

# Impact Overview

## College Level

**Special Olympics Unified Champion School's® college student liaisons feel that the Unified Champion Schools program *provides value and impacts* their college and university's community and environment.**



**Note:** Ratings are averaged on a 6-point scale, where higher values indicate greater perceived value



93% of student liaisons indicated that involvement with the Unified Champion Schools program **influenced their own future career or community involvement plans.**

*“This organization is incredible and completely changed my life for the better! I love Unified!”* **-UCS College Participant**



### Over 60% of student liaisons

thought their involvement was related to their leadership skill development in empathy, openness, accountability and innovation.



# Findings Overview

## College Level

### WHO IS PARTICIPATING?

#### At-a-Glance Reach

**341** College & University Unified Champion Schools  
*\*\*155 schools filled out the UCS college level liaison survey*

**13,640** Estimated Total Participants

**40** Participants  
(Median per school)



**83%** of schools report that most participants are new to Special Olympics

**91%** of schools report that most participants are new to Unified Champion Schools

### WHAT LED TO MORE ACTIVITIES?

|                                                                                     | UCS Unified Sports | UCS campus / community engagement | Special Olympics community sports |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| More than 1 planning group administering UCS                                        | ✓                  | ✓                                 | ✓                                 |
| Participants that completed training in leadership, Unified Sports, and/or coaching | ✓                  | ✓                                 | ✓                                 |
| Support from SO Program                                                             | ✓                  | ✓                                 |                                   |
| Frequent communication with SO Program                                              | ✓                  | ✓                                 | ✓                                 |

**79%** of schools participated in **community sports activities**

**87%** of schools participated in **UCS Unified Sports activities**

**82%** of schools participated in **UCS campus or community engagement activities**

*“Unified Champion Schools at [my] University is a great organization that creates meaningful opportunities for inclusion and advocacy. It [helps] to build a more compassionate and united campus. This program allows everyone to see Special Olympics not just as an event, but as something truly special that brings people together and celebrates all abilities.”*

*-UCS College Participant*

### Participants with IDD Leadership Roles



**Executive board and club Shared authority & real accountability.**  
Roles like President, Co-President, Vice President, board members, officers, treasurers, secretaries, administrative leads.

**Athlete representative & voice Decision-makers, not just participants.**  
Athletes have roles for feedback, decision-making, connecting other athletes to the UCS group.

**Sports & team leadership Leadership through action, modeling, and peer support.** Roles like captains, coaches, assistant coaches, fitness captains, organizing teams, managing schedules, promoting sportsmanship.

**Event planning & program coordination Ownership of projects from idea to execution.** Roles like event coordinators, campaign leads, practice leaders, leading meetings or events.

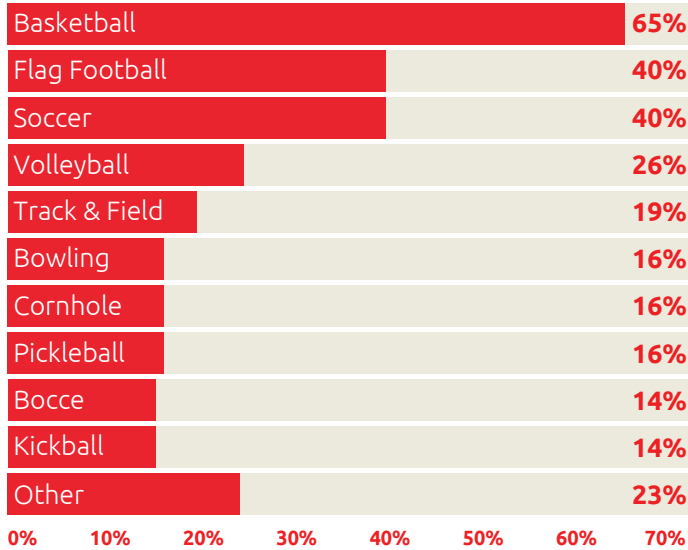
**Outreach, advocacy & awareness Visibility, storytelling, public speaking, and advocacy.** Roles like social media directors, recruitment directors, and campaign leads.

# Findings Overview

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### Schools participated in the following Unified Sports

*\*based on a smaller sample of schools (n=43)*



*“ Unified Champion Schools opened doors for an inclusive space at [my school] and is widely recognized by many. ” -UCS College Participant*

**43%**

of schools participated in a **fundraiser**.

**37%**

participated in a **Polar Plunge**.

**17%**

participated in a **different fundraiser...**  
*\*includes bottle or penny drives, dances & auctions, day of giving campaigns, food or restaurant sales, Greek organizations, grocery store or business partnerships, 5k or other walks/runs.*

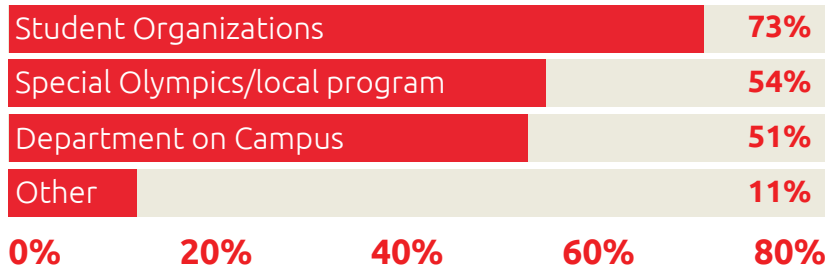
**74%**

of UCS colleges get together for Special Olympics activities (practices, competitions, meetings, events) more than once a month

**7**

is the average # of activities per school

### Groups involved in leading, planning, executing, or hosting activities



**UCS colleges that offered a greater number of activities were more likely to include individuals with IDD in leadership roles.**