



Helping individuals with autism to start meaningful careers

In this issue: Expanding into information technology and other fields, webinars and conferences to share our work, resources for educators and families, award for outstanding achievement, new UAA graduates, we're hiring!

A Message from our Founder and President

Thanks for tuning in!

Our big news is that over the past few months we have made plans to hire new staff, including a Communication and Outreach Coordinator who will help us professionalize and expand the UAP. You can read more about this opportunity below! This and other plans are possible thanks to a \$200K two-year grant from the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation.

We have applied for a number of other grants to expand UAA coverage. We hope to expand training and job placement in the fields of programming manufacturing robots and web development, for those with level 1 autism. We are also hoping to offer CNC training to those with other diagnoses. We held a webinar on July 21st for those interested in starting a UAA in the field of IT. Our partner on this project is [CodingDojo](#). If you are interested, please contact [Mike Bastine](#).

South Central College in Minnesota graduated its first cohort on August 25th. UAAs are planned to open over the next 12 months in Pennsylvania, Dallas, Troy (NY), Connecticut, and Ohio.

I hope you enjoy reading about our progress and recent successes!



Ivan Rosenberg

The Uniquely Abled Academies

- Glendale Community College (CA)
- College of the Canyons (CA)
- Long Beach City College (CA)
- San Bernardino Valley College (CA)
- Rhodes State College (OH)
- Milwaukee Area Technical College (WI)

Ivan

- South Central College (MN)
- Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (PA)
- Crawford County Career & Technical Center (PA)

An opportunity to join our team!

We are seeking a Communication and Outreach Coordinator to support our national expansion campaign. Responsibilities will include taking care of our social media and publicity, improving our UAA documentation, supporting UAP fundraising, and working as part of the team to help attract potential UAA organizations. More information is available [here](#). To apply, please contact [Ivan](#).

We are delighted to have Mike Bastine and John Wheeler onboard. They will be continuing to consult with new UAAs as they form. Both had already established UAAs at their former community college employers before retiring, and we're lucky to have their experience and expertise.

Time to Shine UAA Resources

The latest videos are now on our website, and our curriculum is available to Uniquely Abled Academies

All of the Uniquely Abled Academy resources funded by the 2020 Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation grant have now been completed and delivered. You can find our short videos **The Future of CNC** and **Working with Uniquely Abled Employees** on the UAP webpage. [Watch them here!](#)

Other resources, including a special video for instructors and the **Time to Shine Job Readiness Curriculum**, are available free to licensed UAAs. This comprehensive curriculum is a 10-lesson, 40-hour program that includes a 380-page Student Workbook, a 481-page Instructor Manual, and many videos.

Special thanks to Production Plus for printing these materials at cost.

"Disabled or Uniquely Abled?"

An Industry 4.0 Club webinar

The Industry 4.0 Club holds weekly online meetings to share ideas and solve problems related to manufacturing and the future of work. Ivan joined them as a guest presenter on October 27th, leading a webinar entitled "Disabled or Uniquely Abled?" as part of their new series on Autism in Manufacturing. He spoke about how the skills and interests of uniquely abled individuals are an excellent match for manufacturing jobs. The training they receive at UAAs allows them to start meaningful careers, while solving the industry's employment challenges. The entire presentation is available [here](#).

Eastern Region Update

from John Wheeler, UAA Consultant



At South Central College in Minnesota, nine students in the first UAA cohort completed their course and enjoyed a graduation ceremony and job fair on August 25th (above).

Also in August, Rhodes State in Ohio completed their second cohort of four students. Some additional class sessions were held in September to bolster their CNC skill set. Crawford Tech in Meadville, PA started their first cohort of five students on September 12th, and hired Dawn Bailey as their new UAA Project Coordinator. Milwaukee Area Technical College started their 2nd cohort on August 22nd with 5 students. MATC is attempting a two-semester cohort with this group. Goldmong Vang has assumed the role of UAA Project Coordinator.

Congratulations to all our recent grads! We wish you fulfilling and successful careers.

Western Region Update

from Mike Bastine, UAA Consultant

In the Western Region, we are busy with outreach that will lead to more UAAs. In July we held a webinar promoting a Web Developer UAA training program. Over 30 individuals participated from across the country. This comprehensive online training program was designed by a company called Coding Dojo. We are working together to bring this new opportunity to our community because it will open up a broader range of career paths.

On October 6th, I spoke about the UAP in a presentation entitled "The Workforce of the Future," at the Fall 2022 Convention sponsored by the Rocky Mountain chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association. There were many opportunities to meet with key UAA proponents in Colorado.

After productive meetings in Texas, we are on track to open a new UAA in Dallas.

Outstanding Achievement at College of the Canyons

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board honors remarkable achievements in overcoming significant barriers to meaningful and lasting employment. Awards are granted based on performance reports from LA County colleges. At SBWIB's 27th awards ceremony on November 4th, College of the Canyons received an

Outstanding Achievement Award for attaining 100% entry-level career placement in Computer Numerical Control (CNC) from the Uniquely Abled Academy during fiscal year 2021/22. Thank you, SBWIB!

Thanks to Our Donors!

We're proud to be a grassroots organization, with 90% of our budget going straight to serving our students. We greatly appreciate generous support from:

- Citizens Business Bank
- Comerica Bank
- Marisol Puga
- McRae Care Foundation Fund
- Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation
- Wells Fargo Bank

Thank You for Your Support



Serving students, families, and companies

The Uniquely Abled Project enables those with autism to start meaningful careers that provide income, dignity, and purpose while filling a major need for employers. To grow our impact and serve more students, families, and companies, we need your support! Help us:

- develop new tools to identify our students' unique abilities
- create training programs for uniquely abled individuals
- collaborate with employment programs
- match graduates with meaningful, fulfilling jobs

The Uniquely Abled Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
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