

Collaborations: College Disability Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Disabled Students

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We ask you to join us in creating a culture that reflects...

Access and Inclusion

and

Civility and Respect

...this week and in all aspects of our organization.

Learning Goals

1. Attendees will identify and explain two techniques they can implement on their college campus to increase collaborations with the state VR organization to support disabled students.
2. Attendees will discuss the importance of connecting college students with VR for additional supports through college and through the transition to employment and will identify one method they will increase their students' knowledge of state VR services as important services that can help them through college into employment.

Introduction and Context

Polls: Getting to Know Who's Here

- You may use a mobile device or laptop
- Visit pollev.com/dandarkow950
- Scan QR Code



What type of institution do you currently work at?



Community College

0%

Four-year public

0%

Four-year private

0%

Trade specific institution

0%

Not listed

0%



Does your state have a dedicated VR postsecondary program?

Yes

0%

No

0%

Not that I know of

0%



Do you have a strong working knowledge of the services VR can provide for college students?

Yes

0%

No

0%

Maybe

0%



How often do you engage with your state's VR program?

I have never engaged

0%

Infrequent engagement

0%

Relatively frequent engagement

0%

Constant engagement

0%



History of VR and Higher Education

- WWI (1918 Soldier's Rehab Act); 1920 Smith Fess (civilians); 1935 SSA (fed-state VR as permanent program)
- 1936 (Randolph-Sheppard Act); 1938 (Wagner-O'Day Act) - Blind supports
- 1978 Rehab Act Amendments emphasized "severely disabled"; created CIL programs; 1984 Client Assistance Project established
- 1992 Rehab Act Amendments - **presumption of ability**; informed choices; match client's needs and interests; "proactively foster cooperative working relationships with other agencies and programs"

History of VR and Higher Education Cont.

- 2014 WIOA amendments “emphasis on Youth, Employers, **Collaboration**”; WIOA / IDEA - Pre-ETS (HS focus)
- 2006 OSERS / OPE Dear Colleague Letter on Collaboration
- Think College (ID/DD)
- Usage & Concerns

VR in Ohio: College2Careers

- Program getting started
- Buy-in from universities and Department of Higher Education
- Statewide expansion
- Program stats (usage, graduates, etc.)



**Opportunities for
Ohioans with Disabilities**

Ohio College2Careers

History of Ohio College2Careers



Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Ohio College2Careers

Career Development Specialists

Memorandum of Understanding



Opportunities for
Ohioans with
Disabilities

TN: []

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING Between Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency and [School Name]

I. PURPOSE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to recognize the partnership between Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), 150 E. Campus View Blvd. Columbus, Ohio 43235 and address to coordinate services and facilitate engagement of college students with disabilities, herein referred to as "students", to improve the quality of employment outcomes achieved by students served through the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. Specifically, OOD is seeking to increase the percentage of students served who attain a credential or degree; increase the median earnings of students who obtain employment; and meet the skill demands of tomorrow's labor market.

B. **PERIOD OF RELEVANCE:** [July 1, 2025] through [June 30, 2027]

II. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

A. **BACKGROUND:** The Ohio College2Careers Program provides services and support for individuals, directly, on campus. The new pattern of services and support that assist students to successfully complete their degree, obtain internships or employment while they are in school, and obtain and maintain employment post-graduation. Both parties desire to partner, coordinate services, and facilitate the engagement of students.

III. PARTIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A. PARTIES AND THEIR ROLES:

1. OOD will:

- Designate a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) with a case service budget that will provide enhanced and targeted academic and career counseling services to students.
- Comply with OOD and College/Universities policies and procedures that are applicable while providing services on campus.
- Provide guidance and support with University of Akron's Office of Accessibility, Career Services, and Academic Advising offices to facilitate hiring of students for internships and permanent employment opportunities.
- Work proactively with OOD employer partners to develop internship programs, recruit students for career and internship opportunities, host career connection events, and promote disability awareness education and training for higher education partners and employers.

2. University will:

MOU []

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On developing, implementing, and monitoring a referral process is VR services through OOD.

dedicated office space on the campus. The space should be conducive to students to access and conduct their work and meetings. The space is located in the building with capacity for two (2) individuals and wheelchair access; at least one (1) cabinet and three (3) chairs; high speed internet connectivity; and is with college domain akron.edu;

Ohio C2C information on the University of Akron's website; and the office during regular business hours and scheduled student meetings.

regarding the presence and location of the VR staff as well as the students, staff and faculty.

and other necessary data to assist OOD with planning and implementation. This report will be determined and agreed on mutually between the parties and necessary elements are met.

structure each year to provide both Parties information regarding services, and service delivery methods; responsible for the coordination and resolution of the agreed-on issues in effect and for any additional issues identified; support and troubleshooting of technical issues collaboratively with Technology departments.

Both Parties agree to meet, at a minimum, one (1) time per month to discuss student progress; and evaluate the efficacy of the partnership.

CONFIDENTIALITY: The parties agree to comply with confidentiality laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, state and federal laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, confidentiality laws and administrative rules of each party, and in the event of termination of this MOU, the provision shall remain binding upon the parties.

may be modified or amended upon mutual written consent of the parties.

shall have the right to terminate this MOU, with or without cause, at any time, and the party's intention to terminate thirty (30) calendar days prior to termination. In the event of termination of this MOU, the provision shall remain binding upon the parties.

MOU []

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Partnership Guidelines



Opportunities for
Ohioans with
Disabilities

OOD.Ohio.gov

Mike DeWine, Governor Jon Husted, Lt. Governor Kevin Miller, Director

The Ohio College2Careers (Ohio C2C) partnership through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) provides services and supports that assist students with disabilities to successfully complete their degree, obtain internships or employment while they are in school, and obtain and maintain employment post-graduation. Ohio C2C supports are available to eligible students with disabilities who are seeking jobs that require postsecondary education to meet the skill demands of the labor market and increase the median earnings. The goal of the partnership is to coordinate services and facilitate engagement of students with disabilities to provide vocational rehabilitation services. The following outlines the types of activities for which each partner is responsible.

OOD will:

- designate a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) with a case service budget, that will provide enhanced and targeted academic and career counseling services to OOD eligible students.
- provide guidance and support to facilitate the hiring of college students with disabilities for internships and permanent employment opportunities.
- work proactively with OOD employer partners to assist in the development of inclusive internship programs, assist employers in recruiting college students with disabilities for career and internship opportunities, host career connection events to connect employer partners with OOD college students with disabilities, and promote disability awareness education and training for higher education partners and employers.
- develop and manage an agreed-upon meeting structure to provide information regarding performance data, services, and service delivery methods.
- comply with OOD and College/University policies and procedures, that are applicable, and comply with confidentiality provisions while providing services on campus.

Educational Institution will:

- collaborate with VRC on developing, implementing, and monitoring a referral process for students with disabilities to access VR services.
- provide access to office space on campus for the VRC. The space should be conducive for the VRC and students with disabilities to access and conduct their work and meetings.
- provide an email address with the college domain.edu.
- provide access to the office during regular business hours and scheduled student breaks.
- provide OOD with necessary data to assist with planning and projecting services and needs. This will be determined and agreed on mutually to ensure appropriate and necessary elements are met.
- incorporate Ohio C2C information on the educational institution's website.
- comply with the confidentiality provisions defined and outlined in R.C. 3304.21, Ohio Adm. Code 3304-2-63, 34 C.F.R. 361.38, Attorney General Opinion 76-049, and as otherwise required pursuant to state and federal law. The educational institution shall not discuss or disclose any confidential participant information or material obtained without the prior written consent of the individual, applicant, or former participant.

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(614) 438-1200
(614) 282-4536
ood.ohio.gov

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of ADA Services

Collaboration with Colleges & Universities



- Embed an Ohio College2Careers Counselor on each campus
- Assist students with navigating supports on campus
- Foster relationships with Career Services, Disability/Accessibility Services, and other support offices
- Encourage independence

OOD Support for Students with Disabilities



Services & Support



Career
Exploration



Leveraging Assistive
Technology



Financial Assistance
OOD Education Support
Fund



Building resumes and
interview prep



Finding internships and
permanent employment



Navigating Ohio Means
Jobs resources



Connecting to OOD's
expansive employer
partner network



**Opportunities for
Ohioans with Disabilities**

Ohio College2Careers



College Internships

[College Internship Dashboard](#)

Common Performance Measures

Employment Rate 2 Quarters After Exit

Employment Rate 4 Quarters After Exit

Median Earnings 2 Quarters After Exit

Credential Attainment

Measurable Skills Gains

Think, Pair, Share

- What type of interaction do you have with VR in your state?
- What have students' experiences been?
- What are some perceived or experienced barriers in working with your state VR office?
- What are some of the challenges VR has with working with college students?



Dan - Miami University

- Part of initial launch (2019)
 - Located in private testing room
 - Shared time on our regional campuses
 - Orientation collaboration
 - Relationship with Center for Career Exploration and Success
- Services provided:
 - Career planning
 - Job coach
 - Finding internships
 - Financial support

Tom - Wright State University

2010 – 2018 1 day / week (8 hrs)

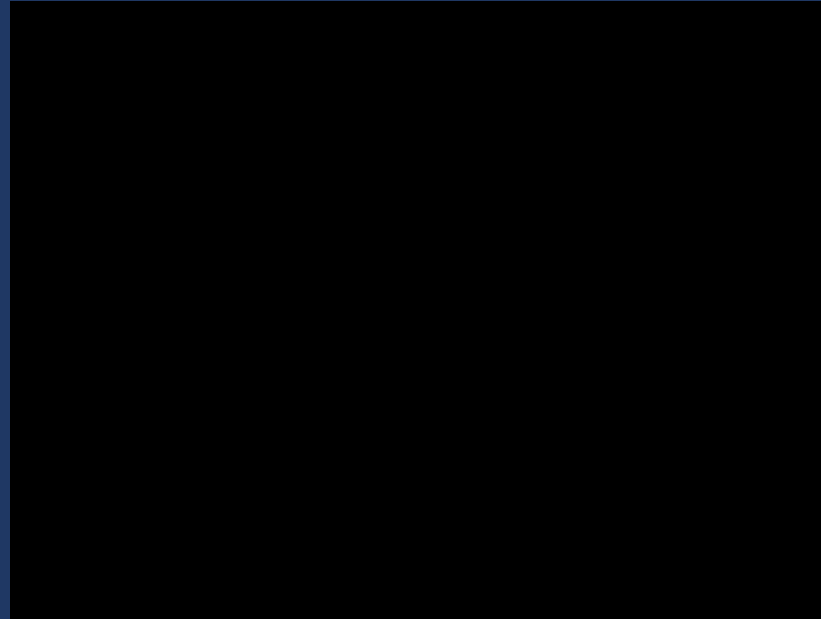
- Early adopter of on-site VR access
- Aligned accommodations & referrals
- Foundation for deeper collaboration



2019 – present Embedded 40 hrs / week (Phil)

- Initial MOU guarantees office, IT, phone, after-hours access & parking
- Dedicated case-service budget for internships, equipment & training
- Outreach with Career Svcs & Advising
- Performance reviews & data sharing

Amanda - Kent State (via video)





Barriers Encountered

- Building caseloads
 - Students weren't aware of services and benefits
 - Students had negative experiences with BVR previously
- Creating buy-in with students
 - Education support funds!
- Building relationships on campus
 - Name recognition on campus
 - Concern from other departments over conflict with disability services
 - Where to locate / find space

Barriers Encountered Cont.

- State funding sets priorities and services available
 - Changing political climate at state and federal levels
- Previous VR experiences
- VR and DS staff changes
- Initial start with MOUs

Tips for Building VR relationships

- Develop full understanding of the scope of the program.
- Incorporate VR counselor into your office in an organic and authentic way.
- Introduce VR counselors as part of your “disability resources office overview” presentations.
- Collaborate with VR, DS, and Career Services for Career Supports programming.

No dedicated VR counselor?

- Identify a point person in your local VR office or at the state level.
- Invite VR counselors to meet with students on campus.
- Include the VR person for the start of the semester organization fairs.
- Connect with faculty in programs where VR would be a resource graduates should know for referrals (health science; education; etc.). Invite VR to present to campus classes identified by faculty.

Keys to Success

- The counselor makes the experience for the student.
- Incorporating VR counselors into disability resource staff supports communication and collaboration.
- Gather and use data to discuss impact on students.
- Establish ROI between VR & College.

Jobs Results



Average wage for FFY 2025:

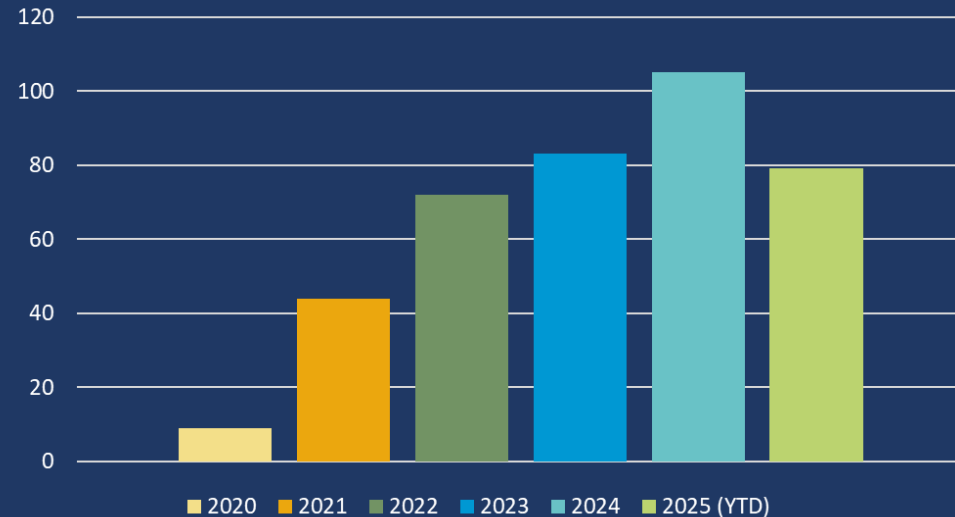
- \$22.26/hour; \$39,855/year



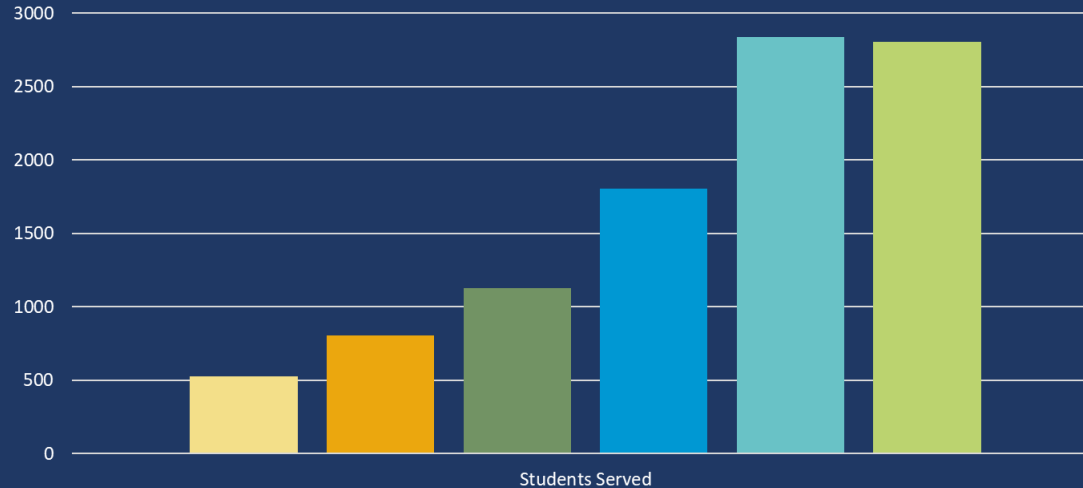
Sample Jobs Earned FFY 2025:

- Community & Social Service Specialists
- Architect
- Health Information Technologists
- Registered Nurses
- Software Developers
- Teachers

Number of Jobs Secured Each Year



Total C2C Students Served Per FFY



■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024 ■ 2025 (YTD)

Call to Action & Next Steps

- Identify state agency contacts and transition/postsecondary point of contact.
- Routinely connect with VR person - inquire about numbers of students planning to attend (especially complex accommodation situations).
- Reach out before the start of the semester.
- Offer to connect VR counselor with important campus offices (Bursar / Admissions) and update when staff change.
- Host VR presentation on campus for EVERYONE - faculty and staff may need VR for themselves or their families as well.

Resources

- [JAN VR List](#)
- [Center on Transition](#)
- [VR and Educators Collaboration UIUC Report](#)
- [Dear Colleague 2006 Agreements IHE and VR](#)
- [VA VR Info](#)
- [Tribal Colleges and VR](#)
- [VR and CC Customized Training Partnerships](#)
- [CFR Title 34B III Part 361 Subpart B Provision and Scope of Services](#)
- [Memorandums Of Understanding And Cooperative Agreements | RI DHS Office of Rehabilitation Services](#)

Session Evaluation



tinyurl.com/AHEADFeedback

Your feedback helps shape future programming.

Thank you for attending!