Western Carolina University’s University Participant Program
Assisting Participants in Finding Meaningful Job Placements

Who We Are - The Western Carolina University’s University Participant (UP) Program serves students with intellectual disabilities on the college campus. During this two year experience, each participant is expected to live on campus, audit classes, participate in campus activities, and gain valuable employment experience.

What Drives Us - During the program, participants are required to work 10 hours a week in on-campus internships. These internships are based on participant interests and focus on skills related their career choice. Once participants have gained valuable work experience and have been prepared for competitive employment we facilitate a transition back into the community.

What We Are Looking For - We are currently in the process of transitioning participants back into their communities and are seeking businesses that can provide community employment one to two days a week (allowing participants to finish requirements of program certificate). Dedicated UP personnel are available to help provide assistance with training and accommodations. Evaluative feedback and/or suggestions on how to improve work performance will be encouraged and welcomed.

How This Helps You - This is a wonderful opportunity to provide members of your community who are eager to work with meaningful and life changing working experience. Throughout the program, our participants have remained dedicated and focused on developing the job skills needed for their chosen career paths. They are ready to put those skills into action by becoming a valuable and hard working employee with your company or business. Most of the participants also have Vocational Rehabilitation supports during and after completing the UP program.

Interested? - If you would like more information on our program or to inquire about interviewing one of our participants, please contact Cassie Coco at 828-227-3318 or by email at cnmoffitt@email.wcu.edu