

The latest updates on what is and is planned for the Uniquely Abled Project.



Welcome to the Uniquely Abled Project Newsletter

March 2018

An update as to what has been happening with the Uniquely Abled Project, and plans for the future.

I apologize for the long period of non-communication. No, the Uniquely Abled Project was not out of commission - I was. And I am fully recovered - even better than a year ago. And there is much exciting news to report below.

[Visit Our Website](#)

The Uniquely Abled Project

The purpose of the Uniquely Abled Project is to

- Shift the societal paradigm from "disabled" to "uniquely abled".
- Provide vocational opportunities to uniquely abled folks by matching their unique abilities to jobs in demand

The Uniquely Abled Academy Program

The UA Academy program is focused on careers that require specialized training. The approach is to identify the unique abilities of folks with a particular diagnosis, and then match jobs in demand that require those unique abilities. The first career for which training is being provided is CNC (computer numerically controlled) manufacturing machine operator for those diagnosed with high functioning autism.



Uniquely Abled Academies

Glendale Community College

Congratulations to Cohort 3 who just graduated. Of the 15 graduates of the first two cohorts, 14 have full-time jobs and we expect 100% placement. See below for the Graduation/Open House event on March 14.

College of the Canyons (Santa Clarita, CA)

The first cohort of 10 students for the Uniquely Abled CNC Academy at the College of the Canyons (Santa Clarita, CA) will start on March 19, 2018 and will end on June 8, 2018.

Locations in Exploration

A few groups are actively exploring starting a UAA. Local social service agencies are exploring starting UAAs south of Los Angeles.

We would like to start at least two new UAAs in 2018. If you are interested in starting a UAA in your area, contact Ivan at IRosenberg@UniquelyAbledProject.org.

Open House & Graduation Ceremony for UAA @ GCC

Come find out about the UAA @ GCC program and celebrate our Fall 2017 Graduates on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 6:00pm- 8:00pm, at the Glendale Community College Student Center, 1500 N Verdugo Rd, Glendale, CA

91208.

[Click here](#) for a flyer about the event and inviting people to apply to be in Cohort 4.

For more information about the UAA @ GCC and the event contact Tina Hartyon at (818) 937-8080 or thartyon@glendaleca.gov.

The Uniquely Abled Jobs Program Being Replaced

Based on valuable feedback from the UAP Board, the Uniquely Abled Jobs Program is going to be replaced (many social service agencies are already providing the services envisioned by the UA Jobs Program).

One component of the new Program will be a training and support program for job developers - to support them in developing a network of executives and managers of business that serve other businesses (as opposed to businesses that directly serve the public), to be facile in the language of business, and to come from an uniquely abled perspective.

The second component will be an education program for organizations:

- To realize the large number of repetitive or simple jobs they have
- To learn that there is a population for which such jobs are highly desirable.
- To appreciate that having these jobs performed can make a major difference to the morale and productivity of the organization.

We plan to roll out this new Program during 2018.

New UAP Website is Live!

At long last the new [UAP Website](#) is live! Take a look and see the large amount of information available there:



- **About** the UAP: Mission, History, the Board
- **Find a Job:** Information about and how to apply to the Uniquely Abled Academies.
- **Hire for a Job:** Information for potential employers.
- **Get Involved:** Opportunities for people to get involved in the Uniquely Abled Project.
- **Donate:** An easy way to contribute funds to the UAP

- **Resources:** A treasure trove of information including a
 - Calendar
 - Job Search Websites
 - Relevant websites (TBD)
 - Vocational education programs
 - Employers with a focus on hiring uniquely abled individuals (TBD)
 - Social service organizations
 - Government vocational support agencies (TBD)
 - Useful publications (periodicals, books) (TBD)
 - Articles
 - Videos
 - Resources for Uniquely Abled Academies
 - Resources for Job Developers (TBD)
 - Uniquely Abled Newsletter Archive

Uniquely Abled Project Update

The UAP Board has begun limited fund-raising to pay for a small staff and other operational expenses. We would appreciate input as to possible sources, grants, etc. that may be interested in contributing to the UAP.

The URL of the UAP Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/uniquelyabledproject/>

Please send information to be posted there.

How can you make a major (non-financial) contribution to the UA Project? Strike the word "disabled" from your vocabulary and only use the term "uniquely abled." Our experience is that almost everyone immediately "gets it" and is delighted with the new insight. Encourage others to do the same. Eventually "disabled" will disappear as have other pejorative and limiting words.

To be added to the UA Project Newsletter mailing list send an e-mail to

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