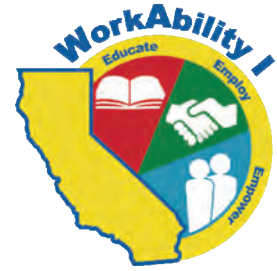




WORKABILITY WORKS!

San Juan USD WorkAbility
5325 Garfield Avenue, Sacramento CA 95841
916-979-8610 www.sanjuan.edu/WorkAbility



“Working with all stakeholders, the WorkAbility program ensures that SJUSD students with disabilities gain the confidence, skills, career awareness, and work experience necessary for transition and postsecondary success.”

SJUSD WorkAbility Newsletter

Spring 2017

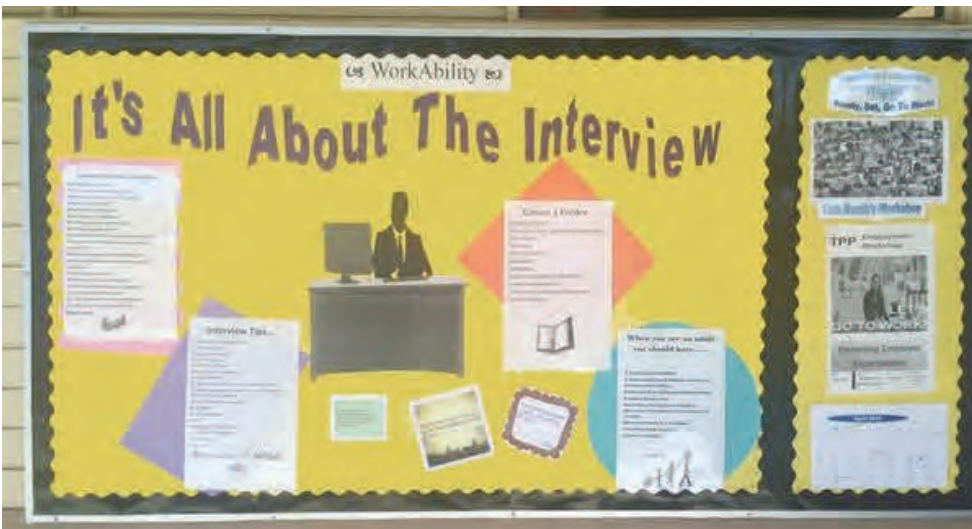
A Message from our Administrator

The 2016/17 school year is coming to a close and I am pleased to report we are on track to meet all of the goals in our 2016/17 WorkAbility grant by providing transition services to over 1300 SJUSD students in grades 8 to12+, and arranging paid work experiences for over 250 students.

As we reflect upon the school year I invite our community to complete the feedback survey attached to this month’s newsletter; your feedback is essential and will inform our team as we write our 2017/18 WorkAbility grant.

I also invite interested community members to attend our final SJUSD WorkAbility Advisory committee meeting scheduled on May 22, 3:30PM at Laurel Ruff Transition School, 5325 Garfield Avenue, Sacramento. The major agenda item for the final advisory committee meeting will be to collect community input for the 2017/18 WorkAbility grant.

Thanks for your ongoing support!
Julia Arreguin, Ed.D.,
WorkAbility Administrator



“I like working because it gives me experience about the real world and gives me opportunities to be hired.”- Lucas Benson

8th & 9th Grade Self-Assessments

Age appropriate transition self-assessments are now being taken by 8th and 9th grade students district wide. This is the beginning of helping our students become self-aware and learn self-advocacy. These assessments also serve as a common thread in the process of transition that will continue throughout the students transition experience. This collection of data for each individual student provides a window of information on their needs, preferences, and interests and helps them relate to the demands of current and future working, educational, living, as well as personal and social contexts. More information can be found on the SJUSD Special Education web site under Transition Resources.

In This Issue

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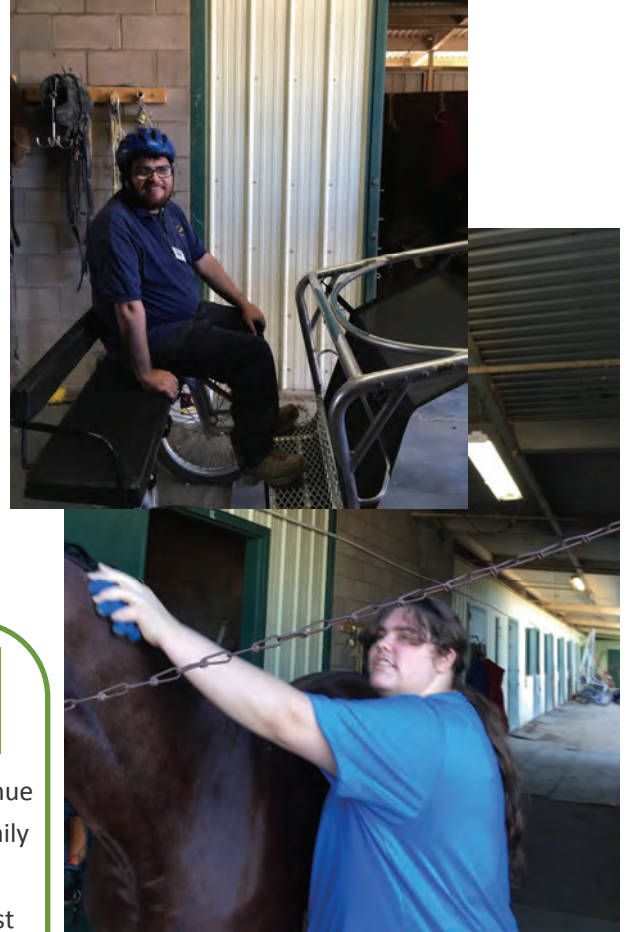
A Bicycle

YMHFA

WorkAbility Staff Changes

A Faithful Community Partner Retires

Richard Dunneback from Dunneback Stables at Cal Expo will be retiring at the end of the 2017 racing season. Mr. Dunneback has been a community partner with WorkAbility since 2012. During the past five years many Laurel Ruff Students had the opportunity to work and learn about caring for and grooming Standardbred horses at Cal Expo. Mr. Dunneback shared his stories, his time and wisdom with the students and staff alike. If Mr. Dunneback saw a student struggle with a task the next time that task would be modified for the student. I have witnessed a carabiner clip be changed to a double ended snap for a student with a visual impairment. I have also seen a wheelbarrow be converted from a single wheel to a double wheel to assist a student with an uneven gait. Mr. Dunneback has made a profound difference to the Laurel Ruff students that have participated in the Dunneback Stables; therefore, we wish him the warmest of congratulations on his retirement.



WorkAbility Welcomes A New

Animal Care Block students at Laurel Ruff have a new opportunity to continue to care for animals Thanks to our newest community partner Friedrich Family Farm. Friedrich Farm was established in 1958 and is located in Rio Linda. Kathleen Friedrich, the owner of Friedrich Farms will be introducing her first group of Laurel Ruff students to the farm's many goats early in March.



WorkAbility Ambassadors

This semester we have three Laurel Ruff WorkAbility students working at sites within the District. These wonderful opportunities for work experience are the result of collaboration from many individuals, departments and schools within San Juan Unified School District. The magic starts with capable, motivated students who want to work. WorkAbility Youth Employment Technicians work with teachers to support the students as they work through self assessments and curriculum to gain insight about their strengths and interests and develop employable skills. The WorkAbility Job Development staff communicate with employers in the community and district to locate appropriate opportunities for work experience. Once the placements are identified, defined and scheduled our district Transportation Department provides transportation for the students to and from school and their worksites.

Two Laurel Ruff students are currently working at Ralph Richardson Center (RRC). Brianna is able to leverage her skills with Braille and her love of working with children to share stories with preschoolers. This idea was created from a conversation between Laurel Ruff teacher Lauri Hale, and her colleague Kelly Babitz at RRC. Her first day on the job, Brianna met a vision specialist Jessica Campos and district mobility instructor Leslie Bailiff at the school to receive coaching on the layout of the campus and how to navigate with her cane. The braille library at Ralph Richardson will provide resources for Brianna to choose from. Brianna is currently reviewing several books in order to decide what to share with her enthusiastic listeners next. When asked about her experience to date, Brianna said, "I like reading to the kids."

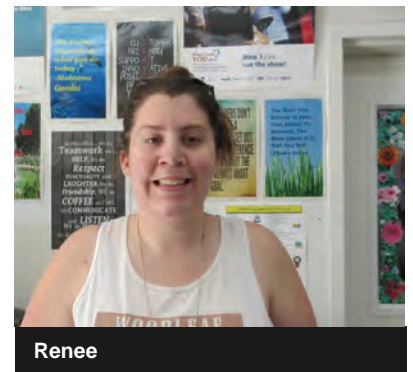
Renee another Laurel Ruff student is also working at RRC. She has been there all year supporting music teacher Jim Parr in the Music Room. This collaboration came about when Sandy McNulty one of our WorkAbility Job Developers reached out to Jim Parr, the music teacher.

Coyle Avenue Elementary School is a strong supporter of the WorkAbility program also. Davin is a Laurel Ruff student who participates in the Food Service and Hospitality block at Laurel Ruff. In addition to working with the Laurel Ruff Event Staff, Davin works in the cafeteria at Coyle to support the lunch program for students there. Donna Kenfield, Principal at Coyle said Davin is an excellent worker and their campus is open to exploring other possibilities for placement opportunities.

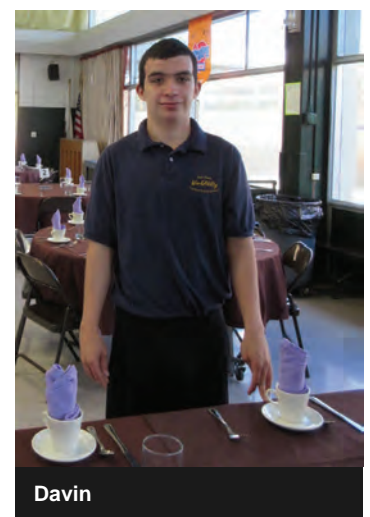
Brianna, Renee and Davin are ambassadors for the WorkAbility program at these school sites and for other students who may have the opportunity to follow in their footsteps in the future. The many district employees who have helped to create and support these opportunities are helping to blaze the trail for more opportunities in the future.



Brianna



Renee



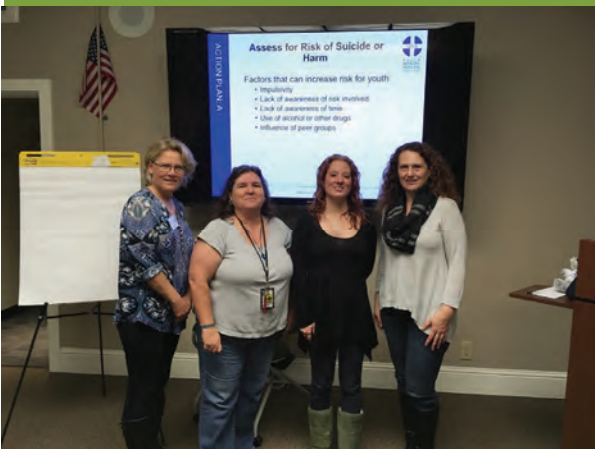
Davin

WorkAbility Provides A Bicycle

In a recent WorkAbility staff meeting WorkAbility Tech Laura Smith mentioned Marquis a senior at Encina could really use a bike. He walks 4 miles to and from school and having moved here from Texas is new to the area. Marquis was hoping to be able to work but his lack of transportation and the fact that RT couldn't provide timely transportation, he felt he wouldn't be able to take advantage of the options offered by WorkAbility. Being very tall, fitting Marquis with just any bike would be a challenge but the WorkAbility Program is known for making things happen, in any circumstance. We wanted to do whatever we could to help Marquis get work. Or at least be able to ride a bike the 4 miles to school. WorkAbility TPP Job Developer Donna Merrick had an old bike and helmet that needed a home and that's where it all started. Donna brought the bike to Laurel Ruff where Andy Otten's Industrial Arts students Connor and Wesley shined it up, oiled and adjusted the gears, aired the tires, and adjusted the brakes. WorkAbility Job Developer Sandy McNulty provided a helmet and bought new hand grips. WorkAbility Secretary Sherry Andersen bought a lock and provided transport to bring the bike to Encina. Where it was presented to Marquis on one of the few sunny days we had in March by WorkAbility Clerk Yasmin Abner, along with Sandy, Laura, and Sherry. Marquis was all smiles and has used the bike everyday. He said he can't Thank us enough because the bike has made it much easier for him to get around. And Marquis has started his WorkAbility placement at CVS!



Youth Mental Health First Aid Training



Donna Merrick, Maria Livingston, Sherry Andersen and Laurel Ruff student Amber attended SJUSD's recent YMHFA training at the district office earning a certificate. This training is valuable to everyone who is in contact with a youth who is experiencing a mental health challenge or is in crisis. Amber is working toward an AA in Early Child Development and won a raffle for an ALGEE Koala and an Infuser bottle.

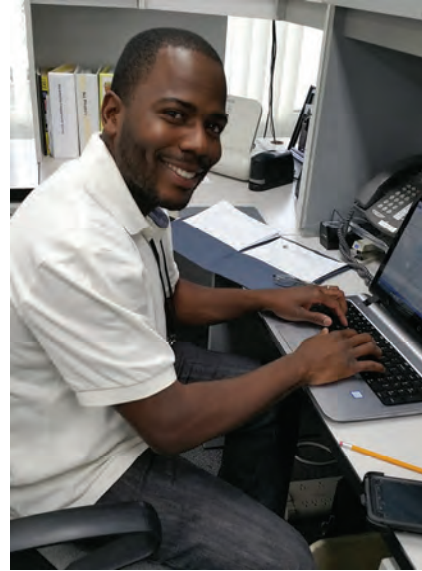


WorkAbility Staffing Changes



DONNA MERRICK

Donna takes over the reins as TPP Job Developer for WorkAbility. Donna has been with San Juan Unified for 15 years starting as a parent volunteer where she fell in love with being part of helping students succeed. Donna applied as a Reading Specialist and after moving up the ranks she came to WorkAbility as a Site-based Youth Employment Tech in the 2015-16 school year. WorkAbility has given me the opportunity to serve students at multiple school sites. Assisting students transition from high school to adulthood is a blessing.



TERRELL GRANT

WorkAbility welcomes new Job Developer Terrell Grant. Terrell comes to us from United Cerebral Palsy, he also held a Recreation Aide position with San Juan's Family & Community Engagement. Terrell's experience from working challenged youth aged 13 and older gives him the insight needed to reach our youth. Helping kids gain valuable job skills as well as transition skills needed to become successful adults is food for Terrell's soul.



MARIA LIVINGSTON

Maria comes to us filling the Youth Employment Tech Site Based position for Laurel Ruff and TPP from a long career in health care business and client management. Most recently Maria has filled an instructional assistant with San Juan Unified working in a variety of settings. About working with students Maria says, "The intrinsic rewards are endless."



San Juan Unified School District WorkAbility Department

“Working with all stakeholders, we ensure that SJUSD students with disabilities gain the confidence, skills, career awareness, and work experience necessary for transition and postsecondary success.”



ANNUAL FEEDBACK SURVEY SPRING 2017

PART 1 page 1 of 2

Please rate the extent towards which the SJUSD WorkAbility Team supports each of the following categories of the WorkAbility array of transition services, and rate how important you consider each category for the post secondary success of our students.

WORKABILITY TRANSITION ARRAY OF SERVICES	RATINGS	
<p>1. SCHOOL-BASED PREPARATORY EXPERIENCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Career/Vocational Assessments ● Employment/Post-Secondary Education Planning ● Curriculum Integration of Work-Readiness Skills ● Career/Vocational Education 	<p>SJUSD WorkAbility supports this category of service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree 	<p>This category of service is important for the post-secondary success of students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree
<p>2. CAREER PREPARATION & WORK BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Career Awareness / Exploration Activities ● Career Preparation /Job Search ● Work-Based Learning \ Job Development ● Employment / Work Experience ● Job Retention ● Work-Site Mentor/ Supervisor ● Job Coaching ● Work-Site Follow-Along/ Employer Communication 	<p>SJUSD WorkAbility supports this category of service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree 	<p>This category of service is important for the post-secondary success of students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree
<p>3. COLLABORATION / YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & LEADERSHIP TRAINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Self-Advocacy/ Disability Awareness ● Youth Leadership ● Destination / Transportation Training ● Life Skills/Independent Living ● Family Participation & Support of Transition ● Partnership and Collaboration 	<p>SJUSD WorkAbility supports this category of service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree 	<p>This category of service is important for the post-secondary success of students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree



San Juan Unified School District WorkAbility Department

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ANNUAL FEEDBACK SURVEY SPRING 2017

PART 2 page 2 of 2

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- 1. Budget priorities** Our Workability grant must be reviewed, rewritten and renewed annually. As we consider the services and support we provide please help us prioritize our expenditures by numbering the following budget categories from highest to lowest priority, with 1= highest priority

- ___ workability staff (youth employment technicians provide school based support and community job development)
- ___ student wages (a set # of hours for community based paid work experience)
- ___ transition assessment tools (e.g. career inventories)
- ___ transition curriculum & materials (e.g. Life Centered Education licenses)
- ___ buses for field trips (e.g. visits to local community college)
- ___ teacher substitutes (e.g. for occasional community events such as college visits)
- ___ other (please describe) _____

-
- 2.** What do you consider the **most important service** provided by San Juan Workability?

-
- 3.** Please provide any ***feedback*** to help San Juan WorkAbility improve our program and services..

Please click on a submit button located on the top of the page to email your completed survey to Julia Arreguin (JArreguin@sanjuan.edu). Handwritten surveys can be sent to the WorkAbility Office, located at Laurel Ruff, 5325 Garfield Avenue, Sacramento CA 95841