



WorkAbility Works!

September /October 2017



Special points of interest:

- ESY 2017
- Davin's Success
- Marquis' Success
- What Is TPP
- HS Highlights
- Isidro Interviews
- Who Is WorkAbility
- More Than A Meal
- New Staff Members

Administrator's Corner

I am happy to announce that the California Department of Education officially approved our 2017/18 WorkAbility grant and we are quickly getting students placed into paid work experiences.

October is **National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)**. NDEAM highlights the important role that different perspectives play in workforce success, celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates the community about the value of an inclusive workforce. This year's NDEAM theme is "Inclusion Drives Innovation" a mini-poster is attached.



Teachers, parents and community members are invited to participate in our **quarterly WorkAbility Advisory committee meetings**. The next meeting is Monday Dec. 11 at 3:30 PM at Laurel Ruff Transition School 5325 Garfield Avenue Sac CA 95841.

Do not hesitate to contact our team if you have questions or concerns. Thanks to all who support our programs!

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ESY 2017 Highlights

Extended School Year 2017 was a great time of learning and discovery for WorkAbility workers. Summer School was held at three sites, Laurel Ruff, La Vista, and Del Campo. Laura Smith was at Del Campo and helped 16 students work at 4 different locations. Jan Schiavone was at La Vista where 10 students worked at Best Buy. Terrell Grant was at Laurel Ruff where 38 students worked at 6

locations. 13 students took part in Project Search at Kaiser.

Lots of exciting opportunities were offered during ESY this past summer. WorkAbility student Antonio worked as an assistant to Adaptive PE Teacher Stephanie Jackson. Stephanie commented on Antonio's performance, "He sees what needs to be done and initiates independently without being told. Hard worker." Good

Job Antonio!!

Ja'Nelle, along with TPP students Angelique, and Gerhardt all gained experience as Clerk's in the WorkAbility office.

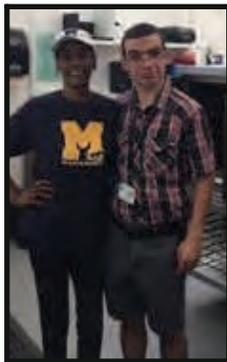
All workers were able to earn up to 16 paid hours during ESY and can look forward to 30 paid hours during the coming school year.

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WorkAbility Works!

Davin Hired by SJUSD



Davin's Success Story

"What does WorkAbility do for the students?" We hear this questions often. For Marquis, a student who moved from Texas last school year as a graduating Senior, WorkAbility found him a job doing landscaping / maintenance at a local apartment complex. Marquis became a TPP client as well and through both WA and TPP Marquis was accepted by the CA Conservation Corp (CCC) and is now working as support for Cal Fire firefighters. Awesome Job Marquis!!

Davin, a student at Laurel Ruff Transition School gained kitchen helper and nutrition service worker experience. Davin worked several school years at Eskaton, Aegis Senior Living, and was a part of the Laurel Ruff Event Staff. Last school year Davin was accepted into the TPP Program. In August of this year David applied for and was hired by SJUSD's Mariemont Elementary

School as a Nutrition Food Service worker in their cafeteria. Way To Go Davin!!!

On The Job Fun



Marquis Accepted by CCC



Marquis' Success Story

2017 Encina Preparatory High School graduate Marquis Ward and his brother Mollier were both accepted into the California Conservation Corp. This past summer after Marquis' graduation, both boys traveled to Greenwood, California. The Greenwood Center is located in the rural foothills of the

Georgetown Divide in El Dorado County, there Marquis and his brother are busy assisting fire fighters by reducing fire hazards in the Lake Tahoe Basin. They have also had the opportunity to assist at active fire sites. Last reported the boys were at Happy Camp, CA near the Klamath National

Forest working the fire line and supporting the fire crew in multiple ways. We at Workability are so proud of the work you are both doing to keep California safe and preserve our greenspace.



Transition Partnership Program

What is TPP?

The Transition Partnership Program (TPP) is a partnership between San Juan Unified School District's WorkAbility program and the California State Department of Rehabilitation. It is an interagency vocational program, designed to ensure a smooth transition from school to work or post-secondary education for juniors and seniors in high school who have a physical, mental or

learning disability.

Students benefit from this partnership because they are able to receive vocational services from both agencies who are working together to help each student/client successfully transition to the post-secondary option of their choosing. Please call Donna Merrick fat (916) 979-8610 for further information.

Services Can Include:

- ◇ Career Exploration
- ◇ Training and Education
- ◇ Transportation Assistance
- ◇ Vocational Assessment
- ◇ Career Guidance Counseling
- ◇ Job Development Assistance
- ◇ Resume and Portfolio Development
- ◇ Equipment Needed for School and/or Work
- ◇ Tuition and Books

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High School Highlights

El Camino - Packets are being handed out and workers are being matched to work sites. Several senior students are being recommended for the TPP Program and will meet with Donna Merrick and Kim Geddes soon.

San Juan - Students worker candidates are being identified and packets are nearing completion. Focusing on Senior's until October TPP Candidates are being identified. After October we will also be considering Junior TPP candidates.

Laurel Ruff - Packets are being distributed to 4 classrooms; 10 Individual workers have been identified and 4 Groups are going out to work; SLP Tammi is being included in interviews to give her an idea of student speech needs; students in the Laurel Ruff Event Staff group have worked two events so far; Teachers and IA's are helping complete the packets; Tyler Pierce's Broadcasting & Performing Arts and Stacey Eberhardt's Animal Care classes are negotiating with possible employer's that match their specialized programs.

Bella Vista - Site-based Jen Hall has been working on Career Assessments as well as identifying workers and handing out packets.

Encina: WorkAbility has been given space in a shared office this school year; the Pre-Employment Skills class is getting started and working their way through packets and matching workers with employers.

Rio Americano: - is in good hands with our new YET I Mike Santillano. Mike is meeting with teachers and students while classes are still being set and teachers assigned. 3 students seem ready in one class and 7 in another. One TPP candidate has been identified.

La Vista - 5 packets are waiting for transportation. Julia offered expanding on site cafeteria to accommodate more workers; Best Buy in the area is open to student workers.

Mira Loma - 2 new TPP applicants are in the works.

Casa Roble - Workers have been placed in Groups and employers have been assigned; work begins

the first week of October. Student Assessments are being done as well.

Mesa Verde - Workers have been placed in Groups and employers have been assigned; work begins the first week of October. Student Assessments are being done as well.

UnSchool - A YET was hired by SJUSD for this site. WorkAbility YETs will continue to serve La Entrada students who have been assigned to the UnSchool.

Project Search - Most Project Search students are Clients of TPP. TOO Job Developer Donna Merrick held Job Club focusing on 'Dress for Success', including how to dress, how to sew on a button, how to iron a shirt, was very popular with the students; will be using this same 'Dress for Success' this month with the other sites; last month's Job Club was Goal Setting & Time Management. TPP Service Coordinator Maria Livingston has been heavily involved in helping Donna identify potential employers for Project Search students.



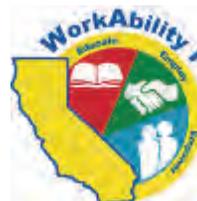
A family quote made during the 2017 Graduation Ceremony . "Laurel Ruff; this is the place where impossible loses it's meaning."

Isidro Interviews at Cottage Bay Apartments

Congratulations to Isidro who has been matched with one of our newest employers Cottage Bay Apartments. This week Isidro met with the manager of Cottage Bay to go over the expectations and his tasks. Thank you Cottage Bay for being a part of giving our stu-

dents valuable training and skills that will change lives.

Cottage Bay will also host two groups of workers from Laurel Ruff beginning in October. WE are excited to explore this new business partnership.



San Juan Unified School District

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WorkAbility Works!



Who Is WorkAbility?

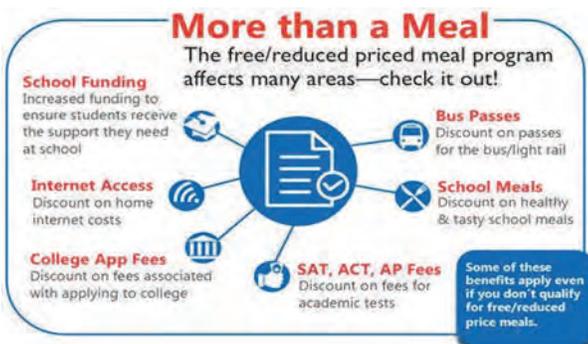
The office for the SJUSD WorkAbility Program is located on the campus of Laurel Ruff Transition School and can be reached at (916) 979-8610. WorkAbility is where SJUSD students with an IEP can gain job skills with a goal of permanent employment. Julia Arreguin is our Coordinator as well as the Principal for Laurel Ruff. We are made up of 7 Youth Employment Techs or YET's who are either school based or Job Developers, Secretary Sherry Andersen and Clerk Gerhardt Ratliff. School based YET Maria Livingston serves students at Laurel Ruff as well as students in Laurel Ruff's Project Search Program; Jennifer Hall serves students at Bella Vista,

Casa Roble, and Mesa Verde; Jan Schiavone serves students at El Camino, La Vista, and San Juan; Laura Smith serves all 8th grade students and students at Encina; Del Campo, Mira Loma and Rio Americano will be served by our newest YET Michael Santillano. WorkAbility Job Developers Sandy McNulty and Terrell Grant go out to the community contacting employers to find matches for our student workers. YETs and Job Developers work with the students matching them with local employers for training and paid work. School based YETs also work with teachers doing career and self-advocacy assessments, setting field trips to introduce

students to local community colleges and businesses, and coaching students with employment questions. WorkAbility partners with the Department of Rehabilitation offering the Transition Partnership Program (TPP) as well. WorkAbility YET Donna Merrick serves our TPP students by holding Job Clubs that include mock interviews, resume building and job search skills. Donna also contacts local businesses to create partnerships for each TPP student with a goal of permanent employment.

Find Us At
sanjuan.edu/WorkAbility

More Than A Meal



The free/reduced priced meal program affects a variety of areas unrelated to school meals, including school funding and discounted services. Even if your child doesn't plan to eat school lunches, it is important to fill out the free/reduced priced meal program application to ensure our schools and families receive the available resources. All San Juan Unified families are being asked to complete the application or return a form to opt-out of the free/reduced priced meal program:

Filling out the form can lead to Internet discounts for your household even if you do not qualify for free or reduced meals. These discounts and benefits can include discounts on fees associated with college, discounts on SAT, ACT, and AP fees, discounts on RT bus passes, as well as discounted school meals. And can lead to increased school funding.

Ways to apply:

- Apply online using the form found at <https://mealapps.sanjuan.edu/rocketscan/>
- Obtain a paper form at the district office at 3738 Walnut Avenue in Carmichael or Central Enrollment at 3700 Garfield Avenue in Carmichael, or at any school cafeteria or school office.

More information can be found at sanjuan.edu/MoreThanAMeal

Work Ability Welcomes New Staff Members

The end of the 2016-17 school year brought some changes to our WorkAbility Staff. Yasmin Abner came up through the ranks of WorkAbility as a SJUSD student, then a TPP Client, and upon high school graduation Yasmin was hired by SJUSD as Clerk for WorkAbility Program. This past June Yasmin interviewed for and was accepted in to the position of Office Clerk for Laurel Ruff Transition School. Congratulations Yasmin!

WorkAbility welcomes Gerhardt Ratliff who followed in Yasmin's career footsteps. During Gerhardt's years in high school he was a WorkAbility worker and became a TPP Client as well, working with Donna Merrick. In August Gerhardt applied for, interviewed

and was accepted as the new Clerk for WorkAbility. Welcome Gerhardt!!

Another change to the WorkAbility Team happened at the end of last year was the retirement of long time Youth Employment Tech Jeanette Condon. We wish Jeanette a long, happy and healthy retirement!

WorkAbility welcomes Michael Santillano as our new youth Employment Tech I. Michael comes to us from Mira Loma where he was an Instructional Aide working closely with our WorkAbility program. Michael has been with SJUSD for many years and his experience with Special Education students will be an exciting asset to WorkAbility.

Upcoming Training for WorkAbility Staff

DOR TPP Contract Training: via conference call October 16

SJUSD Budget Training; WorkAbility Secretary, September 19 & 22

SJUSD Timekeeper Training; WorkAbility Secretary: via conference call October 2

October 6 Professional Development opportunity or all SJUSD classified Staff



Inclusion *drives* Innovation



**NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT
AWARENESS MONTH**

#NDEAM



**OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

dol.gov/odep