

Job Ready. Life Ready.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Tips. Research. Best Practices. Community.

"Because ALL students can be Career Ready."

October 2017



No Limits: Florida ARC Launches Careers With Its Innovative PALS Program

A Blueprint for Transition Success

- *"He went from sitting on the couch at home to creating his own hydroponic produce business"*
- *"She was the first person with Downs Syndrome to graduate and receive her license in Cosmetology from Pensacola State."*

Dondie Roper, PALS Program Director at the Arc Gateway Pensacola, FL can regale with you many stories just like this. How do they accomplish this?

[Read more](#)

You Have to Find What They Love to Do

ARC students determine what they like best and what they have abilities for with a hands-on job skill learning approach. "We take a long-term approach for all - individuals with special needs or not, those at risk or not".

- 1. Find what it is they love to do**
(job exploration)
- 2. Learn what they need to learn to do that job**
(workplace readiness training)
- 3. Put it to use in the community**
(work-based learning experiences)

PALS is a two-year post-secondary program that consists of four semesters, plus summer practicums. The ARC's goal is to "provide substantial and relevant learning experiences, within an inclusive educational setting, that lead to meaningful employment."



Test Results Increase 100% Across the Board

"Statistically, people with disabilities learn better, are better able to stay focused and retain the information when they are performing a task hands-on", says Dondie. "Videos are great but it's a balance. Hands-on training helps us better assess their skills and better help them in the long run."

Evaluation and testing on:

- 1.** Knowledge; the mental side
- 2.** Skills; the physical side
- 3.** Interaction with others; the soft skills

We have seen test scores increase 100% across the board!

**PALS is GROWING - The Earlier the Start to Career
Exploration the Brighter the Possibilities**

"We are still growing our three tiered program: Transition, Training on College Campus, and Career Progression or Re-Tracking" The possibilities are limitless, Dondie just wishes they could have started sooner.

"We see all they accomplish and where they go in just two years with us, and we think Wow, if someone had been able to do this at earlier ages they would come to us able to step up and get into college level courses, and/or go for their Certification and Licenses."



Find Your Fit. Find Your Future: Embrace the Mandate for Career Exploration

**Exploration is the Foundation
of Transition Success**

"Transition begins with a clear vision of a student's aptitude, talent and interests." Dawn Hesse, Transition Coordinator, St. Charles, MO.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was designed to help youth with disabilities make a smooth transition from high school to employment or higher education. To make smooth transitions a reality, WIOA asks Vocational Rehabilitation and Education agencies to collaborate to prepare youth with disabilities for their next steps, starting as early as age 14!

By encouraging youth and their advocates to consider transition earlier, WIOA creates more time to find a good fit. A comprehensive career exploration program is the most efficient and effective way to prepare students for a strong start in the workplace.

Here's why:

- ***You don't know what you don't know!*** Career exploration helps students learn about a wide variety of future careers and what it takes to get there along with identifying their own career interests.
- Discovering a job that matches student interests, skills, and labor market needs takes time, and jobs that appear to match on a simple career inventory may not work out in reality. WIOA provides funding for comprehensive exploration, beyond just testing!

[Read More](#)

Are you going to the National CASE fall conference?

We hope to see you at the [National CASE conference](#) in Reno, NV on Nov 2-4, 2017.

Tune In: The Good Doctor

In this new ABC show on Mondays, a young surgeon with autism and savant syndrome relocates from a quiet country life to join a prestigious hospital's surgical unit. The show has a 97% approval rating.



**Our Project Discovery
WIOA solution packages
are correlated to the WINTAC
Pre-ETS program components.**

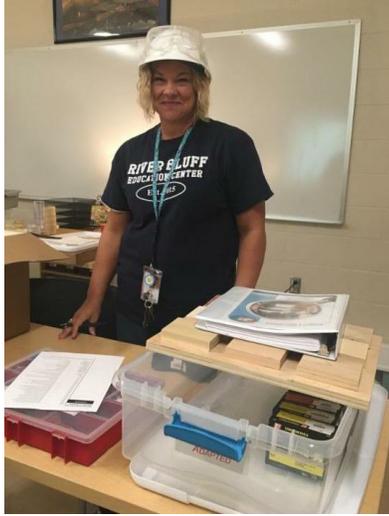
Explore WINTAC, Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center, for recommended WIOA solutions. WINTAC works together with State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies and their partners to effectively implement the requirements of WIOA.

Education Associates is proud that Project Discovery is listed as a Job Exploration WINTAC resource. [Read More](#)

Interested in a WIOA Pre-ETS Webinar?

[Contact us to Schedule a Webinar](#)

Learn how to provide students with



realistic, hands-on job experiences that connect your classroom to the community!

- Learn About Their Career Passions
- Connect School Experiences to Real-Life Tasks

U.S. Dept. of Education Nationally Validated & Approved. Ready to implement. Spend more time teaching!

- Practice, Perform & Perfect Real-Life Job Skills
- Be Job Ready. Life Ready.

Win Over Your Students by Giving Them a Chance:

Sign up for a live webinar and all attendees will automatically be entered to win an iPad with our "Self-Advocacy" Solution Package pre-installed.

**SIGN UP FOR
A WEBINAR**

Discover More WIOA News & Views

What is WIOA?





[What is WIOA?](#)

[Downs Can't Slow Down This College Grad](#)



[How to Start Transition Earlier](#)



[In-School Cafe Builds Resumes](#)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

ADAPTED CAREER DEVELOPMENT

SKILLS TRAINING

LIFELONG LEARNING

**LET'S GET
SOCIAL**

