

**New Community Opportunities Center at ILRU
Presents...**

***Expanding CIL Capacity through Youth Transition Services:
Collaborating with School Districts and
Vocational Rehabilitation
Part 1***

**July 10, 2013
3:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. EDT**

**Presenters:
Maureen O'Donnell
Peter Darling**

Earn & Learn

Transitioning Youth: Pathways to Graduation & Employment

A partnership of NH Vocational Rehabilitation and
Granite State Independent Living

Background

- ARRA funded by NHDOE/NHVR
- Response to:
 - High dropout rate for SWD
 - Dis-engaged/poor attendance/lacking academic credits
 - Lack of preparation and awareness — for life ahead
 - General lack of soft skills
- No current program models to follow
- **Extended Learning Opportunities** are a key component of the model

Extended Learning Opportunity

ELO Means: *the primary acquisition of knowledge and skills through instruction or study outside the traditional classroom methodology, including, but not limited to*

- Apprenticeships
- Community service
- Independent Study
- Internships
- Online courses
- Performing Groups
- Private Instruction

Earn & Learn Approach

- Reengaging SWD — dropped out or at risk
 - Return to school — Graduation
- Variety of career exploration activities
 - Career information — Job placement
- Using the community as the classroom
- Gaining Academic Credits
- Assisting students in finding relevance
- Having the Earn & Learn experience be part of each student's I.E.P. and transition plan

E&L Approach, cont'd.

PHILOSOPHY — "Self-efficacy" (*Albert Bandura*)

The belief in one's capabilities to organize and execute the courses of action required to manage prospective situations.

Self-efficacy influences

- ✓ The choices we make
- ✓ The effort we put forth
- ✓ How long we persist
- ✓ How we feel

Self-efficacy comes from

- ✓ Mastery Experiences
- ✓ Social Modeling
- ✓ Social Persuasion
- ✓ Psychological Responses

Ingredients of the Approach

- Relationships
- Rigor
- Relevance
- Expectations — No Rules
- Addressing the needs of the whole child
- Involving students, families & school personnel in the process
- Connection to community

Structure of Approach

- 1:1 – Group format
- Students begin experience with hiring procedures
 - Application, I9, W4, Call Ins, etc.
 - E&L is a Job not a School
- Soft skills are the program glue
- Academics in the morning
- Work exposure on Fridays
- VR Counselors have critical role
- Community is filled with resources
- 3 sessions each year
- All students are VR customers

Partners

- NHVR
- Manchester School District
- Families
- Local Businesses
- Mayor of Manchester
- Local colleges and post-secondary institutions
- Community resources
- Politicians

Highlights/Successes

- Highlights
 - Group cohesion — affiliation
 - Feedback from stakeholders
 - Graduation
- Success Stories

Outcomes

- Engaged/reengaged 141 dropped-out/at risk — 22 active
- Created and completed 374 ELOs, with the obtainment in 258 full academic credits
- Supported and made possible the graduation of 44 students
- Created 82 work experiences for students
- Supported 8 students who went from their internship to employment
- Currently have 14 students placed in career jobs

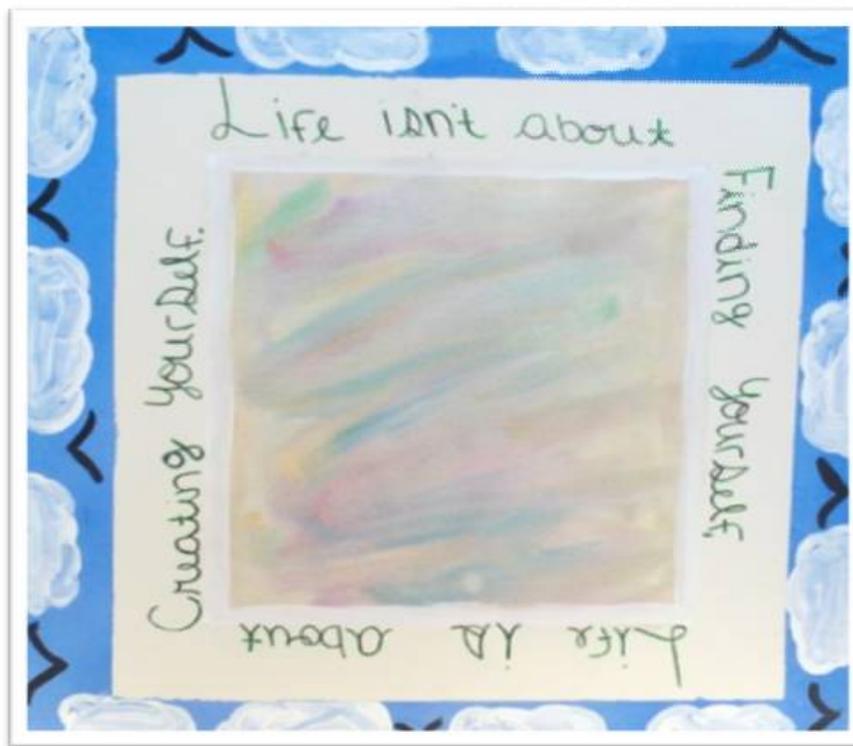
Challenges/Issues

- Sustainability
- Refine Earn & Learn approach
- Successful reintegration to their school — thru IEP/Transition Plan
- Solidify/maintain partnerships

“Life isn’t about finding yourself, life is about creating yourself.”

~ Christy T

2011 Earn & Learn Graduate



Questions?

Wrap Up and Evaluation

Click the link below now to complete an evaluation of today's program found at:

<https://vovici.com/wsb.dll/s/12291g53bd2>

Contact Information

Granite State Independent Living

Peter Darling, VP Community Economic Development Services
163 Manchester Street, Suite 3, Concord, NH 03301
Office: (603) 228-9680 (800) 826-3700
V/TTY: (888) 396-3459
pdarling@gsil.org

Maureen O'Donnell , Director of Vocational Services
1850 Elm Street, Suite 1, Manchester, NH 03104
Office: (603) 518-4600
V/TTY: (888) 396-3459
modonnell@gsil.org

Visit our website at www.gsil.org

New Community Opportunities Attribution



This training is presented by the New Community Opportunities Center, a national training and technical assistance project of ILRU, Independent Living Research Utilization. Support for development of this presentation was provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration under grant number H400B100003. No official endorsement of the Department of Education should be inferred. Permission is granted for duplication of any portion of this slide presentation, providing that the following credit is given to the project: Developed as part of the New Community Opportunities Center at ILRU.