

Introduction



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A MESSAGE FROM BETHANY, LESLIE AND HOWARD:

As special educators, we have seen first-hand the struggles and triumphs of hundreds of students. Nothing is more rewarding than watching a young person with a learning difference find the skills and confidence to embark on new challenges – be it a new training program, a new job, or even continued academic studies.

In our experience, training students in self-advocacy skills and positive self-efficacy beliefs is critical to ensuring their ongoing success. Over the past few years, researchers such as Dr Marshall Raskind, Dr Paul J. Gerber, and Dr Frank Pajares have confirmed what we have always believed to be true: that training students to understand their own learning profiles, to know their rights and responsibilities, to actively engage in their own education, and to focus on areas of strength are the most important and effective lessons that we can impart.

That's why we created *Transitions to Employment: Success at Work*, a curriculum that uses the power of peer modeling (an important component of developing positive self-efficacy beliefs), goal-setting and practical skill-building to ensure that students with learning differences are empowered to make their transition into the workplace a success.

We hope that you and your students have as much fun working through this curriculum as we did putting it together.

We wish you and your students success!

Bethany Verner Leslie Coull Howard Eaton