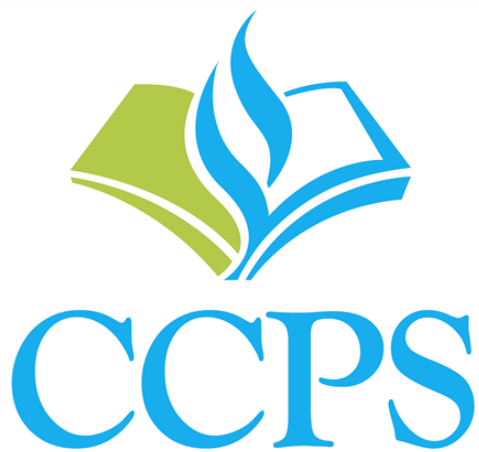




Employer Resources for Collier County

- ◆ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides job-site assessments and accommodations, job coaching, on the job training, assistive technology and reimbursement for employee training and trainee salaries.
- ◆ Southwest Florida Works consults and works with businesses on recruitment and hiring strategies that result in lower costs, increased productivity and overall profitability.
- ◆ Collier County Public Schools provides job-site assessments, employee job readiness evaluations, assistance with accommodations, job coaching, on the job training, disability awareness training and assistive technology for students enrolled in CCPS.



Collier County Public Schools

Exceptional Education and
Student Support Services

District School Board of Collier County
Superintendent, Dr. Kamela Patton
Department of Exceptional Education and
Student Support Services
Partners in Transition
5775 Osceola Trail
Naples, Fl. 34109

Phone: (239)377-0120 Fax: (239)377-0161
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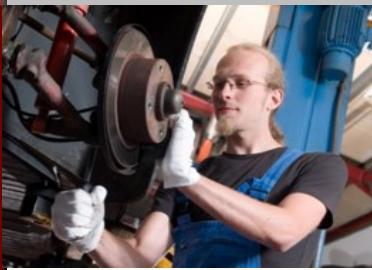
**Employment Opportunities for
Individuals with Disabilities**



Why Workforce Diversity?

In the current business environment, there is a high demand for proficient employees that will remain with a company and advance their skills over time. Persons with disabilities have proven to be an asset for companies at all levels.

Businesses that hire persons with disabilities do so because it is a sound business decision. This decision not only results in the recruitment of qualified, motivated, productive and reliable employees, but also enhances the marketability of the company through their commitment to workforce diversity and community involvement.



Impacting Your Bottom Line

When you choose to employ a person with a disability, it is not just about you giving back to the community. Employing persons with disabilities have many key benefits that can effect your company's bottom line.

- ◆ Persons with disabilities and their social networks represent a trillion dollars in discretionary spending.
- ◆ Employees with disabilities can give perspective about customers with disabilities that may positively impact your business.
- ◆ Employees with disabilities have a 93.6% retention rate*.
- ◆ 87% of the public prefer to patronize businesses and companies that hire persons with disabilities**.

* (US Department of Labor, 2001)

** (McKinsey Survey, 2007)

Increasing Options and Opportunities

Many employers are able to hire and accommodate a person with a disability without receiving assistance from an outside agency. However, Collier County Public Schools and other local agencies such as the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation are an excellent resource for employers who need assistance.

These agencies may assist your organization in the following ways:

- ◆ They can help a potential employee locate a job that matches their abilities and interests.
- ◆ They can provide information and resources to employees.
- ◆ They can conduct disability awareness training.
- ◆ They can provide job coaching services to support an employee and employer during training and following along as needed.
- ◆ They can provide the employer with information about state and federal programs which support persons with disabilities participating in the workforce.



Agency

Collier Skill Training for Employment Program (Co-STEP):

Through Co-STEP students enrolled in CCPS are provided pre-vocational and vocational training, job placement, as well as paid and unpaid work experiences with local businesses.

Learning Independent Functional Employment (L.I.F.E.):

The L.I.F.E. program provides a unique on the job learning experience for students with disabilities through a partnership between the Naples Beach Club and CCPS. Students in the L.I.F.E. program participate in a variety of authentic work experiences AND life skills training activities aimed at increasing independence and employability.

Immokalee Technical Center Vocational Program (I-TECH):

CCPS students with disabilities at the I-TECH program are able to participate in several different authentic work experiences on the I-TECH campus, including jobs in the fields of automotive repair, culinary, cosmetology and child care.

Project Explore – Lorenzo Walk Institute of Technology

(LWIT): Project Explore LWIT is a self-directed assessment experience for students with disabilities that focuses on career assessment, employability skills, academic testing and remediation, career training exploration and self-advocacy training.

Project Explore – Moorings Park/LWIT:

Project Explore provides a unique on the job learning experience for students with disabilities through a partnership between LWIT and the Moorings Park assisted living facility. Students in Project Explore work with Moorings Park staff, who act as mentors to them in a variety of different fields based on their strengths and interests.

