



# Utah School to Work Initiative

Partnerships in Employment Systems Change Grant



## Project Impact:

- 9 School to Work Project Sites and local teams collaborating as partners (DSPD, Educators, VR, DWS, Adult Service Provider, Independent Living).
  - Year One: Ogden, Murray, Carbon
  - Year Two: Salt Lake City, Jordan (Kauri Sue Hamilton and South Valley School)
  - Year Three: Wasatch, Provo, Spectrum Academy
  
- 64 Students currently participating in School to Work to receive Customized Employment

***“Students are getting connected with community partners that will stay with them after graduation. We are proud of our students seeing pride in themselves through the job exploration process.”***

***- Salt Lake City Educator***



# Perspectives From Project Partners

**Educator:** The biggest impact from School to Work is the collaborative environment that comes from a team model. Families feel a sense of relief knowing that continuing supports are in place after the student leaves school.

**VR:** Increased collaboration with other agencies and establishing partnerships. It's such a benefit to have everyone meet together regularly to collaborate and get everyone on the same page.

**DWS:** It's so great seeing a student get hired as the direct result of a positive internship experience.

**Adult Provider Agency:** The technical assistance provided through this Project has been so helpful in learning the Customized Employment process.



# What is working well? What are you most proud of?

- 9 teams of local partners working collaboratively to braid resources and services to provide employment supports to transition age youth with most significant disabilities. Each team includes local folks from the following partnering agencies: DSPD, Educators, VR, DWS, Adult Service Provider, Independent Living.
- Multiple screenings of documentary film INTELLIGENT LIVES
- In partnership with USU-Center for Persons with Disabilities:
  - Development of School to Work Toolkit to be used with LEAs across the state.
  - Development of Continuous Quality Improvement tool
  - Improved Team tracking documents

***“STW has encouraged us to establish the expectation that students can work and share the mindset with all team members (Job Coaches, Related Service Providers, etc.) of our goal that ‘employment is the first and preferred outcome’ for our students and that we need to ‘expect, encourage, provide, create and reward integrated employment.’” - Provo***



# Challenges, Strategies, and Solutions



- Consistent buy-in with community partners
- Identifying individual teams needs and providing support to align with overall Project goals
- Provider Capacity

We are in the beginning phases to explore options to best serve the Project and continue building capacity.

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# Positive Outcomes

*“We have been able to see great success with students we would not have expected to have a paying job prior to the School to Work experience and our educators are beginning to see the impact this has had on our students and are willing to think outside the box.” -Kauri Sue Hamilton*



