

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



Welcome to the Uniquely Abled Project Newsletter

August 2016

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

Visit Our
Website

The Uniquely Abled Project

The UA Project Newsletter is to keep all those interested in the UA Project informed as to events and available resources.

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

The UA Project currently has two programs: Uniquely Abled Jobs and Uniquely Abled Academy.

Send an e-mail to IRosenberg@UniquelyAbledProject.org to be added to the UA Project Newsletter mailing list.

The Uniquely Abled Jobs Program

The UA Jobs program is focused on jobs that do not need specialized training, generally jobs with a high degree of repetition such as electronic assembly, deburring, buffing, filing, scanning, organizing, inventory management, etc. Despite our putting primary attention on the UA Academy program, the UA Jobs program has continued to attract interest and grow.



Employers interested in hiring uniquely abled folks under the UA Jobs program can contact [Brian Larson](#) at the Exceptional Children's Foundation (ECF). If the employer is not in ECF's service area, we will find the appropriate agency for that employer.

We plan to secure resources to expand the awareness and utilization of the UA Jobs program in the Los Angeles area, followed by support for expansion to other areas of the country.

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.



We are halfway through the first UA Academy class at Glendale Community College. Graduation will take place on August 26.

Currently we are identifying potential employers, primarily in the Glendale area. If you are or know a company using CNC machines who could use good entry-level CNC operators, please contact [Brian Larson](#) at Exceptional Children's Foundation, one of the agencies handling job placement and job coaching. [Click here](#) for benefits available to employers of the uniquely abled.

It was decided to not have a Fall 2016 session at Glendale CC, and instead start the next group in early 2017. This will enable us to focus on job placement and job coaching for the first class and to accumulate and incorporate lessons learned (of which there have been many).

A UA Academy Guidebook is being written to provide guidance for new sites, incorporating lessons learned so far.

The producing of the [American Built Media](#) videos of the Glendale UA Academy for prospective students and their parents and for prospective employers is proceeding. [Click here](#) to see a video of a tour of Haas Automation, a leading manufacturing of the CNC machines that our students are being trained to operate.

Thank You's

Given the number of organizations contributing to the Uniquely Aabled Project it was inevitable that we would miss listing someone in the July issue.



We add the Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board and County of Los Angeles Community and Senior Services (CSS) to that list of organizations to whom we are very grateful.

What's Next

Thanks to the law firm O'Melveny & Myers the incorporation of The Uniquely Aabled Project as a non-profit corporation is proceeding. We expect to file during August and to have our first Board of Directors meeting in late August or early September. When this is accomplished, we will be raising funds for redoing the website and staff support.

We are writing an article on the experience of the first companies to hire under the UA Jobs program and plan for a wide distribution.

We are in communication with a number of sites around the country who are interested in establishing their own UA Academy. If you have such an interest, please contact [Ivan Rosenberg](#).

We are seeing more and more articles being published on the advantages to employers in hiring the uniquely abled. Please send all such articles to IRosenberg@UniquelyAabledProject.org, and we will post them when the website is updated.

Ivan M. Rosenberg
The Uniquely Aabled Project
818-505-9915 IRosenberg@UniquelyAabledProject.org

UniquelyAbleProject.org