

Transition services for young adults with autism

- Customized Employment Services with Certified Providers
- Graphic Design Classes
- Connect With Other Nonprofit Community Organizations
- Navigation of Government Support Systems (Medicaid, SSI, SSDI, DSPD)
- Assessment and Discovery Process
- Self-Advocacy Skills Training
- Competitive Employment Services
- Supported Employment Services
- Guidance for Families
- Explore Higher Education
- Job Site Visits
- Social Skills Classes
- Skills Training Services
- Lego Robotics Classes

For questions about our NextWork autism program, please contact:

Amy Wadsworth
NextWork Program Director

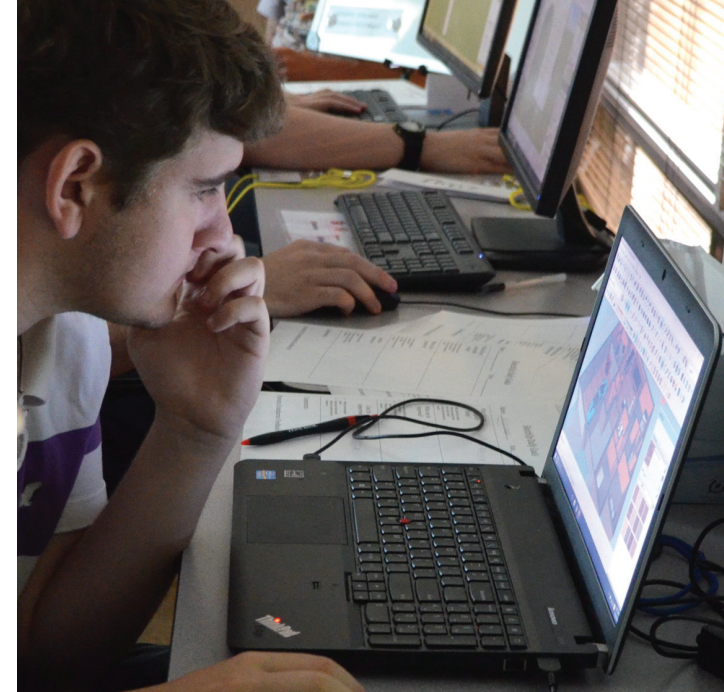
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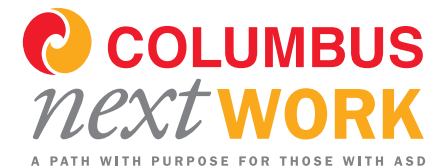
Visit our website:
www.columbusseves.org



Columbus residential and employment services are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). www.carf.org



Discover What Comes Next



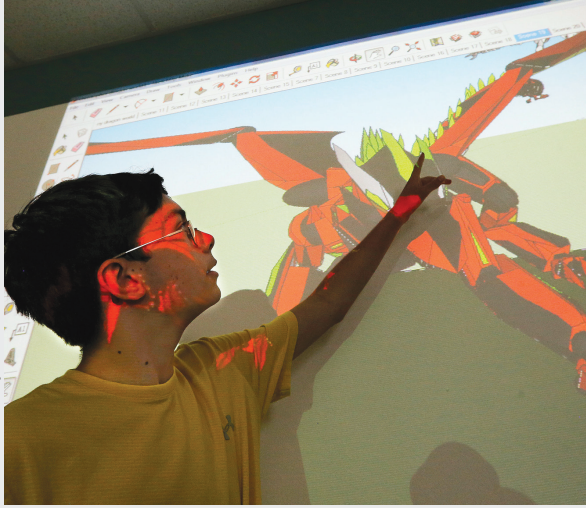
"It's always nice to have a new skill set to rely on or something to fall back on, or just something new and interesting you can do that sets you apart from other people."
– NeuroVersity student from 2015

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Technology Programs

NextWork focuses on the strengths and interests expressed by our clients on the autism spectrum. Our most popular program is NeuroVersity, which was created at the University of Utah in 2013. This program was founded by Drs. Scott and Cheryl Wright to help youth with autism develop talents to find technology jobs. It uses SketchUp, a 3D graphic design software, to accomplish this goal. Students explore their interests with the support of experienced peers and experts in fields that use SketchUp professionally. This includes architecture firms, theme park designers, and game designers.

Navigate “the system”

One of the greatest challenges for families that have a child with autism is learning what to do to increase independence and quality of life. NextWork staff understand these challenges and strive to connect families with community resources, government benefits, higher education opportunities, including trade schools, and personal networks to support individuals and families on the spectrum.

Career Exploration

In partnership with the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Clinic at the University of Utah, NextWork explores various careers with their Social Employment Group. Field trips to various business partners expose clients to a wide variety of jobs, from working in a chemistry lab to shelving books in a library. When this group isn't visiting a site, they can often be found increasing their social skills by playing board games and talking about movies. Using proven employment tools and a variety of assessments, NextWork staff work with clients to discover the types of jobs that will provide a sense of belonging, accomplishment, and success.

“Parker has been in other robotics programs and felt that this was the best one he had attended because he was not just told what to do, but why certain parts were needed and was given leeway to be creative with his model.”

— Janet Robinson, mother of NextWork participant



Parker Robinson, participant at Lego Mindstorm Robotics Camp.

Key Offerings

NextWork provides programming to assist individuals on the autism spectrum, and their families, in the following ways:

- Identify, discover and explore interests
- Teach and reinforce social and technical skills
- Introduce individuals to possible careers
- Assist individuals in building a path to a career
- Gain a greater understanding of available services, and how to access them
- Discover employment, achieve employment, and keep employment
- Consider college, university, or a technical trade school post high school graduation
- Increase independence and quality of life as students prepare for adulthood
- Have the opportunity to participate in NeuroVersity, Lego Mindstorm Robotics camp, or other STEM programming

“NextWork helps individuals with autism spectrum disorders develop a healthy identity, discover and focus on their strengths and talents, and create value for society by learning specific skills with the end goal of becoming employed and living independently in the community.”

— William M. McMahon, MD, Former Chair of Psychiatry, University of Utah, and Columbus Community Center Board member

For more information about our transition services and programs, please contact Amy at awadsworth@columbusserves.org