

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



Welcome to the Uniquely Abled Project Newsletter

January 2017

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 (UAJ) and Uniquely Abled Academy (UAA).

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

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.

The UAA Guidebook is currently being written. Our intention is that this will be a compendium of lessons learned and a major source of information for those wanting to establish a UAA. There will be a Guidebook for the UA Jobs program as well.

As soon as the UAA Guidebook is completed we will be in a position to support the establishment of new UA Academies, for which we have received interest from organizations in Los Angeles and throughout the country.

Glendale Community College UAA - Status of Cohort 1

Cohort 1 of 13 students completed their Glendale Community College UA Academy program classwork on August 26.

In addition to CNC operator and job skills training, the UA Academy provides job placement assistance, recruiting of potential employers, and coaching of potential employers in selection, on-boarding, and management of UA Academy graduates. As each student secures employment, an evaluation is made regarding what post-hire support is needed and would be useful, and arrangements are made to provide that post-hire support. Examples of post-hire support include job coaching (ranging from a few hours per day to full-time support), internships, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training.

Of the 13 students, two decided to pursue other career paths.

With the help of agencies supporting the GCC UAA, seven have secured jobs as CNC operators. The remaining four audited CNC courses at GCC during the Fall 2016 semester to get more hands-on experience. We fully expect that these four will also secure jobs during January for a 100% placement.

Applications Open for GCC UAA Cohort 2

Applications are now being accepted for Cohort 2 of the GCC UA Academy.

- 16-week program, February 21- June 14, 2017
- Monday-Thursday, 8am - 3pm
- To teach those with high functioning autism to be entry-level CNC machinists.
- Includes CNC programming, setup, and operation and job readiness skills training
- For those who qualify, most or all of the costs may be

covered.

See complete application procedure at:
<http://uniquelyabledproject.org/applying-to-the-gcc-uniquely-abled-academy/>

[Attached](#) is a 1-page flyer for Cohort 2. Please distribute widely to your contacts and refer potential students.

Thank you to Nicole Johnson for the flyer.



Thank You!

The end of 2016 gives us an opportunity to thank those many individuals and agencies who created and have supported the Uniquely Abled Project. There isn't room to list the more than 40 individuals who made this

dream come true - they will be listed on the website - and we thank them from the bottom of hearts.

Uniquely Abled Project:

- Kaufman & Friends and Retinal Slap: UA Project logo
- O'Melveny & Myers: UA Project incorporation
- UAP Board: Dr. Scott Bowling, Yudi Bennett, Evan Ingwers, Jay Phillips, Jim Watson

Uniquely Abled Jobs Program:

- Exceptional Children's Foundation: job placement, employer recruitment, and job coaching
- Hawker Pacific Aerospace: the pilot project for employing UAJ participants
- United Aeronautical Corporation: employer of UAJ participants

Uniquely Abled Academy Program:

- Autism Society of Los Angeles: publicizing the program
- California Department of Education: funding
- California Department of Rehabilitation/Glendale Branch: application evaluation and funding, job skills training, job placement
- County of Los Angeles Community and Senior Services: support, publicity
- Exceptional Children's Foundation: program administration, job placement, job coaching
- Exceptional Minds: guidance on the program, permission to use material they have developed for their own program.
- Foothill SELPA: publicizing the program

- Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center: funding, publicizing the program
- Gene Haas Foundation: funding
- Glendale Community College: program management and support, facility, CNC operator skills training, job skills training, and student counseling.
- Glendale News-Press (and the Los Angeles Times): publicity
- Goodwill/Southern California: job placement, job coaching, publicizing the program
- Haas Factory Outlet/Torrance: employer recruitment
- Kaufman & Friends: UA Academy brochure
- Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board: support, publicity
- Northwest Center: advice and being a leader in the uniquely abled movement
- Orion Technologies: guidance on establishing the program
- Retinal Slap: UA Academy website
- Titan America Manufacturing: videos, publicity
- Verdugo Jobs Center: job readiness skills training and funding. employer recruitment
- Verisurf 3D Measurement Solutions: project team support
- Weingart Foundation: funding

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. To date there have been 15 job placements in this program.



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.

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.



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