

CASE STUDY

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI'S PRE-ETS PROGRAM EMPOWERS TRANSITION SERVICES WITH PROJECT DISCOVERY

KEY TAKEAWAYS

University of Missouri's experience highlights the following best practices:

1. **Empower Educators:** Recognize and support teachers like Stacey Hamann who champion innovative approaches to career education.
2. **Implement Hands-On Learning:** Use adaptable, real-life activities to engage students and foster skill development effectively.
3. **Leverage Flexible Materials:** Choose programs like Project Discovery that address multiple transition areas and allow customization to individual student needs.



SOLUTION IMPLEMENTATION

Missouri VR implemented Project Discovery with a tailored approach to enhance its Pre-ETS programming. Key elements included:

- **Monthly Lessons:** Incorporated Project Discovery into sessions with students to foster hands-on, real-life career exploration activities.
- **Inclusivity & Engagement:** Leveraged flexible lesson designs to adapt for students with varied abilities.
- **Real-World Opportunities:** Used project materials to effectively prepare students for life beyond the classroom.
- **Maximize Impact:** Promoted professional development and collaboration among Pre-ETS specialists & educators.

BACKGROUND & CHALLENGES

Population

Students with significant disabilities

Geography

Urban & Rural Districts

Challenges

Ensuring consistent & impactful delivery of career education to students with diverse needs. Began seeking a solution that was hands-on, easy to implement, and adaptable to various learning levels.

Special Considerations

Solution needs to integrate with existing Pre-Employment Transition Services programming, which focuses on career exploration, work-based learning, and skill development to prepare students for post-secondary success. Solution needs to address the five key areas of WIOA: Job Exploration, Work-Based Learning, Workplace Readiness, Self-Advocacy, and Post-Secondary Counseling.

RESULTS & IMPACT

The University of Missouri's Pre-ETS program's adoption of Project Discovery has led to significant achievements:

- **Enhanced Student Engagement:** Students—many of whom had limited exposure to career paths—gained hands-on experience and had pride in their work, fostering enthusiasm for future opportunities.
- **Comprehensive Career Preparation:** The curriculum seamlessly integrated four key areas of WIOA, enabling students to explore interests, develop skills, and build confidence.
- **Recognition of Excellence:** Stacey Hamann, Pre-ETS Specialist at the University of Missouri, was honored with the 2024 Gary Bates Memorial Award for Excellence in Career Education. Her dedication has made a profound impact on her students and the Missouri community. Read more about Stacey below!



Stacey Hamann has dedicated over 30 years to empowering students with disabilities. After retiring from a distinguished teaching career, Stacey joined Pre-ETS & quickly became a leading figure in career education, utilizing Project Discovery to inspire her students. Her hands-on approach & passion for fostering independence and success, transformed the educational experience for her students. Stacey's story demonstrates the transformative power of dedicated educators and comprehensive resources.