

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



Welcome to the Uniquely Abled Project Newsletter

October 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.

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.

Status of Cohort 1

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

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 coaches (ranging from a few hours per day to full-time support), internships, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training.

One of the Cohort 1 students has been hired by an aviation company, starting on October 4. Four other individuals are currently working with the Exceptional Children's Foundation for placement.

Two individuals decided to pursue other employment paths.

The remaining six are auditing additional CNC courses at GCC during the Fall 2016 semester, which concludes December 15th, to increase their skills for work, after which the UA Academy will help them secure jobs.

Applications Open for Cohort 2

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

- Open House: Oct 18, 5:30-7:00pm, at GCC ([click here](#) for flyer)
- All GCC and UA Academy applications must be submitted by November 4.
- 16-week program, February 21- June 14, 2017
- Monday-Friday, 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.
- Interviews during November
- Selection decisions during December

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



UAP News

We are delighted to announce that The Uniquely Able Project has been incorporated as a non-profit organization in California. Again, thanks to O'Melveny and Myers, we will be

applying for IRS federal recognition as a 501(c)3 non-profit.

The Uniquely Able Project Board will hold its first meeting on October 11. At that time, in addition to addressing incorporation actions, such as approving the Bylaws, the Board will also review the UAP's strategic plan and proposed budget.



Special Thanks

We take this opportunity for a special thanks to Glendale Community College. From the first moment the UA Academy was suggested, the College has been a major supporter. GCC staff have given freely of their time and resources, in addition to continuing to perform their regular jobs. It was not

automatic that the UA Academy would be successful, and it took much more work than any of us had anticipated. Although it was risky for GCC to take on this pilot project, they never hesitated and gave willingly whatever was needed to move forward, including recruiting other organizations to be part of the project.

We especially thank the following GCC individuals who played major roles in creating and running the GCC UA Academy:

Dr. David Viar, GCC Superintendent/President
Jan Swinton, Dean, Workforce Development
Tina Andersen-Wahlberg, Program Manager, Disabled Students Programs and Services
Scott Rubke, Division Chair, Aviation & Technology
Aram Ohanis, Department Chair, Computer Aided Manufacturing
Faye Henson, Instructional Serv./Workforce Devt.

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.



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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