



WORKABILITY I

September 2021 Newsletter

What we do...

WorkAbility I exists to help you transition from high school into adulthood. We can help you get a job, apply for college, get financial aid to go to college, get a Driver License, decide on a future career path you might want to pursue, find agencies and programs to help you with education and/or employment (now and after you graduate,) and lots more!

How do you use our services?

All you have to do is get in contact with us! Our contact information is in the right-hand column. Ms. Lona Lopez and Mrs. Clark are on-campus from 8 am to 2:30 pm, so you can also drop by the WorkAbility office and meet with them in person. The Mission Hills HS WorkAbility I office is at the far end of the counseling area and the San Marcos HS WorkAbility I office is behind the finance office. If you are a student at Twin Oaks HS or Foothills HS, you can contact me for an in-person meeting.

Seniors - we're here to help you get ready for your future!

We can help you with so many things, here are just a few:

- ⇒ Senior consultations - we can meet with you to complete a questionnaire that will help us identify areas of transition needs and discuss your future goals.
- ⇒ Field Trips: we are offering 4 field trips this year: Palomar College, MiraCosta College, MiraCosta College Technology Career Institute and the fourth covers Access Youth One-Stop Career Center, California Conservation Corps and UEI - a trade school in Oceanside with whom we partner.
- ⇒ Find a job
- ⇒ Register for college
- ⇒ Set up an appointment to see a disability resource counselor at the college of your choice This step gives you access to something important called priority registration and a whole bunch of other great advantages...see the next page for more information.
- ⇒ Apply for financial aid
- ⇒ Look at other options for further education or training
- ⇒ Presentations during select Specialized Academic English classes or if you express an interest in attending:
 - ◇ FIDM (Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandizing): Ace the Interview
 - ◇ Job Corps
 - ◇ California Conservation Corps
 - ◇ Access Youth One-Stop Career Center

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WHY SHOULD I USE A COLLEGE'S DISABILITY RESOURCE DEPARTMENT?

Before we answer that question, there are a few things you should know

- All colleges have a department that helps students with disabilities be successful.
- They all offer similar services like counseling, test accommodations, note takers, assistive technology and may offer *priority registration for classes - that's a big one, more on that below!*
- Their services are 100% free and available to any student with any kind of disability, including students who had an IEP in high school.

Let's look at how some of those services might help you.

Counseling: You work one-on-one with a counselor who is trained to assist you with what you need to be successful in college. They know which professors might be a good match, which classes you should take, and based on your IEP, can make suggestions about accommodations that might help you on campus, when taking classes or with your homework.

Accommodations: An accommodation is just a way of meeting any needs you might have based on your disability. Here are some examples:

- ◆ Exams - this could be extra time on tests, and/or a quiet place to take tests
- ◆ Note Taker - yep, you can actually ask for someone to take notes for you in class if you find it difficult to listen and take good notes at the same time and who doesn't!
- ◆ Mobility - if you need help getting from the bus, or a personal vehicle in the parking lot to a drop-off point on campus, you can request a cart.

Assistive technology: What's that? It's a piece of equipment, or a software program, that is designed to make learning easier for you. This could be an adjustable desk or a large print keyboard but my favorite is the Smart Pen! This amazing pen makes digital copies of your notes and recordings, which can be replayed, saved to your computer, and even shared with others!

Priority Registration: One of the most important things that some college disability resource departments offer to students is priority registration.

- ◆ **What is it?** Priority Registration allows you to sign up for the classes you want or need (if you're working toward a degree or a transfer to a 4-year university) one day before everyone else!
- ◆ **What does that mean for me?** It means you are more likely to get into classes that lots of other people want or need to take too.
- ◆ **Why is that such a big deal?** Because no one likes to be disappointed when they discover a class is full and if you need that class or classes to work toward a degree, it's going to take you longer to get there or you're going to have to take classes on days or at times that don't work that well for you.

WorkAbility can assist you in applying for services at the college of your choice, so come and see us as soon as possible.

Generation Z want to run their own futures!

Gen Z – that's you in case you weren't sure – are fast becoming known as the most entrepreneurial generation ever. Statistics show that over 60% of you want to start your own business and some of you already have!

It's also nice to know that many of you want to be in charge of your own life *and* want to make a difference with your business or product.

You bring a fresh approach. As the most social media driven generation ever, you are uniquely positioned to create apps and YouTube channels and to use social media to promote yourselves and your business and products. You understand how to brand and promote yourself and your ideas in today's market, far better than previous generations. You know how to build an audience and you're not afraid to put yourself out there to see what clicks and appeals; YouTube influencers (and that's a term your generation understands better than any other) have exploded in the last decade.

Entrepreneurship is now accepted as a career path in a way that it never has been before. Starting your own business was always a risk and expensive, and promoting your business was hard. Now, with so many social media platforms, there are instant, cheap or free ways to build your brand and your business, including e-commerce platforms like Etsy or Shopify to help you sell your products, promotion on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram and audience building on TikTok! In addition, you have the skills and tools to build a website, create an Instagram following, promote yourself and/or your product on YouTube and Google how to get a business license, all in one morning!

Further education looks different to those of you who want to own your own business with many of you learning from YouTube or even just Googling answers to the things you want to learn. Google, Adobe, Hubspot and others offer free or inexpensive certifications. Other young entrepreneurs start out working for companies to learn what it takes to run a similar business.

The last 18 months have shown Gen Z that you don't need a physical location to work or run a business. Many of you have seen your parents do it from home and you've seen and heard people running their businesses on their cell phone while ordering a latte at Starbucks!

Gen Z is making big bucks with their own businesses and they're starting early. Here's just one of many examples: Caroline and Isabel Bercaw started making bath bombs when they were 11 and 12 years old and sold them at a local art fair; 3 years later their bath bombs were in 30 local shops and by 2016 they were in stores across the country and making 20,000 bath bombs a month in their basement! When Target contacted them they brought in mom to help and now generate over \$20 million a year!

Will you be the next young entrepreneur!