



Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council



SELF-DETERMINATION ♦ INDEPENDENCE ♦ PRODUCTIVITY ♦ INTEGRATION ♦ INCLUSION

Mentoring Supported Employment Agencies Results in Real Jobs

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council collaborates with the state's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities – the LSU Health Sciences Center Human Developmental Center (HDC) in providing intensive training and technical assistance in organizational and programmatic skills to community rehabilitation programs (CRP) providing supported employment. One of the providers served through the Supported Employment Provider Mentoring Program is Sides Employment Services who became a provider in late 2014. Sides quickly developed a reputation for quality, successfully supporting 100% of the individuals initially referred to them. The mentoring program worked to assist Sides in the development of their supported employment program, train personnel, and to receive referrals and work with employers.

Sides Employment Services recently provided employment support to Nate, a young man with autism who graduated from high school in 2013. Nate had been working six hours per week at a performing arts theatre doing a variety of administrative tasks but became dissatisfied with his hours and job duties and sometimes became frustrated.

Nate began receiving vocational rehabilitation services to be more gainfully employed. Sides helped Nate find his target job – in an office setting with a limited amount of pressure and structure but with a predictable set of tasks while fostering his creativity. Nate is now working 20 hours a week as an office assistant for a local film studio, supporting the studio's on-site filming and production offices. Working around the film industry provides Nate with the relaxed, creative environment he desires.