

In 2012, an executive order was signed by Governor John Kasich called the **Employment First Initiative**. This Bill declares that integrated employment will be the expected, preferred service for Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities, who are of working age.

## *a success story...*



*Tricia*

Tricia, a 22 year old and a recent graduate of Kettering Fairmont High School, was employed at Tumbleweed through her high school program. However, soon after graduating, the restaurant closed. Because she was a respected employee, management wrote a recommendation letter for her future endeavors. With help from her family, and even before enrolling into the MCBDDS Adult Services, Tricia was employed at Longhorn Steakhouse. She is responsible for rolling silverware and has maintained this job for over a year. She loves her job and enjoys working in her community.

## **School to Work Employment Specialist:**

*Andrea Harker M.Ed.*

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### **High Schools Served...**

Belmont HS	David Ponitz HS
Centerville HS	Stebbins HS
Chaminade-Julienne HS	Stivers HS
Dixie HS	Summit Academy
Dunbar HS	Thurgood HS
Fairmont HS	Trotwood-Madison HS
Jefferson HS	Valley View HS
Meadowdale HS	Vandalia Butler HS
Miamisburg HS	Wayne HS
Northmont HS	West Carrollton HS
Oakwood HS	Others...

### **Eligibility:**

*Ginger Muse*

25 Thorpe Drive  
Dayton, OH 45420  
Office: (937) 457-2822  
E-mail: Gmuse@mcbbdds.org

For more information, visit:

[www.mcbbdds.org](http://www.mcbbdds.org)  
or [www.ohioemploymentfirst.org](http://www.ohioemploymentfirst.org)



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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
BOARD OF  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES  
SERVICES**



## **SCHOOL TO WORK EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**



*"There are no wrong turnings,  
only paths we had not known  
we were meant to walk."*

Guy Gavriel Kay

## *paving pathways...*

The **School to Work Employment Specialist** will work in collaboration with students, parents, Special Educators, Parent Mentors, Job Developers, Job Coaches, Work Study Coordinators and employers to pave the pathway to Post-Secondary employment success for students with disabilities.

## *our goal is to provide...*

- ◆ Support for the student in the gradual progression from a high school environment to a competitive place of employment.
- ◆ Information to students and families about any life job-building skills, volunteer, or internship opportunities available to them.
- ◆ Ongoing resources to assist students and families as they follow their paths to competitive community employment and beyond.

Nick



## *a success story...*

Nick is a graduate from the Warren County Career Technology Center where he received a high school level automotive passport. His original goal was to work in the automotive industry. After graduation, with the help of Opportunities for Ohio with Disabilities (OOD) and Capabilities, Nick found a job in the automotive industry. While responsibilities were challenging at times, he did enjoy this experience. He has recently sought new employment, on his own, and is now employed at Kroger. He is happy with his career path and he will continue to be supported in future career opportunities.

## *expected outcomes...*

- ◆ Students will obtain vocational and career-building skills to enhance employment options, identify any needed accommodations and be comfortable enough to assert themselves into a competitive workforce.
- ◆ Students who can accomplish the needed skills, and who choose this route, will take part in the community workforce, rather than in more traditional 'sheltered work center' settings.
- ◆ There will be a 10% increase of community employment placements of individuals with developmental disabilities in the State of Ohio by 2014.
- ◆ There will be a reduction in the reliance on sheltered work or day services.

Ask About Our  
Summer Youth Boot Camp &  
Independent Living Skills  
Seminars!

## *eligibility criteria...*

When students reach 16 years of age, an assessment will be administered in order to determine whether the student is eligible for services for adults with developmental disabilities. Once the student's eligibility is determined, the **School to Work Employment Specialist** should be invited to the IEP meeting to assist in developing age-appropriate IEPs related to training, education and independent living skills, to prepare the student for employment in a competitive workforce. This collaboration will not only prepare the student for a successful outcome, but will also assist with the new secondary transition service requirements.



The individual must be determined eligible for services at age 16 through the Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument (OEDI). The following criteria are needed to determine eligibility:

- ◆ The individual must have a diagnosed developmental disability and supporting documentation.
- ◆ The diagnosed developmental disability cannot be solely a mental illness.
- ◆ The individual must show substantial functional limitations in three life skill areas as determined by the OEDI.