



Do you want to enjoy the rewards of working?

Be part of your community?

Make Money?

If you answered YES, we want to meet you! Ask your DARS or DBVI counselor to give us a call TODAY!

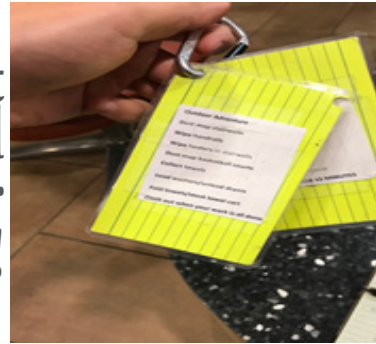
Business Connections



VCU

Virginia Commonwealth University

Get Connected to a Career Today!!



Business Connections of VCU can help you conduct a career search, negotiate employment, and get the support you need to obtain and retain employment. We work in partnership with the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and the Department for Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) to help you find the resources you need to become self-sufficient.

Services we offer:

- Work-Based Learning Assessment
- Employment Discovery
- Customized Employment
- Supported Employment
- Career Search Strategies
- School to Work Transition
- Career Advancement & Transition
- On-the-job Training
- Long-term Support Services
- Post-employment Support

Why Work with Us?

- **Expertise...**We have over 30 years of experience and are part of a larger research and training facility advancing best practices in hiring and employing individuals with disabilities.
- **Choice & Control...**We encourage self-determination and informed choice for the individuals we serve as we partner with them to reach their employment goals.
- **Community Based Competitive Employment...**All of our employed participants work in community integrated employment settings, have the same opportunities as other employees in the company, and earn a commensurate wage of at least minimum wage.
- **Long-Term Workplace Supports...** Vocational support services provided on and/or off of the jobsite allow for our participants to maintain competitive integrated employment long-term.



Who do we serve?

1. We serve employment age individuals with disabilities.
2. We serve individuals in the Richmond and surrounding areas.
3. We serve individuals eligible for funding through DARS OR DBVI.
4. Individuals who are employed at the time of referral, as well as individuals who:
 - are underemployed looking to advance their career,
 - need more intensive supports to maintain employment, and
 - need community support services to maintain employment.
5. Services will not be denied to anyone based on race, gender, age, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or disability. Business Connections at VCU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

Referral Form to be completed by DARS & DBVI:
<https://vcurrtc.org/businessconnections/>

What our Participants like most about working...

- “My Coworkers”
- “Able to be Helpful & Creative”
- “Meeting New People”
- “Everything”



Aiden Success Story



Aiden is a 28 year old with Autism. He is serious minded, enjoys structure, and likes to stay busy. He possesses many innate qualities that make him a strong employee. Occasionally Aiden initiates conversation with others, though he frequently talks to himself quietly, repeating words, phrases, or songs. He did not have many social experiences, and required a lot of support in this area.

In Aiden's last year of high school he participated in an internship program at a local hospital. He had three unique internship experiences working in the 1) Radiology Department, 2) Emergency Room, and 3) Infection Control. The challenges which he faced at work, and where his job coach provided the most support was in regards to his social behaviors. Aiden is tactilely stimulated and he had a tendency to invade personal space and rub or touch the person with whom he was interacting. The employment specialist used visual aids and role playing scenarios to clearly define the types of contact and space that are appropriate. Despite this and other social challenges that Aiden faced he demonstrated his skills as a dedicated worker and was ultimately hired working in the hospital's Infection Control Department. He works 20 hours a week, earns \$12.50 per hour, and takes specialized transportation to and from work. The employment specialist continues to provide regular monthly checks with Aiden, the supervisor, and coworkers. Ongoing reminders about space, short role playing sessions, and family support have helped Aiden cope with his challenges, and to be a highly valued, “professional.”

CONTACT US

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Virginia Commonwealth University, Employment Services Division has achieved national accreditation by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

[www.vcurrtc.org/
BusinessConnections/](http://www.vcurrtc.org/BusinessConnections/)

Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Education and Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran's status, political affiliation, or disability. If special accommodations are needed, please contact Rachael Rounds at (804) 828-1851 VOICE or (804) 828-2494 TTY.]