

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



Welcome to the Uniquely Abled Project Newsletter

October 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 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 UA Project currently has two programs: the Uniquely Abled Jobs (UAJ) program and the Uniquely Abled Academy (UAA) program.

A Possible Cause of 80-90% Unemployment

From five years of working with employing the uniquely abled, we have developed some thoughts about the causes of the unacceptably high un- and under-employment rates among the "disabled". [Click here](#) to read an article we recently wrote and hope to get published widely. This article can also serve to introduce people to the Uniquely Abled Project.

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.



UAA Replication Guidebook

The latest version of the UAA Replication Guidebook is dated 17-08-13. The 110 page Guidebook is a compendium of lessons learned and will be a major source of information for those wanting to establish a UAA. It is already undergoing some rewrite to incorporate new information. As each group is formed to create a UAA, the Replication Guidebook will be provided to them.

Uniquely Abled Academies

Glendale Community College

Classes for Cohort 3 of the first UAA started September 18 with 15 students. Job placement is underway for Cohort 2 and any changes in Cohort 1 (some changed jobs or decided to take additional classes). Feedback from employers continues great.

College of the Canyons (Santa Clarita, CA)

The Project Team establishing a Uniquely Abled CNC Academy at the College of the Canyons (Santa Clarita, CA) is well underway (see invite to Open House below). The target start date for the first class is March 2018.

[Click here](#) for a very nice article on the program.

If you are interested in being on the UAA @ CoC Project Team or want to be informed when the UAA @ CoC is accepting applications, contact Michael Bastine at michael.bastine@canyons.edu.

Locations in Exploration

Groups in Massachusetts and Iowa are actively exploring starting a UAA. Local social service agencies are exploring starting UAAs south of Los Angeles.

If you are interested in starting a UAA in your area, contact Ivan at IRosenberg@UniquelyAbleProject.org.

Open House for UAA @ CoC

On October 25 will be an Open House for parents and prospective students for the UAA at College of the Canyons (Santa Clarita, CA).

[Click here](#) for the flyer. [Click here](#) for a map.

The Open House will be on Wednesday, October 25, 2017, 6 PM - 8 PM, in UCEN 107. That room is in the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center, College of the Canyons. See the map for location and parking.

Register to attend at: <http://tinyurl.com/UAA-SCV>

For more information about the UAA @ CoC and the event contact Karen Navarro at (818) 489-9805

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 18 job placements in this program. The major insights have been:

- Most organizations do not realize how many repetitive or simple jobs they have
- People do not realize that there is a population for which such jobs are highly desirable.
- Having these jobs performed can make a major difference to the morale and productivity of the organization.

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 UA Jobs Program is now receiving increased attention and we expect to roll-out support resources before the end of the year.

Uniquely Abled Project Update

The UAP has received 501(c)3 non-profit status with the IRS. We will now begin limited fund-raising to pay for a small staff and other operational expenses.

We have a Facebook page (thank you Yudi!!) The URL is:
<https://www.facebook.com/uniquelyabledproject/>
Please Like!

The UAP website is currently undergoing a complete renovation to enable us to post the large amount of information useful to potential students, parents, and supporting agencies, as well as to accommodate multiple UAP sites. The development version is live and undergoing review. We fully expect the new site will be operational before the end of August.

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 IRosenberg@UniquelyAbledProject.org.

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