Connecting Students To Outside Resources

By Jeff Newton and Janie Fugitt
Most Important Factors in Connecting Students to Outside Resources

* Teaching them to identify their disability but reminding them this is only one aspect
* Teaching them their strengths and limitations
* Teaching them what accommodations help them
* To promote the highest level of independence possible within each student
* Job Corps is not a drop out program - it is a Vocational Training Program
* Provide vocational training in many different fields - each Job Corps specializes in different vocations
* Skills based assessments-option for students who may not be able to pass CareerTech entrance requirements
* Four Job Corps Programs in the State of Oklahoma – Talking Leaves, Guthrie, Treasure Lake, and Tulsa
Students live on campus

Room, Board, and Training all provided to student at no cost

Serve students age 16 to 24 years old

$1200.00 transitional allowance provided upon graduation

Transition Specialist provided to every student upon graduation to assist graduate with obtaining employment, housing, and other needed resources
* Located in beautiful Tahlequah
* Operated by Cherokee Nation
* Only Job Corps in the U.S. that was built from ground up to be a Job Corps
* Provide training in Nursing Assistant (CNA), Nursing (LPN), Electrical Wiring, Construction (Facility Maintenance), Culinary Arts, Medical Office Assistant, Business Office Assistant, and Material Handling
* Contact Shandi Secondi (Tika) @ 405-623-1904 for more information
* [http://talkingleaves.jobcorps.gov/home.aspx](http://talkingleaves.jobcorps.gov/home.aspx)
Located in Indiahoma on the beautiful Wichita Wildlife Refuge

Operated by U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service

Provide training in Bricklaying, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, Electrical Wiring, Painting, Plastering, Plumbing, and Nurse Assistant (CNA)

Call 580-246-3203 for enrollment information

http://treasurelake.jobcorps.gov/Home.aspx
Located in historic Guthrie

Operated by Res-Care

Training provided in Office Administration, Computer Technology, Culinary Arts, Welding, Carpentry, Security, Plumbing, and Construction (Facilities Maintenance)

Contact Rick Cadena @ 405-205-1514

http://guthrie.jobcorps.gov/Home.aspx
Located in Tulsa
Operated by Res-Care
Training provided in Carpentry, Construction (Facilities Maintenance), Culinary Arts, Homeland Security, Nurse Assistant (CNA), Office Administration, CLEET Security and Pharmacy Technician
Contact Isaac Causey @ 918-591-5609
http://tulsa.jobcorps.gov/Home.aspx
Workforce Youth Program (WIA)


- Provide services for Youth ages 16-24
- Services are delivered by Service providers at the One Stop Centers (Workforce Offices) across the state
- Different Workforce offices offer different programs
- Central Oklahoma Workforce provides (other workforce offices provide similar resources)
Workforce Youth Programs Include:

* Paid tutoring
* Paid Employment Workshops
* Summer Employment (First come first served)
* Tuition and Book assistance at College/Career Tech across the state
* Contact your closest Workforce/One Stop Center and ask to speak to the Youth Program Counselor
Program for youth and adults with disabilities

Provide job placement assistance for any stage of life - part time, after school, summer, post graduation, post college graduation, etc.

This resource is only available in Oklahoma, Cleveland, Logan, and Canadian counties

For more information - Contact Caitlin Volpini @ 405-543-8814
* Provide statewide assistive technology (AT) services to people with disabilities of all ages through 4 core programs – demonstration centers, short-term equipment loan, AT reutilization, and low interest bank loans for the purchase of AT
* AT short-term loan program enables individuals to try assistive devices/equipment to determine if they are useful or not prior to purchasing
* Contact Linda Jaco @ 1-800-257-1705
* http://www.ok.gov/abletech/
Youth Leadership Forum

* Summer leadership camp for youth w/disabilities in 11th and 12th grade
* Located in Chickasha on the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO)
* Provide fun recreational activities
* Teach participants self-advocacy and self-determination
* Graduates of summer camp are very successful - they go on to college or work
* Contact Jenifer Randle @ 405-521-4984
Parent to Parent organization

Operate a Mentorship program where they connect a struggling family with another family who has already been through similar issues with a child with special needs to offer, guidance, support and a connection to resources

Contact Joni Bruce @ 405-203-8745

Support managers throughout state

http://www.oklahomafamilynetwork.org/
High School Technology Class where students use technology to explore postsecondary transition

Class does count for technology credit for graduation and college track

For more information contact Rick DeRennaux @ 405-640-7606
Oklahoma Parents Center

* Assist parents and students with disabilities with training and resources from birth to age 26
* They also train teachers on different issues
* Have Counselors throughout the state
* For more information contact Ellen Kimbrough @ 1-877-553-4332
School-to-Work Transition Program that takes place entirely at a business

Unpaid internship program

Program follows typical school calendar

Graduates obtain competitive jobs in the community

If interested in learning more about Project Search (PS) or starting a new PS site, contact Kim Osmani @ 405-635-2768 or Judi Goldston @ 405-325-0448
Services vary for individuals with IQ of either 75 or 70 or below

- Provide multiple services such as job coach, transportation, OT, PT, SLT, employment, dental, respite, etc.
- Services are long-term
- Currently 6,954 on the waiting list
- Can view current waiting list info at - http://www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/dd/docs/waiting.htm
Need to get students on the waiting list ASAP as young as possible so services will be in place in time

DDSD services are provided by contracted community providers

See link for list of service providers

http://www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/dd/prvdrs/docs/providerlistab.htm
* Provided to individuals with developmental disabilities (70 and below IQ) both currently on DDSD services (waivered services) and on DDSD waiting list (state)
* State vacancies are currently hard to locate
* See link for list of Group Homes in the state

http://www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/dd/prvdrs/docs/ghvac.htm
Another option for individuals on the waiting list or if better fit for individual is ICF

Similar to group homes

See link for list of ICFs in the state

http://www.health.state.ok.us/PROGRAM/condiv/hrsd/okdir~1.asp?pageID=8&sort=1
Adult Guardianship

- Must inform parent and student of rights of majority - need to do it by age 17
- If parents believe individual will not be able to make their own decision then they will have to file for “Adult Guardianship” which is a legal process
- Families need to contact a lawyer or a paralegal to assist them with the filing process
- The Woodland Group is low cost option - presenters have information available upon request
Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

DRS
Transition
School-to-Work
Who Does DRS Serve?

- Students receiving special education services and on an IEP through their school
- Students on a Section 504 plan
- Any student that can document a disability (e.g., mental illness, epilepsy, diabetes, orthopedic impairment, scoliosis, etc.) according to rehabilitation eligibility purposes
How is DRS Transition structured?

* DRS has the divisions of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Visual Services (VS) – both divisions provide transition services throughout the state
* The VS division serves students whose primary disability is visual impairment, diabetes, or a combination and may include other disabilities also
* The VR division serves students whose primary disability is anything other than visual impairment or diabetes, and may include multiple disabilities too
* The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Unit is part of our VR division and is dedicated to assisting students who are deaf or hard of hearing, which may include interpreter services for employment preparation
Objectives of DRS Transition Program

* To help eligible young adults with disabilities (beginning at age 16) make the transition from school to work in order to function as productive adults within society
* To develop partnerships between DRS and local public school districts, CareerTechs, charter schools, and private schools, and
* To facilitate partnerships and involvement with the community through other agencies, providers, and employers
Services Provided

Referral, Application, Eligibility

Vocational Counseling, Guidance, and Assessment/Evaluation

Assists students in developing appropriate career goals

Helps determine students’ employment-related strengths and interests

Develop an IPE

Photo of Evaluation
Additional Services Provided

- School Work Study
- Work Site Learning
- Employer Work Study
- On-The-Job Training
- Work Adjustment Training

Welder
Service Descriptions

School Work Study (SWS), Work Site Learning (WSL), and Employer Work Study (EWS)

- These services are provided by DRS through contracts with schools
- In all three types of work training, students learn job readiness skills and obtain work experience, high school credits, and earn wages
- SWS takes place on school campus, while WSL and EWS take place in the community
Service Descriptions

On-the-Job Training (OJT) and Work Adjustment Training (WAT)

* OJT provides paid hands-on training in specific occupational skills that students receive as part of their workplace experiences; this service is provided through a contract with the employer

* WAT provides students with vocational training, including soft skills, work behaviors, and specific work tasks provided by a contract with a school or community-based facility (18 month maximum duration)
Supported Employment (SE) and Job Development and Placement

* Supported Employment usually occurs during the second semester of the student’s senior year and assists students to transition into permanent employment with support.

* During Job Development and Placement, specialists help students make job searches more successful by finding a match between their job interests, work skills and employment opportunities.
DRS has counselors who specialize in providing services to Hispanic families across Oklahoma.

This unit handles incoming calls on a statewide toll-free line for Spanish speakers by interviewing callers and providing information about DRS, the number is 1-800-523-1565.

We have two counselors currently serving the Southeast and Southwest quadrants of Oklahoma with transition and adult caseloads.
As students complete high school, they may be provided an evaluation for any assistive technology that may support them in preparing for and obtaining employment; this may also include workplace, home, and vehicle accommodations or modifications.

DRS has a unit dedicated to assisting people receiving SSI/SSDI benefits with navigating the SSA system, understanding available work incentives, and calculating income v. disability benefits.
“No one can do it alone. Improving the quality of life and the education of children with disabilities and their families requires collective knowledge, skills, experience, and expertise of all family members and professionals. It requires that the community and all service systems work together to achieve the goals of the family.”

_Bishop K. K. (1993)_
Website – [www.okdrs.gov](http://www.okdrs.gov) (Go to jobseeker and click on transition: school-to-work in the drop down menu; then click on link to find the DRS office that serves your high school)

For more information regarding DRS Transition Services contact:

Kim Osmani, Transition Coordinator
(405) 635-2768 (office)
kosmani@okdrs.gov

To connect to the DRS office in your area by phone call 1-800-487-4042.

Para más información en Español llame al 1-800-523-1565
Presenter Contact Information

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