewood College started with

- **academic** inclusion,
- then normalized **recreation** and **social** activities.
- Finally integrated student **housing**.

# Time on campus

- Cutting Edge students spent 5,088 hours on campus in the fall of 2008 and 7928 hours in the spring.
- 5 of the 12 students lived on campus and 3 others lived in their own apartments. (9/12 not living at home)
- Cutting-Edge students contributed 852 hours of service to the community in spring 2009.

# *If You Build It, They Will Come*

- Jobs, volunteer experiences and
- Internships
- Students often came for one reason, but stayed for many others.



# Students who were paired with Cutting-Edge students said:

- “I feel working with Chris has given me invaluable experience for when I become a high school teacher.”

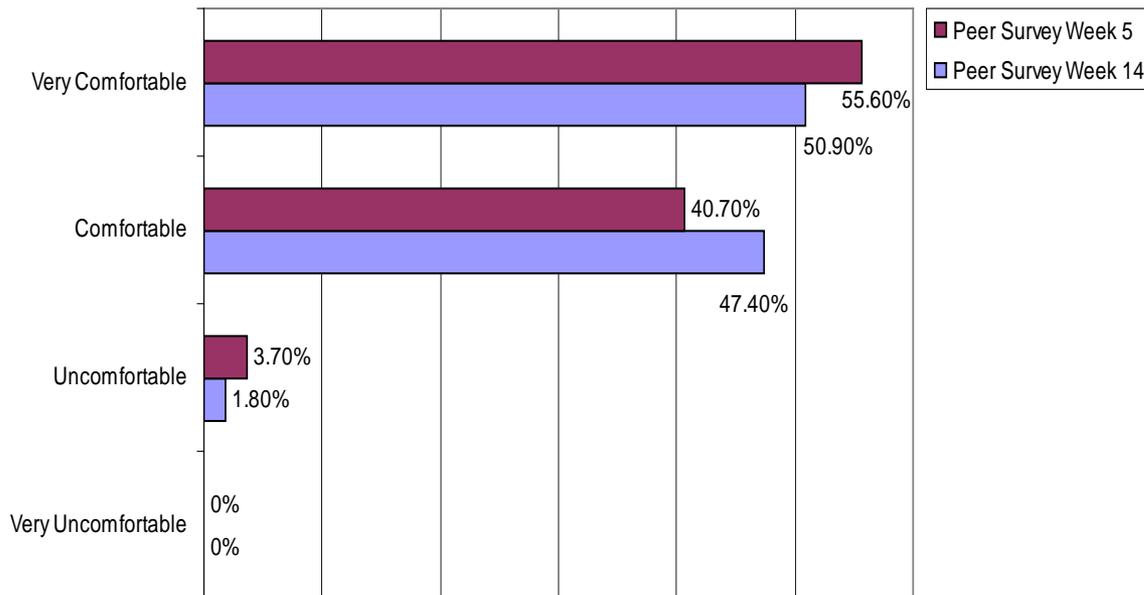


# Graduate student mentors talk about what the effect of working with this group has on their teaching

- I will “focus more on what students with disabilities can do rather than how their disability limits their ability or potential.”
  - “ I think that I will hold those students to higher standards.”

# Peer Survey Results

Peers Comfort Level with a Person who has a Cognitive Disability

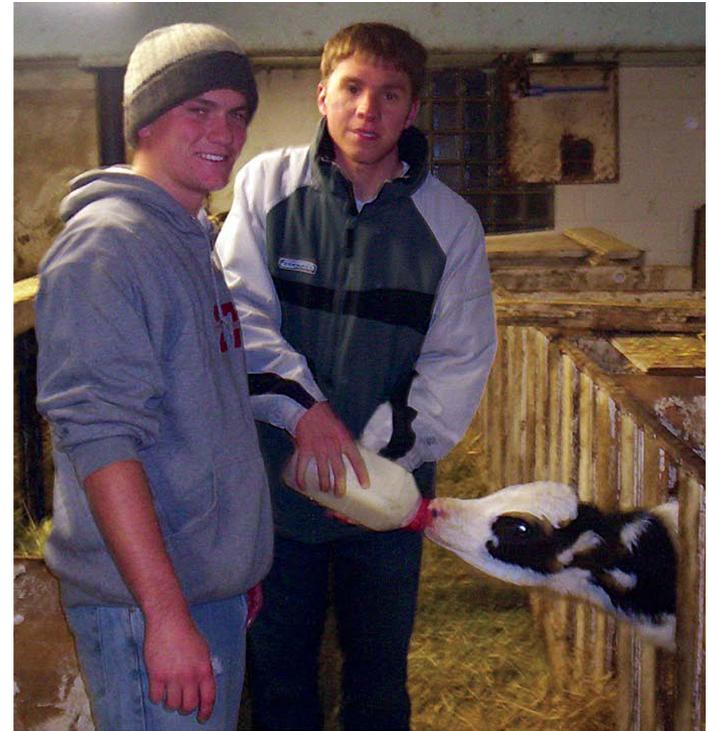


97% of the students surveyed felt comfortable being around a person with a cognitive disability.

When 145 undergraduate students who attended classes with Cutting-Edge students were surveyed

# Peer Mentors

“The Cutting-Edge helps create that college atmosphere and making sure at the same time that the student is confident in what they are doing and having fun doing it. I am just glad that I can help and be a part of such a great program here at Edgewood College.”



# Housing and Campus Life



- Residence hall peer mentors
- Housing grad assistant
- Safety class



*“ With the documented success of inclusion in elementary and secondary education, it is now time to advance into the frontier of postsecondary education”,*

Stephen Riggio, CEO of Barnes & Noble, Inc. &

Member of the National  
Down’s Syndrome Society  
(US Federal New Service, 2006)

