



Inroads to Employment Year 2

3/1/2018 – 2/28/2019

System Gap Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office of Disability Employment Policy indicates the employment rate for youth with disabilities is significantly less than youth without disabilities (60 - 70 % less). • Work-based learning promotes problem solving and adult thinking. • Young people with disabilities have limited access to many of the venues for teens such as sports, clubs or after school jobs that build employment skills.
Initiative Goals and Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish three registered apprenticeships. • Expand Workforce options for youth ages 14-21 through Pre-Employment Transition Services through collaborative efforts between two local public-school systems and North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. • Improve employment prospects and job search skills for post-secondary students living with IDD through career mentorship program and the development of stronger linkages between career services and disability services offices. • Demonstrate the impact of post-secondary career mentoring programs that connect local business professionals with current post-secondary students living with I/DD.
Description of Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding Register Apprenticeships as employment options for people living with I/DD in North Carolina. • Leveraging Pre-Employment Transition Services funding through facilitation of local public school and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services partnerships. • Stronger collaborations between career and disability supports offices, and development of mentorship opportunities with business leaders to facilitate higher employment placement rates for postsecondary students living with IDD.
Achievements and Outcomes to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established apprenticeships in 1) agrotechnology through partnership with a hydroponic agribusiness, Your Local Greens and 2) feeding assistant pre-apprenticeship with Well-Spring Retirement Center. • Framework being established for an apprenticeship in furniture manufacturing in partnership with Catawba Valley Community College. • Technical Assistance aided in the development of the Pre-Employment Transition Services Contract with Chapel Hill Carrboro Schools which initiated in January 2018. • Technical Assistance provided to Cleveland County Schools for their submission of Pre-ETS proposal to NCVR completed June 2018. CCS's Pre-ETS service initiated in January 2019. • Catawba County and Catawba Community College accessed Technical Assistance to develop their second Pre-ETS service proposal, scheduled to be submitted to NCDVR before the end of April 2019. • Leadership is currently being engaged, and business volunteers identified, for College Mentoring Program demonstration activities.