

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019 FROM 6:00-8:00PM

These programs are offered to the public free of charge.
No pre-registration is required.



Options *fair*

REGIONAL POSTSECONDARY PLANNING NIGHT

FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



Lyons Township High School – South Campus

4900 Willow Springs Rd, Western Springs, IL 60558

Options Fair - Schedule of Events

Monday, October 21, 2019

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Resource Fair

Fieldhouse

The 2019 Options Fair is divided into four clusters for families to explore. The purpose of this design is to streamline the experience for individual students and their families. The fieldhouse will be filled with representatives from college degree programs, college experience programs, trade and certificate schools, and adult agencies/services.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Speaker Breakout Sessions

Gyms 3 & 4

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Samantha Salvato, MA, LCPC, Accommodations Specialist, College of DuPage

Title: Transitioning from High School to College for Students with Disabilities

This presentation will discuss the most common changes to accommodations and support services for students with disabilities as they transition from High School (with an IEP or 504 plan) to College. The speaker will provide information and guidance on how parents and students can proactively prepare for these changes.

Gyms 3 & 4

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Speaker: Mark Harris, Ph.D., Director of Student Disability Services, University of Iowa

Title: Top Mistakes Parents Make During the Transition to College

This presentation will discuss the top mistakes parents make during the transition to college. Dr. Mark Harris will outline what parents and students can do to prepare themselves for attending college.

Gyms 1 & 2

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Speaker: Sherri Schneider, President of Family Benefit Solutions, Inc., QDDP.

Title: SSI, SSDI, HFS - Understanding the Alphabet Soup of Government Benefits

For over thirty five years, Sherri Schneider, President of Family Benefit Solutions, Inc., QDDP, and the mother of a child with special needs, has been tirelessly dedicated to helping individuals with special needs and their families. Her career began as a social worker in a CILA, where she helped those with developmental disabilities acquire the government benefits they so desperately needed, including SSI, Medicaid and food stamps. She now meets with families to thoroughly assess their situations and pursue appropriate benefit assistance programs by personally guiding them through the application process. Families and professionals find her in-service expertise to be invaluable as they attempt to navigate the government benefit arena.

West Suburban Options Fair

College Degree Programs

Bowling Green State University

The FLY (Falcon Learning Your Way) Program is a fee-based academic support program that provides a comprehensive range of enhanced services to Bowling Green State University students transitioning from high school to college who have diagnosed learning disabilities and/or ADHD/ADD. The range of services in the FLY Program facilitates student learning, self-advocacy, and independence. Students take ownership of their education through working with a Learning Specialist to create an individualized Falcon Learning Plan; engaging in strategies for time management, organization, reading and writing; and in utilizing tutoring by peer tutors who are internationally certified by the College Reading and Learning Association.

College of DuPage

The Center for Access and Accommodations is the disability support services office for students who are taking classes at College of DuPage. We coordinate accessibility and academic accommodations for students who self-disclose their disability and register with our office. The Center for Access and Accommodations can be reached at 630.942.2154 or access@cod.edu

Arts, Communication, and Hospitality encompasses a broad range of arts courses and programs that provide students with an opportunity to create, perform, study and participate in the arts. Disciplines and programs in Arts, Communication, and Hospitality include transfer courses in Studio Arts (Drawing, Painting, Computer Art, Ceramics, Jewelry, Printmaking, Sculpture), Dance, Music and Music Technology, Applied Music, Theater, and Mass Communication. Other programs include Architecture/Construction Management, Culinary Arts, Fashion Studies, Hospitality and Tourism, Interior Design and Speech. Many of the courses in the Fine Arts satisfy the general education requirement for graduation and can be transferred to other institutions. The applied programs include transfer and career and technical education training in Graphic Design, Motion Picture/Television, and Photography. Both associate's degrees and certificates are offered in the Applied Arts programs.

Eastern Illinois University

Eastern Illinois University's Students with Autism Transitional Education Program (STEP) focuses on providing enhanced support in three main skill set areas. A solid foundation of Academic, Social, and Daily-living (ASD) skill sets is crucial for the success of post-secondary students. With appropriate support in place for students with Autism, the challenges associated with transitioning to university life can be minimized. Become a member of STEP to break down the barriers and STEP through the door of success! STEP provides additional support and services beyond providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities as required by the ADA. Rebecca Edgington, rsedgington@eiu.edu, 217-581-6361

Edgewood College

The Cutting Edge Program at Edgewood College was piloted in 2007, making us the first four-year college in Wisconsin to offer a fully inclusive college experience for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Since then, the program has continued to grow and offers individualized wrap-around services to support students in academics, student housing, social experiences, and practicums/internships. We currently support 23 students per academic year. Due to the success of the program and overwhelming support, we have now expanded and are offering two additional programs: the Pre-College and the Alumni Program. As part of Edgewood College's Dominican tradition, students learn the values of justice, compassion, truth, community, and partnership. Through these values,

students are given the opportunity to experience civic engagement both on campus and in the Madison community.

Elmhurst College

Our Office of Access and Disability Services works hard to provide accessible programs and reasonable accommodations for students with a range of disabilities. Our inclusive approach includes innovative educational programs, cross-campus collaboration and self-regulated learning. Operating under the principle of Universal Design Learning, the office of ADS is dedicated to helping students with disabilities access the support they need to be academically successful while developing strategies and habits that will allow them to be successful beyond their academic career.

Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (FIDM)

FIDM/Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising is a private, specialized four year California college with campuses in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Orange County, and San Diego. FIDM offers 14 specialized Associate of Arts Degrees, 8 Bachelor's Degrees, 8 Advanced Study Programs, and an MBA. FIDM is accredited by the Senior College and University Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). FIDM has close ongoing, working partnerships with our creative industries. Our Career Center assists students with internships and careers in the Fashion, Interior Design, Visual Communications, Product Development, and Entertainment industries. Students are immediately immersed in their major and involved with Career Center Services from their first quarter of study. FIDM's majors have a far reach, including Digital Media, Textile Design, Beauty Industry Management, and Apparel Industry Management in addition to the majors listed above.

Harper College

Transition Autism Program (TAP) is designed to meet the specific needs of students on the Autism Spectrum as they transition from high school to college. We bolster success in academics by direct support from professional staff. This unique program provides peer mentoring to improve interpersonal relationships and establish a connection at Harper, specialized academic support, and a parent support component. In addition, there are Job Readiness workshops that include resume writing, interview skills and job search strategies. TAP selects and approves cohorts of new student on the Autism Spectrum each fall semester. TAP students are also offered multiple opportunities to be sociable, at ADS Success Club meetings and at other on-campus events each semester.

Illinois College

Illinois College is a top ranked liberal arts college located in Jacksonville, Illinois known for its Graduate Ready commitment to students.

Landmark College

Landmark College is a four-year college, for students who learn differently. With options to complete a two-year degree, bridge semester, summer high school program, summer visiting college program and study abroad semester- our students learn high standards for academic performance that serve them long term. Degrees at the associate and bachelor level allow students to choose from a range of programs of study, including natural and computer science, business, psychology, communications, art, and liberal studies. Distinctive among all programs is an emphasis on the development of metacognition, self-advocacy skills, and individual strategies for learning.

At Landmark College, we understand that each learner comes with a unique set of experiences and educational background, but with a clear objective of reaching success on their own terms. We debunk myths and challenge labels, providing an environment that is unique in higher education.

Lincoln College

Lincoln College's nationally recognized Access Program provides support to students who are diagnosed with ADHD or have a disability that impacts executive function.

The fee-based program's success is founded on the establishment of a personal campus connection and the delivery of supportive, intense academic coaching to develop and encourage each student to become an independent, confident, and successful learner.

Students that participated in the Access Program during fall 2017 achieved an average GPA of over 2.5. Students who participate in Access work with an academic coach to develop skills and strategies that are essential to their academic success. Access Coaches work with students to break down assignments, prioritize course work, organize materials, create daily or weekly to-do lists, explore new study strategies, and help students develop a planning and time management system that works for their individual needs. In addition, Access Coaches work very closely with Lincoln College faculty to monitor the student's progress and determine how best we can support the student in each of their classes. Coaches also work closely with the Academic Success Center to assist students in using one-on-one tutoring and learning labs to the fullest extent.

To receive more information about the Access Program contact the Coordinator, Ms. Allyssa Schweisthal at access@lincolncollege.edu or call at (217) 735-7335.

Loras College

Loras recognizes the dignity of persons with disabilities and challenges them to grow in our supportive environment while developing the skills associated with active learners, reflective thinkers, ethical decision makers and responsible contributors. The Lynch Learning Center offers three levels of service for students with diagnosed disabilities.

Each year, Loras challenges its students to make a positive difference in the community. And they always rise to the challenge—tenfold.

Our Autism Specific Program (ARCH) program is designed to help students with Autism Spectrum Disorder thrive emotionally, academically and socially. Through the four-year program, students work directly with Lynch Learning Center staff members designated as Certified Autism Specialists.

Our Enhanced Program is a comprehensive program designed to provide additional support for students with a primary disability of Attention Deficit Disorder or Learning Disability; however, students with other disabilities will be considered.

Lynn University

Lynn University's mission is to provide an innovative, global and personalized education that enables students to realize their potential.

Lynn is an independent college based in Boca Raton, Florida, with approximately 3,000 students from nearly all 50 states and over 100 countries. U.S. News & World Report ranks Lynn as the most international university in the region. Lynn's NCAA Division II Fighting Knights have won 25 national titles, its Conservatory of Music features a world-renowned faculty of performers, and its nationally recognized Institute for Achievement and Learning empowers students with learning differences. The school's Dialogues curriculum and award-winning iPad program help Lynn graduates gain the intellectual flexibility and global experience to fulfill their potential in an ever-changing world.

Marquette University

On Your Marq, Supplemental Academic Support, COMPASS Peer Mentor Program. Contact Heidi Potrykus, Transition Coordinator for additional questions at 414-288-0559 or heidi.potrykus@marquette.edu

Morton College

Morton College is the second oldest community college in Illinois, was founded in 1924 to meet the educational demands in the growing communities of Berwyn, Cicero, Forest View, Lyons, McCook, Stickney and other near-western suburbs. Morton College offers 17 Associate's Degrees in Applied Science, five Transfer Program Degrees, and 40 Career Certificates, that includes new programs such as: Forklifting, Pharmacy Welding, and Veterinarian Tech. In 2018, Morton College awarded 639 degrees and certificates.

Morton College provides services to students with disabilities. By providing equal access to all college programs and activities. Morton College has created an environment in which all students have an equal opportunity to succeed. Students that need accommodations will meet with the Disability Specialist to determine eligible services (accommodations may include: extended test time, readers, note takers, interpretive services, private testing rooms, and more). Contact Information-Ashanta Marshall, Ashanta.marshall@morton.edu, and the phone number is 708-656-8000 Ext 2433.

Mount St. Joseph University

In 1982 Mount St. Joseph University became the first local college – and one of the first in the nation – to help students with a learning difference develop the knowledge, skills, and self-advocacy to succeed in life with its program called Project EXCEL (Experience college life; Commit to your goals; Earn a degree; Leave a success). Project EXCEL is a separate application/admission from the university admission process. Students admitted to Project EXCEL pay an additional fee for the services provided. Project EXCEL students take all of their academic course work in the traditional curriculum and can select any major or minor offered at the university. Expectations of performance are consistent with those for other students at the university. In the 2018-2019 school year 47% of Project EXCEL participants were on the Dean's List.

Specific Program Services: Instructional team provides professional content tutoring in a wide array of disciplines, Academic progress monitoring, Consultative advising with attention to each student's specific learning needs, Organization and time-management coaching to address executive function skill development, Study for Success, EXC-103 a transition course for incoming freshmen, Direct instruction in

academic success strategies and reading in content areas, and Freshmen peer mentoring.

Rasmussen College

At Rasmussen College, we understand each student learns differently and should have options on how to complete their education. We offer a variety of learning options that are supported by career services, library resources, trained mentors, experienced tutors, personal student advisors and industry-experienced faculty. Based on the program you choose, you can learn in online courses, traditional classrooms or a blend of both. Online courses may offer another option of being completed at your own pace or by following an instructor's set schedule. Rasmussen College wants you to be successful in the classroom and in your career. From Certificates and Diplomas to Associate's, Bachelor's and Master's degrees, we have programs for in-demand professions and provide convenient learning options, so you can earn your degree your way. Our unique approach to education continues with our Credential Ladder—where we acknowledge each credential you earn at the time you earn them, Certificate to Associate's, Associate's to Bachelor's, Bachelor's to Master's. As you progress up your degree ladder, you will complete your core courses first and earn credentials incrementally. This allows you to take advantage of your educational accomplishments as you work toward your goal.

Roosevelt University

Roosevelt University's Learning Commons: Disability Office supports students with a documented disability. Our office aims to help teach students independent academic skills, support emotional needs and foster a healthy social lifestyle. We go beyond accommodations because we recognize that we need to do more than just meet the legal requirements for students with disabilities. Our goal is for students to graduate and feel confident about their ability to enter the community as a good employee and thoughtful citizen.

Southern Illinois University – Carbondale

The Achieve Program is a comprehensive support program for neurodiverse learners at Southern Illinois University. Students apply to the University and also apply to our Program. We provide intensive, individualized support for students. Please view our website for more in-depth information about Achieve: achieve.siu.edu

Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is a mid-size public university located in southwestern Illinois. Situated on 2,660 acres and just 25 minutes from downtown St. Louis, SIUE has a total enrollment of over 13,000 students. SIUE offers 126 undergraduate programs of study in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Schools of Business; Education, Health and Human Behavior; Engineering; and Nursing. Doctoral programs also are available in the Schools of Dental Medicine and Pharmacy. SIUE offers Direct Entry admission for eligible incoming freshmen to the Schools of Business; Education, Health and Human Behavior; Engineering; and Nursing as well as a Conditional Entry Program to the School of Pharmacy (siue.edu/direct). Students must submit all required admission documents (siue.edu/apply) by December 1, 2019 for fall 2020 direct entry, conditional entry, and scholarship (siue.edu/scholarships) consideration. SIUE has over 250 student organizations and is a member of the NCAA Division I Athletics (Ohio Valley Conference).

St. Ambrose University

St. Ambrose University is a Private-Catholic 4-year institution with more than 60 undergraduate majors, 24 intercollegiate varsity level sports and a number of opportunities designed to promote student development intellectually, spiritually, ethically, socially, artistically, and physically. The Accessibility

Resource Center is the office providing the reasonable and appropriate accommodations to over 300 students annually. The Center is designed to assist students to level the playing field through one-on-one strategy / skill development, advocacy training, and identifying appropriate on and off campus resources for students with varying disabilities. Our promise is to guarantee access so students can pursue success.

University of Illinois, Springfield

The University of Illinois Springfield is a top-rated regional university in the heart of Illinois.

University of Illinois at Chicago

UIC utilizes our Disability Resource Center (DRC), which was founded in 2006 to provide accommodations to UIC students to ensure that the campus and curriculum were accessible to all. The DRC is committed to providing accommodations and access to all students with disabilities and to working collaboratively with faculty, staff, and University services across the campus to provide students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of the educational experience at UIC, while maintaining compliance with relevant federal and state laws. The Disability Resource Center recognizes various environments in which people function: physical, programmatic, informational and attitudinal. Some modifications to these environments are readily-achievable through direct consultation with faculty or staff.

University of Indianapolis

University of Indianapolis BUILD is a voluntary, full support program that is designed to help students with learning-related disabilities earn an associate's or bachelor's degree. This is a fee-for-service program that goes significantly beyond the appropriate, reasonable accommodations required for ADA compliance.

BUILD services: One-on-one scheduled tutoring, Professional tutors with a bachelor's degree or higher, Autism social group, Autism activities group, Specialized classes with accommodations built in (Study Skills, English, and a Spanish course specifically created for students with learning differences), Testing Center, Private study area, Access to assistive technology.

BUILD preview days are held twice a year: <http://www.uindy.edu/ssd/build-preview-day>

For more information on the BUILD Program, please call (317) 788-3536 or email build@uindy.edu

University of Iowa

Student Disability Services at the University of Iowa ensures academic accommodations are available for traditionally enrolled students. Our total campus enrollment is 33,564 of whom 24,503 are undergraduates. Our staff of Accommodation Coordinators work individually with students to develop an accommodation plan and to provide information and referral to a variety of university resources including the Writing Center, the Math Tutorial Lab, and Supplemental Instruction for selected courses. Our staff assists students with a range of disabilities and disability types and at all stages of their academic careers. We work closely with our Career Center and Leadership Programs to help ready students for the transition to work or to graduate or professional schools. Information is available at our website: <https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>. Mark Harris, mark-harris@uiowa.edu, 319-335-1462

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Center for Students with Disabilities. 2017 Total Students: 12,430; Undergraduate Students: 11,128 Students with disabilities are an essential part of the diversity that defines the UW-Whitewater campus and CSD is committed to supporting a diverse and stimulating academic community. As part of our mission, CSD actively collaborates with students, faculty, and staff to create an inclusive, accessible university experience. We serve UW-Whitewater students with physical, learning, sensory, psychological, health-related, or other disabilities. CSD offers a three-tiered model of support that includes mandated services (accommodations); success services, including ongoing case management and assistive technology; and fee-based success services, including our Summer Transition Program and Project ASSIST tutoring program. Sara Vogt, vogts@uww.edu, 262-472-5239

Vincennes University

The Advanced Internship in Manufacturing (AIM) program includes a two-year degree in Advanced Manufacturing Technology--Industrial Maintenance that combines cutting-edge curriculum, paid work experience, along with learning highly sought-after business principles and best practices of a world-class manufacturer. Interested applicants must complete both the AIM application, as well as the Vincennes University application. Please select the Advanced Manufacturing Technology--Industrial Maintenance (8480) program on your VU application. For more information about AIM, please contact Tom Schott at tschott@vinu.edu or 765-586-9551. Manufacturing partners actively involved in the AIM program include: Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Caterpillar Inc., voestalpine Rotec, Heartland Automotive LLC, Nanshan, BraunAbility, ARaymond, Closure Systems International, and Evonik.

What Makes the AIM Program Different?

Industrial Maintenance skills are highly sought by many manufacturers. Students earn a wage while attending college and gain priceless work experience with a leading manufacturer. Over two years, each AIM student can earn as much as \$27,000 which with planning could cover all of a student's education expenses. There are also potential grants and financial aid.

What About After Graduation?

Students in the AIM program earn an Associate's of Science through Vincennes University. Upon successful completion of the program, AIM graduates may qualify for a full-time position in manufacturing in Lafayette, IN area. Additionally, AIM graduates can continue their education at Purdue Polytechnic to earn a Purdue Polytechnic Bachelor's degree. Some AIM partners offer full time employees a tuition assistance program which allows the completion of the BS degree with little or no costs.

How it Works

The Application Process: Students interested in the AIM program must apply using both the Vincennes University application and the AIM application. The Accuplacer Placement Test must also be taken (www.vinu.edu/testing). Once accepted to Vincennes University, AIM partners will review your application and determine which applicants meet the rigorous background requirements. Next, the AIM partnership will interview candidates and select students for the upcoming class. (**We are now accepting applications for the fall 2019. For information regarding the application process, please call 812.888.4812.)

Western Illinois University

The role of Disability Resources in the SD&SC is to facilitate equal access to University classes, programs, and activities for students with disabilities. Because access is a shared University responsibility, the SD&SC serves as a resource for faculty, staff and administrators on creating accessible and inclusive environments. While WIU is committed to access and inclusion, it is not possible to anticipate all barriers that might exist for individuals with disabilities. Therefore, the SD&SC is the campus department designated by the University to work with students through an interactive process to determine disability and hear requests for reasonable accommodations.

Wheaton College

Wheaton College is a 4-year, traditional, residential, liberal arts college located in Wheaton, IL. We are one of the top Christian colleges in the country, providing a rigorous liberal arts education combined with a committed Christian community and environment. Wheaton College is home to 2,400 students who come from all 50 states and 90+ countries! We would love to invite you to consider applying to join the Wheaton family. For questions, please reach out to Kathryn Brightly at kathryn.brightly@wheaton.edu or by calling 630-752-5422.

West Suburban Options Fair College Experience Programs

Beyond Akeela

Beyond Akeela blends elements of a traditional summer camp with components of a teen tour into a 3 week summer program with an intentional focus on helping teens with ASD and NVLD transition into college and the workforce. Participants are part of a tight-knit community, in which they practice post-secondary life skills, experience adventure, and thrive socially. Beyond Akeela expands their horizons, reveals their leadership potential and creates bonds of friendship that will last a lifetime. Beyond Akeela campers are bright, independent and academically successful young adults in 11th or 12th grade. The program operates on the campus of Lawrence University in Appleton, WI, with travel to popular Midwest destinations such as Chicago.

Kevin Trimble, kevin@campakeela.com, 866-680-4744

Chapel Haven, Inc.

Founded in 1972, Chapel Haven is an award-winning non-profit devoted to helping adults with social and developmental disabilities learn to live self-empowered and independent adult lives. Chapel Haven offers a nationally accredited transitional living program and is also an approved private special education school designed to help adults with a wide variety of profiles, from autism to mild intellectual disabilities, Down Syndrome and Asperger Syndrome. Chapel Haven has grown to serve more than 250 adults (18 years of age and older) in the residence and the community with three distinct programs; REACH, Asperger's Syndrome Adult Transition (ASAT), and Chapel Haven West (Tucson, AZ). Recently, Chapel Haven broke ground on a \$35 million campus expansion that is delivering state-of-the-art new residential and classroom facilities and, eventually, a senior living program, allowing the program to deepen its reputation for lifelong care.

Catherine DeCarlo, cdecarlo@chapelhaven.org, 203-397-1714, ext. 148

CIP, College Internship Program

The College Internship Program is a nationally recognized, comprehensive transition program for young adults on the Autism Spectrum and with Learning Differences. CIP's postsecondary transition program offers individualized college academic, social, career and life skills support for happy and successful preparation for a great future outlook since 1984. The office that is represented for this program is Bloomington, Indiana. CIP Worldwide has 5 nationally recognized offices where the program operates. Please see below for more information on the program and locations.

www.cipworldwide.org

Emily Heck, Admissions & Outreach, 812-323-0600 x 403

College of DuPage - COACH Program

Career Opportunity ACHievement (COACH) is a two-year (four-term) cohort program designed for adults 22 and older who have cognitive challenges. The COACH Program provides post-transition students with additional educational training aimed at preparing them for meaningful employment. The curriculum focuses on functional academics (reading, writing, math, and computer literacy), social and independence skills, and career exploration. The program is conducted three days a week from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Courses offered through the Vocational Skills Program are designed for students with developmental disabilities. These classes provide instruction designed to develop life and vocational skills that can lead to competitive, entry-level employment and also enhance everyday living skills. Most courses meet for eight weeks, meeting twice each week for two hours. Classes are held on campus in Glen Ellyn. Reach Out courses complement the Vocational Skills classes. These classes may be taken multiple times as new information is introduced. Reach Out classes are designed for 21-to-40 year old students. Literacy courses provide instruction designed to enhance reading and writing skills. These

classes are also designed for students with cognitive challenges. Tracy Kline, klinet940@cod.edu, 630-942-3779

Concordia University Wisconsin - Bethesda College

Bethesda College is a two year certificate program in the inclusive university environment of Concordia University Wisconsin. The program is designed to meet the higher education needs of students with intellectual and other complex disabilities, including experiencing the whole range of college learning and life. The goal of the program is to prepare students for independent adult living. Following the CUW Mission of “helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world”, the program provides a “blended” model of instruction centered on the intellectual, vocational, social, personal, and spiritual growth of its students. The Bethesda College program integrates a sequence of formal instruction in four areas: Academics, Career Preparation, Adult Living Skills, and Campus/Community Life. Group instruction and development of the whole person are emphasized, supported by individual advising, coaching, and tutoring.

<https://bethesdalutherancommunities.org/services/educational-supports/>.

KiraCollins, kira.collins@bethesdalc.org 262-243-2183

Elmhurst Learning & Success Academy

The Elmhurst Learning & Success Academy (ELSA) at Elmhurst College is a four-year college experience program for young adults with differing abilities. We focus on academic, career exploration, independent living, and social/recreational experiences all as part of the beautiful Elmhurst College community.

Tim Ahlberg, ahlbergt@elmhurst.edu, 630-617-3752

Harper College - Career Skills Institute

The Harper College Career Skills Institute is an educational program for students with mild cognitive disabilities, ages 18 and above. CSI assesses and strengthens basic employability skills and helps students develop realistic career plans. The cohort of not more than fifteen students stays together for two years. Year one includes six modules focusing on basic academics and communication. Year two focuses on career exploration with a guided vocational experience on campus. Linda Hoeck, lhoeck@harpercollege.edu, 847-925-6000 x2076

Judson University - RISE

RISE stands for the Road to Independent Living, Spiritual Formation and Employment - a 2-year, live-on-campus, college experience program for students with intellectual disabilities. RISE students take classes in four areas: Health & Wellness, Independent Living, Professional Skills and Person-Centered Planning. These classes are designed to help the students with employment, independent living and staying healthy. Our students also select one of six subject area concentrations and take a series of three traditional undergraduate courses. Both on- and off-campus internships are part of the program as well. RISE students are encouraged and participate in all campus activities, clubs and organizations, as well as chapel. An important aspect of our program is the traditional student support, including Resident Advisors, Learning Advisors and Vocational Advisors, who come alongside of the RISE students to help maximize their success. Kathy Lambert, kathryn.lambert@judsonu.edu, 847-628-2524

Life Development Institute

Life Development Institute (LDI), located in metropolitan Phoenix, AZ, offers post-secondary, and summer programs for young adults who have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), ADHD, LD and other related conditions. LDI serves individuals that thrive in a learning environment providing holistic

academic and community engagement. Additionally, LDI embeds adult content and competencies by integrating practical college strategies, refining interpersonal communication skills, determining viable career paths, and promoting social responsibility. Justin Coller, jcoller@discoverldi.com, 623-773-1545

Middlebridge School

The Bridge Program at Middlebridge School is a coeducational postgraduate program for students with learning differences. Highly individualized education promotes students' academic, social and emotional growth, and fosters a lifelong love of learning. The Bridge Program is individualized to help each student achieve his or her personal goals, and incorporates supported off-campus living, college classes, continued study skills development and internship experiences in beautiful South County Rhode Island. The Bridge program is offered in conjunction with the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), the University of Rhode Island (URI), and New England Technical Institute (NETI). Bridge students may enroll at one of these schools and study what they choose from a multitude of classes offered. Heather Jensen, hjensen@middlebridgeschool.org, 603-234-1823

Minnesota Independence College & Community

Minnesota Independence College & Community (MICC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit vocational and life skills training program for young adults with learning differences and autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Since our founding in 1996, MICC has remained dedicated to helping our students make successful transitions towards independent living and financial self-sufficiency. Using our MICC Curriculum, our students learn in their own apartments, at the grocery store, in the workplace, at restaurants, and on public transportation—any practical environment where life skills are needed. We believe our students can live independent, self-sufficient, whole lives. Having learned the skills to open doors previously closed to them, the future of our students is limitless. We are not simply a three-year experience; we are a lifelong partner to an individual who learns differently. Located in Richfield, Minnesota (a first-ring Minneapolis/St. Paul suburb), our MICC Community, MICC College and Summer Internship Program attract an internationally diverse student body and help them achieve independence. Katie Sjeklocha, admissions@miccommunity.org, 612-876-9409

National Louis University - PACE

P.A.C.E. (Path to Academics, Community and Employment) is a three year, post-secondary certificate program designed to meet the transitional needs for young adults with multiple intellectual, learning and developmental disabilities. P.A.C.E. is one of the leading residential-based programs in the country that integrates employment preparation, independent living skills coaching, functional academic courses and social development into a curriculum that prepares students for independent living through experiential learning. Mallory Pratt, mpratt6@nl.edu, 312-261-3770

Options for College Success

Options for College Success, located in Evanston, IL. provides services to individuals with learning challenges and disabilities aged 17 and older. We pride ourselves on customizing service plans for each student based on their needs and goals. Services include academic support through tutoring, ensuring each student receives the accommodations for college that are needed, and skill building to improve study habits and organizational skills. We provide career counseling and job support, financial skill building, independent living skills, social skills, and host social events almost every day of the week. Our organization supports students further by having a social worker on staff. Our services are provided through three program options: full time residential, Choices (part-time) program, and Skype. Our goal

is to build confidence, courage, and skills for individuals to live their best life. Shoshana Axler, snaxler@optionsforcollegesuccess.org, 847-425-4797

OPTIONS Transitions to Independence

OPTIONS Transitions to Independence is a comprehensive boarding program for post-secondary students with learning disabilities, attention deficits, language based disorders and/or executive functioning deficits. Students enrolled in OPTIONS face a variety of obstacles, including academic, employment, independent living, social and emotional challenges. OPTIONS offers instruction and assistance for students who need to further develop skills in each of these areas. As students transition through the phases of OPTIONS, they develop skills and acquire the crucial tools necessary for independent life. Initially part of the Brehm Preparatory School campus, OPTIONS has evolved and expanded services, empowering students since 1990. If achieving and/or managing independence is a concern, OPTIONS Transitions to Independence can help. To learn more about OPTIONS, please view our website at www.experienceoptions.org,
Char Reed, charlene.reed@experienceoptions.org, 618-549-4201

Shepherds College

Shepherds College is a fully accredited, three year, post-secondary program that trains and equips students with IDD in occupational, life and social skills. Occupational specialty majors include Technology, Culinary Arts and Horticulture. Additionally, general educational components include functional academics, spiritual life, daily living skills and social/emotional skills. Students develop life skills through three phases of the Residential Life program; which includes dorms, houses and apartments.

Brian Canright, bcanright@shepherdscollege.edu, 262-878-6365

Turning Pointe Autism Foundations

The Turning Pointe Career College is a unique educational and career training program for individuals impacted by autism spectrum disorder, social and communication challenges and other learning differences. We offer an innovative approach to teaching life and social skills, and work readiness. Instruction is highly individualized and focuses on the development of skills and adaptive strategies that will support an individual's success in school, the workplace, and in life. Turning Pointe Career College curriculum is designed as a comprehensive, two semester program.

Julie Plesha, jplesha@turningpointeaf.org, 630-615-6028

University of Iowa- Reach Program

The University of Iowa REACH Program is a transition certificate program for college students with disabilities, such as autism, intellectual disabilities, and learning disabilities. UI REACH provides a Big Ten college experience and empowers young adults to become independent members of the community. Coursework, campus life, and career experiences prepare students to reach their full potential. UI REACH also offers alumni events.

Michael Petkewec, reach@uiowa.edu, 319-384-2127

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater - LIFE Program

UW-Whitewater LIFE (Learning is for Everyone) will provide a complete college experience for young adults between the ages of 18-25 who have an intellectual disability. With ample supports, specialized instruction, residential living, and community integration, the program will serve a critical need in our

College Experience Programs

region and community. The program will have two components, a Basic Program (2 years) and an Advanced Program (2 years), which facilitate independent living and employment success for persons with significant cognitive limitations. Program Highlights: Specialized instruction, with an emphasis on skills that students need in order to be successful in personal and professional endeavors, Expansive resident assistant supports designed to help students develop essential skills in non-academic domains, Integration with multiple facets of campus life, thereby providing many inclusive opportunities and meaningful networks of support, Dismantle barriers and create substantive opportunities for students with an intellectual disability, Prepare students to live a healthy and balanced lifestyle, including regular exercise and participation in enjoyable leisure activities. Student qualifications include. Between 18-25 years of age upon acceptance. Documentation of an intellectual disability. Ability to function independently for a couple of hours or more. No significant behavioral problems. Can perform a basic hygiene routine independently or with minimal support. Motivation to obtain a job and to work hard to keep it. Motivation to live independently.

Ashlea Roselle, rosellab@uww.edu, 262-472-1905

West Suburban Options Fair

Certificate and Trade Programs

CISCO

Information on how to get into union construction apprenticeship programs.

Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Apprentice Program

The Carpenter Apprentice Program is a four-year paid apprenticeship program that is completely tuition-free. Most of the training is on the job at construction sites. Apprentices must also take classes at our training center. Crafts include; General Carpentry, Millwright, Floor Covering, Mill Cabinet, Pile Driving, Lathing and Concrete Form Builders.

Parents Alliance Employment Project

Parents Alliance Employment Project is a grassroots organization started over 35 years ago by a group of parents seeking to combine employment and inclusion opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The different services offered are: Career Counseling, Job Training and Preparation, Job Development and Placement, Job Coaching and Support.

SWD, Inc.

SWD, Inc. is a family owned metal finishing business in Addison, IL. We offer full and part-time positions in Manufacturing. We offer a comprehensive benefit package for all full time positions such as Medical, Dental, Vision, 401(k), Profit Sharing, Paid Holidays, Vacation Time, Life Insurance, Tuition Reimbursement, and much more!

SWD Inc. opened for business in March 1980 with three employees in a 9,000 sq. ft. facility built by Delawder Construction and began black oxidizing, cleaning, and pickling operations with used equipment. In late 1980, the company began passivating stainless steel and in 1981 purchased Fastener Sorting Corporation.

Today, a recognized leader in the Metal Finishing and Fastener Sorting industry, SWD Inc. has over 150 employees and runs three shifts per day in its 165,000 sq. ft. facility.

Symbol Training Institute

HANDS-ON MANUFACTURING TRAINING

Symbol Training Institute is a Chicago-based educational organization which builds partnerships with manufacturers and students to improve lives through quality education. Symbol Training Institute provides education and hands-on training in Programming, Setup & Operation of CNC (Computerized Numerical Control) machines. Symbol has been appointed as a Manufacturing Sector Center by the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership ("The Partnership").

Symbol Training Institute is dedicated to encourage and assist all students in achieving their maximum academic, career and personal development. Our school provides a number of services that are geared toward helping students meet this objective. In addition to offering top quality CNC and Quality Control hands on training, we take pride in our exceptionally high success rate of job placement. Symbol is employer driven and works directly with manufacturing companies to place students into high paying,

high demand jobs.

Technology & Manufacturing Association

TMA is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1925 by eight small manufacturing companies who thought they could better themselves by associating with one another. Through the years, members established programs and services that would help their businesses grow and prosper, train their employees, and provide medical and retirement benefits. As a result of these efforts, TMA has grown into a nearly 1,000-member not for-profit organization of precision manufacturing and supplier companies in the greater Chicago area. TMA is governed by a Board of Directors, composed of executives from member firms. A full-time professional staff works closely with the Board and its committees and trusts.

Our apprentice program has been dated as far back as 1958. TMA currently has 3 separate tracks to the Apprentice Program, Tool and Die Making, Mold Making, and CNC Programming. The first year of the program is a general foundation including Shop Math, Industrial Print Reading, and Machine Tool Technology. In the second year the course of study is narrowed to a basic training of either Tool and Die Making, Mold Making, or CNC Programming. The 3rd year continues to an advanced study from the track chosen at Year 2. All first-year students must supply evidence of a high school diploma or GED before their registration will be accepted. A photocopy of the original is satisfactory. All first-year students must complete ACT WorkKeys assessments prior to registration. Satisfactory scores must be met on the Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information assessments. If a student has already taken WorkKeys, documentation is required.

Universal Technical Institute

Universal Technical Institute is an official STEM college with technical training based in Lisle IL. Training fields are Automotive Technician and Diesel Technician. UTI has special training partnerships with Ford, Porsche, BMW, Cummins, International Trucks, Freightliner, GM, Chrysler and more. All of the training is career focused one 3 week course at a time. The programs range from one year to a year in a half. Most accommodations that are provided in high school are provided at UTI. UTI is an accredited college and qualifies for FAFSA and title IV funding. UTI is a local preferred provider of training for DuPage Workforce Net, a \$10,000 grant that many IEP students in DuPage qualifies for. Most students that attend the local campus receive a diploma, however AOS degrees can be obtained through our technical training programs. Private campus tours and questions can be scheduled through the local admissions representative.

workNet DuPage

The DuPage County Workforce Development Division (workNet DuPage) offers a free resource that may be of great value to young adults. Our Youth Services connect eligible young adults (ages 17 to 24) to education, training and employment opportunities. Services may include: Career Exploration, Resume Creation, Job Readiness Training, Paid Job Internships and Training/Scholarship Assistance (up to \$10,000).

West Suburban Options Fair Adult Agencies and Services

Achieving Independence and Mobility - Center for Independent Living

As a Center for Independent Living we provide five core services, Advocacy (systems and individual), Information and Referral, Independent Living Skills Training, Peer Support and Mentoring, and Transition Services (High Schools to adult living as well as transition from institutional settings). We also have services that include a deaf and hard of hearing program, resources, and youth services. The Youth Leadership Program gives us the chance to work within local schools and partner alongside them and the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). The Program works towards enhancing your student's ability to transfer what they are currently learning within the class into real life situations.

Cayleigh Ballard, cballard@aim-cil.org, 630-469-2300

The Arc of Illinois

The Arc of Illinois is Illinois' largest statewide advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc of Illinois provides legislative advocacy and training for self-advocates, family members, and professionals. Individuals interested in learning about issues important to their loved ones with ID/DD can stay informed and active in shaping the system through membership in The Arc of Illinois. Programs of The Arc of Illinois include the Illinois Life Span Program, a program that provides statewide resources and information on advocacy, services, and supports for individuals with ID/DD, their families, and professionals. The Family Support Network of Illinois (FSN) has expertise in the adult service system and works with families who have questions/concerns and need assistance. The Arc of Illinois Family to Family Health Information Center (F2F) is a free service for families of children and youth with special health care needs. Our staff of experienced parents/family members are here to answer questions about health care and health insurance for families and professionals about children with special health care needs, disabilities and/or chronic illnesses ages birth to 21. The Ligas Family Advocate Program provides family to-family advocacy support for Ligas Class Members, individuals and their families who are selected through the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Prioritization of Urgency of Needs (PUNS) as a result of the Ligas Consent Decree. It is a place to get accurate information about options; as well as exposure to experts in the areas of employment, housing and so much more. The Family Transition Project families have experienced the successful transitions of their loved ones from state operated developmental centers to homes in their communities of choice. We share these successes with families who are contemplating or just beginning the process. A wide variety of training/educational opportunities and a Consumer Stipend Program that funds individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and family members/caregivers to attend conferences and trainings round out the important programs of The Arc of Illinois!

Deb Fornoff, deb@thearcofil.org, 800-588-7002

Arts of Life

Arts of Life is an alternative day program for adults with disabilities. Arts of Life advances the creative arts community by providing artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities a collective space to expand their practice and strengthen their leadership. Studio locations in Glenview and Chicago.

Vincent Uribe, vuribe@artsoflife.org, 312-829-2787

The Autism Assessment, Research, Treatment, and Services (AARTS) Center at Rush University Medical Center

The AARTS Center at Rush offers unparalleled expertise in diagnosing and treating children, adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) through its clinical, research, and outreach platforms. The center offers comprehensive care including evaluation, individual and group therapy, medication management, transition planning, and consultation to address medical conditions and behavioral challenges often associated with ASD. As a center, the AARTS team develops and leads research studies to better understand ASD and to develop novel, integrated treatments with the potential to address the complexity of ASD throughout the lifespan. The AARTS Center seeks to maintain a strong partnerships in the Chicagoland area and uses those connections to grow the Autism Resource Directory, a free online resource guide made to help families find service and support referrals in the following counties: Lake, McHenry, Kane, DuPage, Cook, Kendall, Will, Grundy and Kankakee.
Holly Lechniak, holly_n_lechniak@rush.edu, 312-563-2765

ASPIRE

Aspire provides a variety of services for Adults with disabilities. Aspire Career Academy (ACA) provides industry specific (Retail, Distribution, Culinary, Hospitality and Office Tech) in simulated environments. ACA has a few different training models to meet the needs of the Individual. Life Enrichment (LE) is a day service program that provides a variety of activities throughout the day for an Individual. And LoMO (Life on My Own) is an innovative training opportunity that supports Individuals as they become independent and living on their own. Margie Chaloupka, mchaloupka@aspirechicago.com, 708/547-3560 ext. 3602

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Holly Lechniak, holly_n_lechniak@rush.edu, 312-563-2765

Autonomy Works

AutonomyWorks, located steps from the BNSF train station in Downers Grove Illinois, was founded to create job opportunities for individuals with autism and others with similar abilities. AutonomyWorks believes the unique talents and abilities of people with autism are perfectly matched to the highly technical, business Process Execution tasks in today's marketplace. AutonomyWorks recruits, trains and directly hires individuals with disabilities on to our team of Associates. Ideal candidates will have basic computer skills, keen attention to detail, a commitment to quality and the maturity to work autonomously in a professional office environment. AutonomyWorks also offers a 4, 6 or 8 week Training Program for qualified candidates.
Carolyn Bozek, cbozek@emailautonomy.com, 630-269-9090

Benefit Boost

Benefit Boost, Benefit Advocacy from the Heart provides education and assistance to individuals who have disabilities. We help you understand what benefits, including SSI, SSDI, Medicare and Medicaid, and services that you may be eligible for and help you access those benefits and services. Our services include initial application assistance, assistance with appeals, and we can help you maximize your benefits for a lifetime. Please contact us today. Teri Bodeman, tbodeman@benefitboost.net, 847-561-1722.

Best Buddies

Best Buddies International is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Best Buddies is the world's largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our programs empower the special abilities of people with IDD by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy and communication skills, and feel valued by society.
Teniola Odunsi, 312-828-9313

CARD- Center for Autism & Related Disabilities

Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) has developed an Adult curriculum tailored specifically for adults, CARD's comprehensive Adult Services treatment program is the first of its kind in the United States. Through targeted Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, the program can make a profound difference in the everyday lives of adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Participants will acquire a set of specifically-targeted skills to help them increase functioning in daily life, develop vocational and social skills, and integrate into their communities. With the CARD program, adults with ASD can discover a whole new path to a more independent life. CARD Adult Services develops individualized treatment plans with a single goal in mind: to increase independence. Services are provided across all settings, including home, workplace, school, and community, so adults with ASD can gain the social, vocational and functional skills they need to lead the most self-sufficient lifestyle possible. The CARD Adult Services program is based on a hierarchy of skills, where each phase must be successfully completed before moving on to the next. As we advance through the curricula domains one by one, each newly-acquired skill will be a small but important step on the way to increased independence. Sarah Kozlowski, sk2302@centerforautism.com, 630-581-0334

Chat Abilities

ChatAbilities is a speech and language clinic providing a variety of services to young adults. Our services include remediation of language disorders, executive functioning deficits, and social challenges. As part of our practice we also provide academic support in the areas of reading, writing, and study skills. Teletherapy is available for college students. With years of advanced training and practice, we take pride in offering effective social groups for teens and young adults. Our groups are designed to help people improve their social competencies to make connections with others and meet their individual social goals. Through our years of providing intervention, we have learned the importance of providing experiences for our clients to generalize what they have learned. Inhibited by lack of social confidence or bonded friendships, many of our clients prefer to stay within their comfort zones. With support, our social skills programs provide a path to becoming more comfortable in a variety of social contexts. In addition, we offer life coaching services which extend into dating education and support. Our therapists

are experienced with a variety of disabilities including autism spectrum disorders, anxiety/depression, and learning disabilities. Julie Prato, julieprato@chatabilities.com, 773-318-8890

Community Support Services, Inc.

We believe that individuals with disabilities have the right to envision their own future and to choose the services that best meet their present and future needs. Our goal is to provide personalized services to help our participants and their families live, learn, and work in the community they choose. Once you complete an Intake Form, an Intake Coordinator can help determine which programs you may be eligible and best suited for. Access to these services may depend on funding from the State of Illinois and local townships. Examples of our wide array of services include: Respite Care: Our Respite services are provided by a support team that includes a Service Coordinator (case manager) and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) as well as the individual and their family. Respite allows parents and caregivers to take some time to themselves while the program participant receives professional, supervised support. Respite services can be Individual Respite (one-on-one support) and/or Group Respite. Individual Respite is one-on-one support that can take place inside participants' homes and/or in the community. Each participant is matched with a trained CSS DSP who will engage in activities that the support team agrees upon. Group Respite Services engage individuals in fun group outings including meals out, movies, seasonal activities, cultural events, and field trips to nearby sights. Group Respite fosters social interactions, community integration, group decision making and problem resolution among people with I/DD of similar ages and interests. A monthly schedule of dates and activities is provided upon registration. For more information email Respite@CSSservices.org Adult and Residential Services: These long-term services are designed to help adults with I/DD access a broad spectrum of supports so that they can lead independent lives. Recognizing that participants have different needs, the resources and supports are tailored for each person. These services are designed for adults who live independently, in their family home, or in one of our eight group homes. For more information email Adultservices@CSSservices.org. Supported Employment: Designed for adults who are interested in working or volunteering in the community. The focus for participants is not only on achieving employment, but also acquiring the skills to become productive and valuable employees. In partnership with the Chicago Zoological Society Brookfield Zoo, our Bridges Program provides the opportunity to volunteer and gain valuable job experience with the support of a CSS Job Coach. For more information, email Supportive_Employment@CSSservices.org CSS Academy: Classes, workshops and special field trips are provided for individuals, their families, caregivers and residents in the community who want to learn something new. Classes are taught in the areas of the arts, life skills, technology, and health and wellness. For more information email: Academy@CSSservices.org. Community 360 Day Program: Community360 provides center and community based activities for adults. Program participants choose meaningful ways to spend their day, and DSPs help provide those choices. Bilingual Spanish services offered, and bilingual DSPs are preferred. For more information email: familysupportcenter@CSSservices.org
Necole Mills, Intake@CSSservices.org, 708-354-4547

Connection of Friends

Connection of Friends is a community-based program which provides a place for teens, (aged 16 and older), and adults with special needs to gather socially with an emphasis on life skill, volunteer and fitness activities on a daily basis and Saturday evenings. Our primary purpose is for participants to engage in meaningful ways within a supported environment. COF operates Monday, Wednesday and Thursday with varied options of Noon-6:00 p.m. or Noon-3:00 p.m. or 3-6:00 p.m. Tuesday and Friday programming is from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Dinner & Dancing with Friends is offered on Mondays from 3-6:00 pm. Our Saturday Night Socials are held from 6-9:00 p.m. Participants sign-up for 13-week

sessions and select the specific days and time options. Connection of Friends is only closed on traditional holidays. Week-day programming includes preparing a daily meal and snack; community volunteering; service projects for area agencies including SCARCE (School & Community Assistance for Recycling Composting Education); People's Resource Center, Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans and Humanitarian Service Project; music; art; gardening; fitness/yoga/nutrition; and COF products sold at fundraisers.

Sarah Donnelly, sdonnelly@connectionoffriends.org, 630-260-0922

DuPage County Workforce Development

The DuPage County Workforce Development Division offers a free resource that may be of great value to young adults. Our Youth Services help eligible young adults (ages 17 to 24) start good careers through a variety of support and assistance including: Career Assessments/Planning, Resume Training, Job Readiness Training, Paid On-the-Job Training, Paid Job Internships and Possible Training/Scholarship Assistance (up to \$10,000).

Joyce Meredith, jmeredith@worknetdupage.org, 630-955-2071

Edge Advance

EDGE Advance provides opportunities for Neurodiverse young adults to transition into a healthy young adult life with independence and autonomy. With the understanding that no two paths are the same and that every person has a unique background and personality, EDGE Advance is committed to assisting young adults define that path for themselves while providing a caring, respectful environment with a consistent and a balanced life path in the areas of education, employment, fitness, nutrition, recreation, healthy relationships, emotional wellbeing, substance/technology abuse education, social and living skills, healthy habits and future life goals. Many of these young adults have faced struggles and hardships in their lives that have required a lot of hard work and support to overcome, EDGE Advance realizes that by recognizing, celebrating, supporting, and working with their individual's strengths, opportunities for substantial growth can be accomplished.

EDGE Advance is a transitional living program for Neurodiverse individuals which uses a clinically-integrated coaching model to effect lasting, sustainable change in the lives of our students. We support individuals with autism spectrum disorders, dyslexia, ADHD, and other learning differences, some who may also have mental health issues as they transition from secondary education and launch into their adult lives. Our experienced, dedicated staff members share a passion for helping young adults achieve their full potential. Our staff culture is governed by four principles that focus our work and result in excellent outcomes: care, support, respect and accountability, as well as the 7 dimensions of wellness: social, physical, intellectual, emotional, environmental, spiritual, career and financial.

Uniquely located in the heart of Chicago, EDGE Advance offers the opportunity for young adults to have real world experiences while providing a stable, supportive environment where they can grow and flourish. Young adults in the program can attend college, volunteer, work, and engage in a variety of fitness and recreational activities. The overarching goal is to support their start on a meaningful life path.

Jack Flight LCSW, RDDP, CSOTS
Program Director EDGE Advance
63 E. Lake Street Chicago, IL 60601
847-571-9996
jflight@edgeadvance.com
www.edgelearningcommunity.com

The Estate Planning Law Group

Our firm assists families with planning for their loved ones with special needs. This can include estate planning (either wills or trusts), special needs trusts, and guardianship.

Kirsten Izatt, kirsten@teplg.com, 630-871-8691

The Eval Center

The Eval Center provides individualized vocational evaluations for a comprehensive assessment of an individual's skills, interests, and abilities as they relate to career planning and preparation. We offer comprehensive services to assist with transition planning for high school students. The Eval Center associates have a unique understanding of students as they make their transition from an educational setting to a career plan in which they are best matched, while recognizing that everyone is unique in their journey toward education, employment, and independent living. A battery of standardized, statistically valid, and reliable instruments are used in this process which provides essential data needed to drive the students transition plan. Our assessment and counseling services are designed to meet individual needs, and we take special care to utilize tools and methodologies that are non-biased to the populations we serve.

Lisa Byrne, Lisa.Byrne@theevalcenter.org, 708-589-4040

Family Benefit Solutions

Family Benefit Solutions helps families obtain all of the government benefits for which they appear eligible (SSI, SSDI, Medicare, Medicaid) with the secondary goal of keeping as much money in the family as possible. We discuss future planning so that benefits are not necessarily lost. We provide informative informational seminars to families and professionals. Sherri Schneider, benefithelp@aol.com, 847-279-8506

Gateway Special Recreation Association

Gateway SRA promotes the full participation of people with disabilities in meaningful activities that maximize their health, well-being, and quality of life. Our therapeutic recreation approach provides people an opportunity to experience community outings in various social settings, compete at various athletic levels of all kinds through sport related programs and Special Olympics, visual and performing arts classes, day camps, autism specific focused programs, and overall health and wellness activities.

Ryan Massengill, ryanm@raygraham.org, 630-325-3857 ex. 110

Giant Steps - Canopy

Canopy is an adult day program available for adults on the autism spectrum ages 18 through 44. The Canopy program is available Monday through Friday year round. Programming is focused on building pre-vocational and life skills, while giving opportunities for access to the community and creative arts enrichment. Staffing at Canopy operates at a ratio of 1:3 or 1:4 staff to participants pending the complexity of the activity or its location. The program is located in Sugar Grove, with options for transportation from Lisle in our Canopy Caravan to and from programming each day. Canopy is proud to be able to support the needs of adult individuals on the spectrum with unique programming and individualized supports. Lillian Peterson, lpeterson@mygiantsteps.org, 620-864-3830

Helping Hand Adult Day Program

Helping Hand Center Adult Day Program is a college-campus style program for adults with disabilities to promote healthy living and wellness. Adults choose from a variety of programs and volunteer and

employment opportunities. Programs include art, computers, library, current events, life skills, cooking, music, fitness, and recreation. Molly Hayes, molly.hayes@hhcenter.org, 708-352-3580x429

Helping Hand Employment Services

Employment Services Program for Adult and Students transitioning to Adult Services. We provide services that benefit our clients in every stage of the pre-employment process.

Case Management - For the individual who participates in Employment Services, a Case Manager is available to provide on-going coordination of services for the individual, including inter-agency networking, and on-going guidance/counseling.

Job Development - This service provides community work site opportunities and on-going relationships with potential employers so that tailored work-stations can be developed to meet the needs of the individual.

Job Club - This service offers individual or group discussion of a range of employment related topics. Areas covered include job search, application for employment, job interview skills.

Helping Hand also supports Project Search at Amita Lagrange Hospital and at the Brookfield Zoo. Project Search is a 9-month internship program, where interns learn employment skills necessary to be successful in the workplace. The program culminates with Interns being placed in Competitive Community Employment.

Rocio Casillas, rocio.casillas@hhcenter.org, 708-352-3580 x236

IL Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs/ Illinois ABLE

ABLE Accounts, which are tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities and their families, were created because of the passage of the Stephen Beck Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 or better known as the ABLE Act. The beneficiary of the account is the account owner, income earned by the accounts will not be taxed and some states have tax deduction allowances. Contributions to the account, which can be made by any person (the account beneficiary, family and friends), must be made using post-taxed dollars and will not be tax deductible for purposes of federal taxes, however some states may allow for state income tax deductions for contributions made to an ABLE account.

Rosemary Laudani, 217-524-1778

Illinois Association of Microboards & Cooperatives

The Illinois Association of Microboards and Cooperatives (IAMC) is an organization that provides information, advocacy, support and training to assist persons with disabilities and their families/friends understand how to create full and inclusive lives in the community based on the focus person's hopes and dreams. IAMC provides technical assistance to make this happen using real person-centered planning and tools, circles of support, social capital, resource management and more. IAMC trains facilitators including educators, parents, advocates, providers, family members and anyone interested in person-centered thinking on the use of PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope).

Kish Pisani, inclusion@iambc.org, www.iambc.org, 630-632-1965

Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Maybe it's a four-year degree, or maybe it's a certificate or vocational school. Maybe you take a gap year, or step into a job. ISAC can help you discover what's possible for you—and we can help provide the support and resources for you to carve a path to get there. In addition to the state grants and scholarships we administer, the ISACorps provides direct services to students and parents statewide in

helping them navigate the process of education after high school, financial aid, college search and admissions, and more. Andrea Janick, isac.studentservices@illinois.gov Andrea.Janick@illinois.gov, 630-216-4910

JJB Educational Consultants, Inc.

JJB Educational Consultants Inc. provides college placement services for students with learning differences. Our clients have learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorders (ASD), traumatic brain injuries and developmental delays. Having over 20 years of collective experience in the college placement field allows us to help our students and their families find the appropriate college fit for their students. We have a 100% success rate placing college-bound students with learning differences in college!

Jordan Burstein, Jordan@jjb-edconsultants.com, 847-940-8090

The Joshua Tree Community

The Joshua Tree Community is a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit Day Program for non-aggressive Mildly Intellectually Disabled Adults over the age of 22 or are no longer in public education and over the age of 18. It is our goal to provide an underserved community of adults a means to participate in activities that will enrich their lives on a year round, daily basis. Programing is focused around education, recreation, health, community, volunteering, cooking, and attending events.

Reggie Whiting, contact@joshuatreecommunity.com, 630-715-1645

Life's Plan

Life's Plan Inc. has been providing to Illinois families and individuals with disabilities of all ages trust management services. Life's Plan Inc. has been serving as a Corporate Trustee as an Illinois Non-Profit Organization for over 32 years. Life's Plan Inc. is unique in that we not only offer trust management of individual Special Needs Trust, but can offer families and individuals a more affordable option for estate planning with our Pooled Trust program as well. Scott Nixon, snixon@lifesplaninc.org, 630-628-7189

Little City

Little City's Employment First Division provides a pathway for adults, who identify with any type of disability, to enter (or re-enter) the workforce.

Employment First offers job seekers 1:1 guidance, direction and support to prepare for the rigors of working life as well as direct connections to businesses and personalized assistance in obtaining and sustaining employment.

Employment First personnel, including Certified Rehabilitation Counselors and Certified Employment Support Professionals work together with job seekers and the Division of Rehabilitation Services to design an individualized plan for job placement and post hire employment supports.

Over the past 4+ years, individuals who have obtained employment with the assistance of Little City's Employment First team has a 95% retention rate and many have been offered opportunities for advancement beyond their initial role.

Little City believes that every individual has employable skills. Through assessment of interest, strength & preference Little City facilitates a person centered job matching process that allows individuals to not only earn competitive wages but also enjoy the other positive outcomes associated with work including an expanded social network, greater independence and heightened self-esteem. Anyone interested in working with or learning more about Little City's Employment First team should contact Casey Burke, Director of Employment, at cburke@littlecity.org, 815-535-2705

Little Friends - Spectrum

Spectrum's supported employment program helps adults with disabilities find jobs in businesses throughout the community and provides training, in the form of job coaching, to learn and become independent at those jobs.

Ryan Ferries, rferries@lilfriends.com, 630-929-2733

Marriott Foundation

Since 1989, Bridges from School to Work has assisted over 23,000 students nationwide with finding employment by participating in our job-readiness and -placement program. Bridges works closely with over 400 employers in the city of Chicago, and our services are completely free. We engage employers, schools, community resources, and youth and their families to help businesses meet their workforce needs while offering young people with disabilities the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed through employment. Each year, the Bridges team helps more than one thousand young people nationwide as they transition out of high school special education and into the workplace by finding jobs with employers in need of qualified entry-level candidates.

During the course of the program, we assist our participants with job-readiness training, resume building, online research, interviewing skills, and various other matters related to finding employment. We support our candidates every step of the way, from interviews and orientation to their first day on the job and beyond, by providing them with strategies for job retention and career advancement.

Eligibility requirements for Bridges are as follows: prospective participants must be between the ages of 18 and 24, reside in Cook County, be authorized to work in the United States, have graduated high school (or obtained a GED), and have a documented disability.

Mirna Velic, mirna.velic@marriott.com, 312-672-9562

Meridian Health Plan

We are a family-owned, family-operated company of passionate leaders, achievers, and innovators dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our members, our providers and in the healthcare industry. We provide government-based health plans (Medicare, Medicaid, and the Health Insurance Marketplace) in three different states (Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio). Our mission is to continuously improve the quality of care in a low resource environment. This means we want to make high-quality healthcare easier to give and receive. Erica Wilson, erica.wilson@mhplan.com, 312-953-6043

Nami Metro Suburban

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) provides support and education to improve the lives of those living with mental health conditions and their loved ones. NAMI offers a variety of services including a Drop in Center, 2 Living Rooms (alternatives to the hospital for those experiencing an increase in mental health symptoms), support groups and education classes. NAMI also offers an Employment Program where individuals with a mental health condition work with a NAMI Employment Specialist to come up with a career plan focused on their own personal goals and preferences. The focus is finding a balance between employment and recovery goals. All NAMI services are FREE. For more information contact NAMI Metro Suburban at 708.524.2582 or info@namimetsub.org.

Niki Rashes, rashes@namimetsub.org, 708-582-6434

Next Steps Illinois

Illinois Next Steps Mission Statement is to Improve the delivery of services to children with disabilities and their families; develop and/or support productive relationships between families and persons

working with their children; increase family awareness of disability options and resources; and link families experienced with disability issues to families seeking assistance. Alex Budziszewski, alexvoc@ladse.org, Karen Steffan, karensteffan@ladse.org

Oak-Leyden Developmental Services

Our Lifelong Learning Centers, located in Oak Park and Elmwood Park Illinois offer a structured day of meaningful activities and community connections. Staff work to address the learning, sensory and communication needs of participants while building social skills and interpersonal relationships. Activities range from advocacy, cooking, cultural events, health and wellness to being part of our choir. Participants connect to the community through volunteering and exploring the surrounding communities. Participants have fun while learning the necessary life skills needed to reach individual dreams! Our Supportive Employment Program offers services to individuals in the western suburbs. We provide individualized training that is directed at the participant's interests and talents. We have a number of businesses that we have relationships to help participants secure employment. Our staff trains participants on job-seeking skills including writing resumes and completing applications and in how to succeed at interviewing. Our job coaches provide instruction and monitoring once a participant has started working to ensure that both the employee and the employer are satisfied with the work being performed. Our job coaches fade back after the participant gains proficiency but are available to step in when needed to provide support. We strive to build new employment skills and assist people in gaining financial independence. Chuck Nilles, Cnilles@oak-leyden.org, 708-383-2050 x 201

PACTT Learning Center

PACTT's adult vocational program helps young adults with autism find meaningful volunteer and employment positions in the community. Committed to our participants' right to choose in regard to where they work, the PACTT Adult Vocational Program helps to ensure that PACTT's core value of community integration is met.

Vocational program opportunities includes: Community involvement, Vocational training and job placement, Social and communication skill enrichment, and Leisure skill development. Chris Thomas, cthomas@pactt.org, 773-299-4010

Parents Alliance Employment Project

Services provided by PAEP are based on the philosophy that all individuals have the right to work in the communities in which they live. PAEP provides a variety of programs and services to individuals with developmental disabilities including career counseling, job training and preparation, job development, job placement, and job coaching and follow-up. Each of the unique services assists individuals with disabilities develop secure career plans, enter into and retain community employment.

Khushbu Dalvi, Kdalvi@parents-alliance.org, 630-955-2051

Parents Alliance Employment Project - Project Search

Project SEARCH is a 9 month, business led, internship program for individuals with disabilities. The program is designed to teach participating interns transferable work skills so they can secure competitive employment in the community. Each intern goes through three 10-week internship rotations throughout the hospital learning a variety of new skills. Upon completion of the hospital, interns search for jobs within the community. The primary goal of the program is that 100% of the interns receive employment. Two Project SEARCH sites in this area are located at Central DuPage Hospital and Delnor Hospital. Central DuPage Hospital follows a traditional transition model while Delnor Hospital is an out-of-school, adult program. For more information on Central DuPage Hospital,

please contact Sarah Basit at 630-933-4282. For more information on Delnor Hospital, please contact Ashley Walsh at 630-933-2127.

PremierCare - PremierCare & MyDay

We provide home and community support services for individuals with disabilities. Premier Care: PremierCare advocates for individuals and families who are seeking assistance in managing care services in their home. One-on-one services are provided by a Personal Support Worker who is trained as a Direct Support Professional in home and community. Behavior Intervention services and behavior supports are also provided. Day Program: MyDay's goal is to empower our adult clients to take charge of their life. We work with individuals to create a custom program to promote independence in a safe, environment all located in our own 2,500 square foot space.

Rebecca Denman, rebecca@premiercareconsulting.com, 630-579-4325

Ray Graham Association

Ray Graham Association provides support to nearly 2000 Children and Adults with disabilities throughout DuPage county and the surrounding areas. RGA offers residential, life skills, employment, recreational and family support services. RGA currently operates more than 20 community-based homes throughout neighborhoods in DuPage county. Our person-centered services promotes growth, enrichment, and a meaningful day for over 300 adults with developmental disabilities. Daytime activities are offered at our four sites in DuPage County. People we support participate in a wide variety of in-house and community activities that include socialization, health and wellness, safety, and independent living skills. RGA also offers Monarch Services in Burr Ridge, Naperville and in Western Springs. It provides customized post-transition program that uses both community and classroom setting to foster wide range of meaningful skills that facilitate social relationships, self-esteem employment and recreation. RGA also partners with hundreds of employers in DuPage, Will, Kane, Grundy and Cook counties to not only assist people with disabilities find a job but find the right fit. Person's dreams and goals are the priority. RGA offers evaluation, job preparedness, job search, job development, job facilitation, transportation, follow-up services and build relationships with employers. RGA empowers people with disabilities to Reach. Grow and Achieve.

Neel Patel, neelp@raygraham.org, 630-325-3857x114

Regional Transportation Authority - Mobility Services

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) oversees Pace, CTA and Metra financially and provides discounted fare programs, travel training and more. The RTA region surrounds the Chicagoland area and includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, McHenry, Lake and Will county. The RTA's Mobility Services department works with older adults and people with disabilities to learn about public transportation options by providing presentations and attending resource fairs in their community. Public transportation helps individuals stay connected to their social network and work, increases independence and saves money. We will provide information about helpful resources, reduced fare and ride free fare programs, traveling training, local transit options and ADA Paratransit.

Sarah Blair, blairs@rtachicago.org, 312-913-3167

Robert H. Farley, Jr., Attorney At Law

Attorney Robert H. Farley, Jr. has provided legal representation to individuals with disabilities and their families for over twenty years, concerning Special Needs Trusts, SSI, Guardianship and funding for services for children and adults.

During the last 10 years, Robert H. Farley, Jr. has filed 7 Federal Class Action Lawsuits against the State of Illinois which has successfully resulted in changing the disability system in Illinois. No other attorney in

the United States has achieved this recent success. At www.farley1.com you can download at no cost, Mr. Farley's Book, "How to Navigate the Illinois Disability System." Robert H. Farley, Jr., 1155 S. Washington Street, Naperville, IL 60540 630-369-0103 email: farleylaw@aol.com

Rubin Law

Legal and future planning for our fellow Illinois families of individuals with special needs, including intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and/or mental illness, is not one thing we do, it's the only thing we do; it's not one area of our practice, it's our only area of practice. Benji Rubin, email@rubinlaw.com, 847-279-7999

SEASPAR

The EAGLES program is a community based program that incorporates therapeutic recreation to help adults with developmental disabilities Enhance Adult Growth through Lifestyle Education and Service. This program emphasizes leisure independence, community outings, and social interactions with peers. Each day includes a physical fitness component, guidance in making healthy choices, a recreational activity, and lunch. The EAGLES program has 3 locations; Darien Sportsplex, Brookfield Municipal Building and Lisle Recreation Center. All three sites offer a computer lab, full kitchen, smartboard and are wheelchair accessible. They also provide access to indoor and outdoor swimming and fitness centers. Dawn Krawiec, dkrawiec@seaspar.org, 630-960-7600

Special Camps

Special Camps offers week long, overnight camping opportunities for both children and adults with intellectual disabilities, with a 100% dedicated team of experienced volunteers. Camp will be hosted at the White Pines Ranch in Oregon, IL., 1/2 hour West of DeKalb. It's a very active, fun, highly structured, camp environment that leads campers to greater independence and self-esteem while encouraging life-long friendships alongside their teen camp counselors, adult activity leaders and guides. We also have a 24 hour RN nurses to dispense all medications and treatments.

Dates for 2020 are June 7 - 12 for adults and June 14 - 19 for youth. Registration begins February 1st. Day activities include swimming, riding and grooming horses, archery, field games, singing and dancing, crafts, gold mining, talent shows and woodworking. At evening all camp parties include hayrides, dancing alongside bands, campfire songs and s'mores, line dancing, and dancing alongside the Blooze Brothers.

For more information, please contact our camp director Colleen at 630-690-0944 or visit our website for information and photos @specialcamps.org.

Thomas Clark Law, LLC.

Thomas Clark Law helps clients determine what will happen in the event of their death or disability. Who will take care of you? Your wife? Your children? Your business? How will your assets be distributed? Whether your estate has a net worth of \$50,000 or \$50,000,000, I can help you determine and designate the most practical and effective fiduciary, who will have the authority to make personal, health care and investment decisions on your behalf in the event you become unable to make such decisions. If your estate is small, my focus may be on the distribution of your assets and the payment of your final debts. A larger estate may require discussing methods of preserving your assets for beneficiaries, managing estate taxes and so on. Hiring an estate planner will give you control over what happens with your estate, assets and health care. Asking the right questions, paired with my thorough experience enables me to make pragmatic recommendations for effective solutions to your estate planning and trust

administration needs. The focus of my practice is Estate Planning and preparing the documents for planning your estate which are relevant to your specific needs.

Tom Clark, tom@thomasclarklaw.com, 708-990-5374

UCP Seguin Services

Through our Building Bridges To The Future Transition program we:

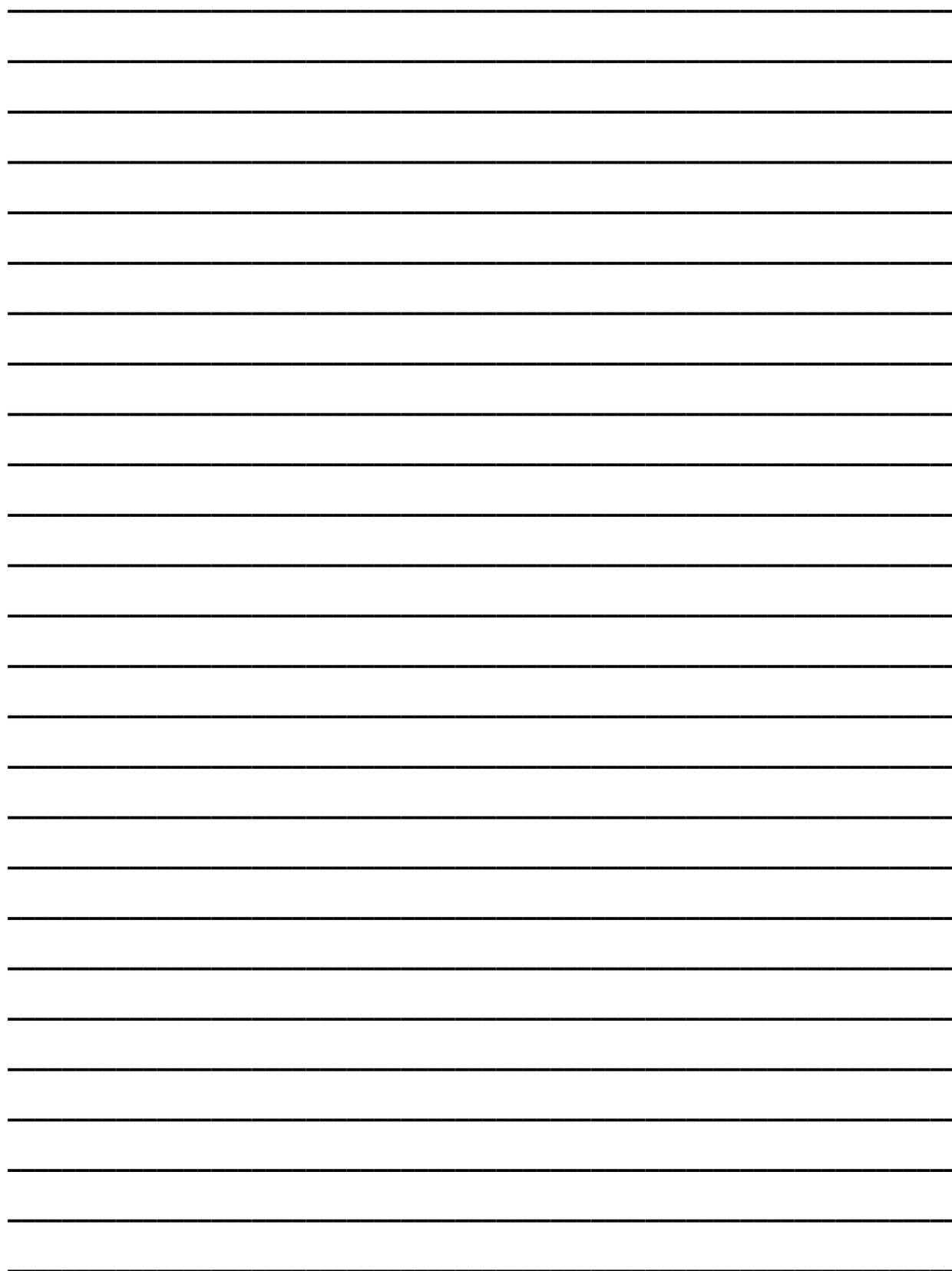
Attend Individual Education Plan meetings as part of each student's interdisciplinary team. Work with Special Education department staff to ensure that transition is part of the IEP. Develop and maintain linkages between families, Special Education staff, and adult service providers. Provide in-service training and coaching sessions for parents, guardians, and students. Advocate for and assist in establishing eligibility for community services for students. In addition to providing assistance through our Transition Outreach Specialists, the Building Bridges project now offers, on a limited basis, adult transition experiences to students during spring, summer and holiday breaks. These experiences include vocational training, job trials, basic training in skills of daily living, and various therapeutic activities designed to prepare individuals for their transition to adult services.

Laura Gonzalez, Lgonzale@seguin.org, 708-222-4836

Western DuPage Special Recreation Association - WDSRA

WDSRA Rec & Roll is a community based recreation day program that emphasizes leisure independence, social interaction, community outings and service projects. Rec & Roll is for participants aged 22-55. Staff utilizes recreational activities to help people with disabilities develop and enhance their quality of life. The daily schedule can include animal therapy, volunteer projects, gardening, field trips, fitness, outdoor recreation, art therapy, crafts and games. Upon occasion additional money is required for activities. Participants must be able to successfully participate in a 1 staff to 6 participant's ratio and perform all of their own daily living skills. There is an option for participants who need more prompts to be successful, those participants must be able to function in a 1:3 ratio. Participants attending Rec & Roll must be toilet trained, responsible for independent care such as feeding and dressing, and devoid of emotional outbursts that require 1:1 staffing. Rec & Roll has locations in Naperville, Carol Stream, Glen Ellyn and in 2018 in Wheaton!

Stephanie Reeve, stephanier@wdsra.com, 630-681-0962



Thank you for attending!
See you next year at
Willowbrook High School - District 88.



Stay updated by visiting our website at www.optionsfair.org

The Options Fair 2019 Committee consists of representatives from the following high schools:

Addison Trail ~ Community High School District 94 ~ Downers Grove North ~ Downers Grove South ~ Fenton ~ Glenbard North ~ Glenbard South ~Glenbard East ~ Glenbard West ~ Hinsdale Central ~ Hinsdale South ~ Morton East ~ Morton West ~ Leyden East ~ Leyden West ~ Lyons Township ~ Metea Valley ~ Neuqua Valley ~ Waubonsie Valley ~ Naperville 203 ~ IPSD 204 STEPS ~ Oak Park and River Forest ~ Riverside-Brookfield ~ Wheaton North ~ Wheaton Warrenville South ~ Willowbrook ~ York

Disclaimer:

The purpose of the Options Fair is to provide access to parents, students, and families to post-exit supports and services. Districts participating and hosting the fair have no connection to or endorse any representatives and/or vendors at the fair.