



A DEGREE IS NOT ENOUGH

INTRODUCTION

Why Work? Why Now? The Importance of Employment During School

Overview:

In addition to providing the finances to live independently, employment strengthens self-esteem, motivation, and relationships. This workshop will acquaint students with employment accommodations, self-advocacy, soft skills, and the impact of work on disability benefits. Other topics include balancing school with a job, the employer's perspective, and resources such as the Connect-Ability website. Parents will learn how they can support their son or daughter in developing necessary workplace skills.

The folder includes:

- Invitation letters for students and parents
- Flyer
- Agenda
- PowerPoint presentation for parents: Help Your Student Prepare for a Job
- PowerPoint presentation about Connect-Ability
- Two handouts about soft skills
- Top 10 Qualities Employers Seek
- Other Resources and Ideas for Planning the Workshop

Sample letter for parents

[Today's date]

Dear SCSU parent,

Employment makes many other things possible. In addition to providing the finances to live as an independent adult, having a job strengthens self-esteem, motivation, and relationships. The next session of A Degree Is Not Enough, entitled "***Why Work? Why Now? The Importance of Employment During School,***" will give your son or daughter information about how to prepare for life in the working world. The session has been scheduled for [date].

At this workshop, students will learn about employment accommodations, self-advocacy, identifying and developing soft skills, and the impact of working on disability benefits. They will also gain exposure to resources such as the Connect-Ability website, which can help them overcome employment barriers.

It is never too soon to start, and working while in school creates a strong base for success after graduation. For that reason, this workshop will also cover balancing school with a job, and the employer's perspective on hiring students and interns.

There will be a separate track for parents to learn how they can support working scholars and help their son or daughter to develop the skills they will need in the workplace. We hope you will join us for this exciting and informative evening!

Once again, the SCSU Disability Resource Center has partnered with the SCSU Career Center, the SCSU Center for Adaptive Technology, the Connecticut Tech Act Project, the city of New Haven, Enterprise, Inc., the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, the Board of Education and Services for the Blind, and the Connecticut Business Leadership Network to bring you this workshop.

Your student's Bureau of Rehabilitation Services counselor will expect him or her to participate in this workshop. As we work together to help students move toward employment after graduation, we know that the information they receive in this series will be important in reaching their goals.

Please look at the enclosed flyer and consider joining your son or daughter on [date, time, and location]. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

These workshops have been developed to increase your son or daughter's success after graduation. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Sample letter for students

[Today's date]

Dear _____,

Employment makes many other things possible. In addition to providing the finances to live as an independent adult, having a job strengthens self-esteem, motivation, and relationships. The next session of A Degree Is Not Enough, entitled "***Why Work? Why Now? The Importance of Employment During School,***" will give you information about how to prepare for life in the working world. The session has been scheduled for [date].

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Please look at the enclosed flyer and consider joining us on [date, time, and location]. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

These workshops have been developed to increase your success after graduation. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Why Work? Why NOW?

Importance of Employment During School

Agenda

5:30 – 6:00 Welcome Reception (insert name)

6:00 – 6:10 Introductions/Opening Remarks (insert name)

6:10 – 6:30 The Importance of the Career Planning Process (insert name)

6:30 – 6:45 Employer's Perspective (insert name)

6:45 – 7:00 Adaptive Technology – One Key to Success
(insert name)

7:00 – 8:00 Parent's Role in Supporting Their Child
at the College Level (insert name)

7:00 – 8:00 Putting the Pieces Together for Students
with Disabilities (insert name)

8:00 – 8:30 Career Services Information
(insert name)

8:30 - 9:00 Concluding Remarks/Resource Table



Why Work? Why Now?

Importance of Employment During School

For Students with Disabilities and Parents

Join Us!



With References To:

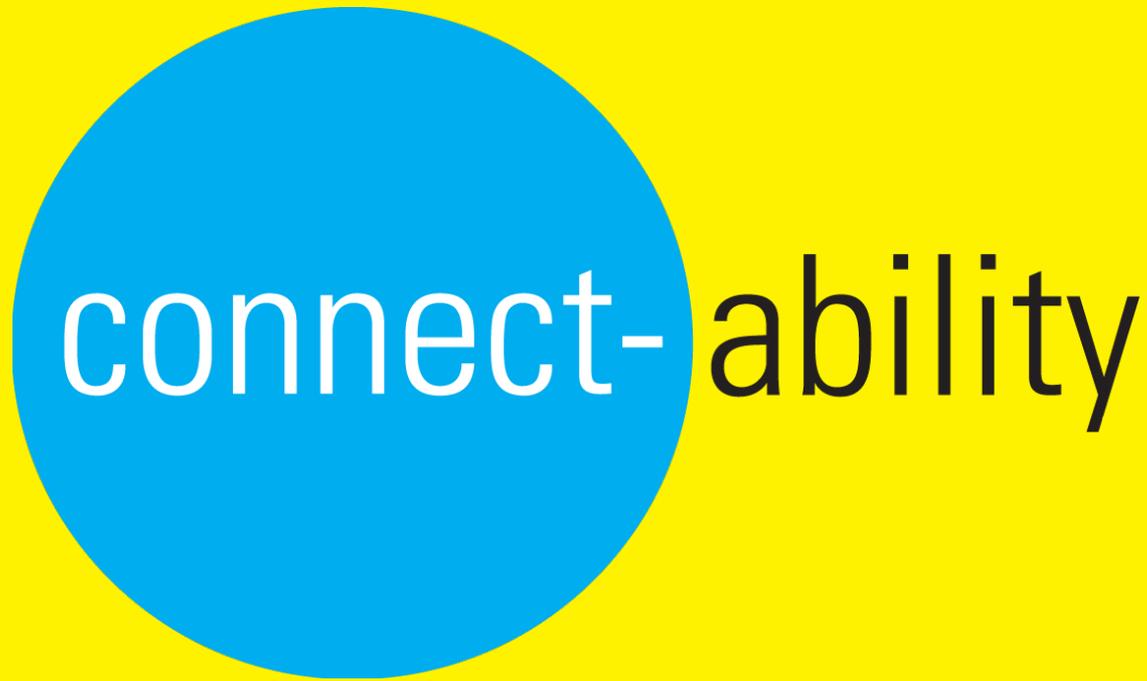
- Importance of working while in school
- Balancing school with a job
- Employer's Perspective
- How parents can support working scholars
- Understanding your benefits while working
- ...And more!

(Insert Date)

(Insert Time & Location)

Dessert and Beverages Provided

Call (Insert Phone #) or email (Insert Email) to RSVP no later than
(insert deadline-date)



**See the ability.
See how we can work together.**

2010

After Graduation

- Will students

- work in a “life-sustaining” job



- rent an apartment/own a home

- drive a car or have reliable means of transportation

After Graduation

- **Will students**
 - **socialize with friends, go to movies or take a vacation**
 - **Have health insurance**

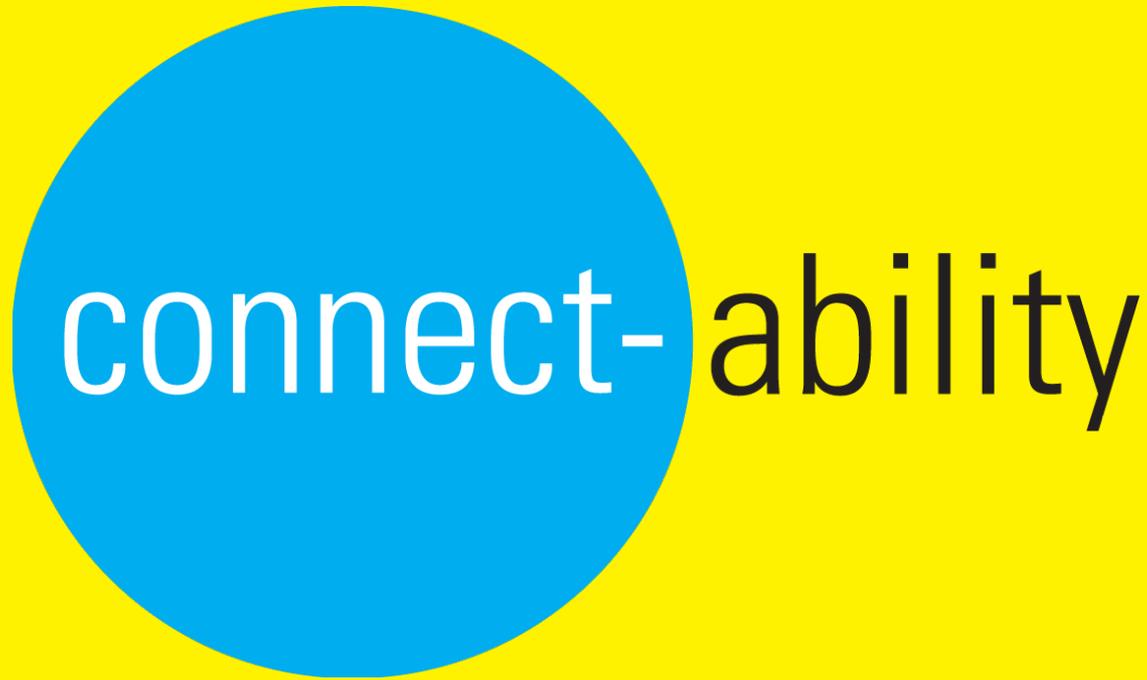


The High School and College Years

- **Rigorous instruction in the classroom and community**
- **Job experiences, community involvement and volunteer work**
- **Use of accommodations and/or modifications**

The High School and College Years

- **Soft skills, Self-advocacy and self-determination skills**
- **Driving or mobility/transportation skills training**
- **Paraprofessional/job coach/personal care support**



**Connecting students, parents, educators
and employers**

See how we can work together.

Connect-Ability Goals

- **Help employers learn how to recruit, hire and retain employees with disabilities**
- **Increase career expectations for people with disabilities**
- **Reduce transportation barriers**
- **Improve the ways young people with disabilities transition from school to work**

Awareness Campaign

- **Videos of successful employment stories**
- **Advertisement across the state in business periodicals**
- **TV commercials**
- **Radio commercials**
- **Annual Employment Summit**
- **Website**

Connect-ability Website

The screenshot shows the Connect-Ability website in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The browser title is "Connect-Ability - Bringing Connecticut's Employers and People with Disabilities Together - Welc - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://www.connect-ability.com". The website has a yellow and blue color scheme. At the top, there are navigation links: "Media Gallery | About Connect-Ability | News | Contact Us". The main header features the "connect-ability" logo with the tagline "See the ability. See how we can work together." and a search bar. Below the header are five navigation buttons: "Career Center", "Transportation", "For Employers", "For Youth", and "For Parents". The main content area is divided into three columns, each with a heading and a paragraph of text, and a link. The first column is titled "Did you get connected?" and includes the text "Did you get a job or hire an employee with the help of Connect-Ability?" and a link "Tell us your success story". The second column is titled "Connect a Friend" and includes the text "Do you know a friend or colleague who might be interested in Connect-Ability?" and a link "Get them connected". The third column is titled "Friends & Family" and includes the text "Do you have a friend with a disability? Find resources to help them on their path to employment." and a link "Explore the Career Center". The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Internet".

Connect-Ability - Bringing Connecticut's Employers and People with Disabilities Together - Welc - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites Media

Address <http://www.connect-ability.com> Go Links >>

Y! Search Web Upgrade your Toolbar Now! Mail My Yahoo! Shopping >>

Media Gallery | About Connect-Ability | News | Contact Us

connect-ability See the ability. See how we can work together.

Search >

Career Center Transportation For Employers For Youth For Parents

Did you get connected?
Did you get a job or hire an employee with the help of Connect-Ability?
[Tell us your success story](#)

Connect a Friend
Do you know a friend or colleague who might be interested in Connect-Ability?
[Get them connected](#)

Friends & Family
Do you have a friend with a disability? Find resources to help them on their path to employment.
[Explore the Career Center](#)

Internet

Working in Connecticut

Colleen: US Coast Guard Academy

James: Self Employed Truck Driver

Jovan: Midas Muffler

Bill: Travelers Insurance

Greg: US Forestry Service

Matt: Attending Harvard University

Kathy: CT Legal Rights

What's Inside

Connect-Ability - Bringing Connecticut's Employers and People with Disabilities Together - Welc - Microsoft Internet Explorer p

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address <http://www.connect-ability.com/> Go

Media Gallery | About Connect-Ability | News | Contact Us

connect-ability See the ability.
See the ability. See how we can work together.

Enter Keyword Search >

Career Center Transportation For Employers For Youth For Parents

Our purpose
is to bring Connecticut's employers and people with disabilities together.
See the ability.

Tell us what you think.
Please fill out the Connect-Ability website evaluation survey.

Upcoming Events

Youth Blog
Connect-Ability has eight CT young adults who tell about their experience.
[Check out youth blog](#)

Employer Toolkit
Check out our new interactive video for employers!
[Click here for toolkit.](#)

Did you get connected?
Did you get a job or hire an employee with the help of Connect-Ability?
[Tell us about it!](#)

Feedback Matters!

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Adjust Text Size:

Surfing the Connect-ability Website

Connect-Ability - Bringing Connecticut's Employers and People with Disabilities Together - For - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites History Print Copy Paste AutoFill Options Connect Ability

Address http://www.connect-ability.com/for_youth/forYouth.php Go Links

Google Connect-Ability Search 33 blocked AutoFill Options Connect Ability

Media Gallery | About Connect-Ability | News | Contact Us

connect-ability See the ability. See how we can work together.

Enter Keyword Search

Career Center Transportation For Employers For Youth For Parents

Home / For Youth

A PERSON WHO BUILDS A PLAYGROUND

Why Work?

What Do I Want to Do?

What Can I Do?

Getting Experience

How Do I Get the Job?

Can I Get Help?

Getting to Work

youth journal
real life stories by our youth "bloggers"

You have dreams. How do you get there? You need a plan.
You hear people ask "What do you want to be when you grow up?" You have dreams. But how do you get there? Your journey to the future starts today.
Everyone's path is different, but everyone needs to set goals and then make a plan to reach them. This website can help you do more than dream about a great life.

Error on page. Internet

NaturallySpeaking Tools Words Sound Help Correction... Transcribe...

Start P... M... I... Drag... M... C... T... C... C... 3:24 PM

Surfing the Connect-ability Website

20 Minute Activity

Recorder

Reporter

Assignment

Surfing the Connect-ability Website

How will you use this site to find work while you are in school?

What information about soft skills did you find in your section? Who can help you start developing or improve your soft skills?

Website: Youth Section

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Connect-Ability website's Youth Section. The browser's address bar shows the URL http://www.connect-ability.com/for_youth/forYouth.php. The website's header features the logo "connect-ability" with the tagline "See the ability. See how we can work together." and a search bar. Navigation tabs include "Career Center", "Transportation", "For Employers", "For Youth", and "For Parents". The main content area has a green background with a video player showing a young man in a wheelchair at a playground. Below the video, the text reads: "A PERSON WHO BUILDS A PLAYGROUND" and "You have dreams. How do you get there? You need a plan." followed by two paragraphs of text. To the right of the video is a vertical list of colorful buttons: "Why Work?", "What Do I Want to Do?", "What Can I Do?", "Getting Experience", "How Do I Get the Job?", "Can I Get Help?", and "Getting to Work". At the bottom right, there is a "youth journal" logo with the text "real life stories by our youth 'bloggers'". The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Error on page." and "Internet". The Windows taskbar at the very bottom includes icons for Start, Internet Explorer, and various applications, with the system clock showing 3:24 PM.

What's inside?

Connect-Ability - Bringing Connecticut's Employers and People with Disabilities Together - Why - Microsoft Internet Explorer

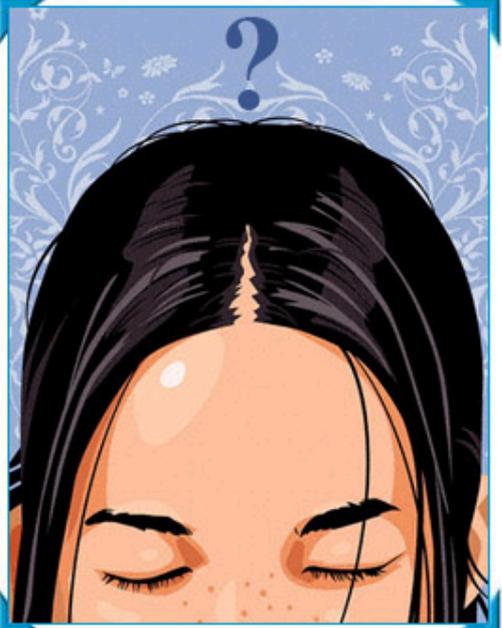
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media Print Mail

Address http://www.connect-ability.com/for_youth/why_work.php Go Links

Career Center Transportation For Employers For youth For Parents

Home / For Youth / Why Work?



Why Work?

So why is it important to have a job or a career? Here are six great reasons:

1. A good day is a pay day. If you have a job or a career, you can earn money. And if you can earn money, you can buy things you need, pay your bills, have a place to live, and basically do things you want to do. Without money, you can't do much!

Next >

- Why Work?
- What Do I Want to Do?
- What Can I Do?
- Getting Experience
- How Do I Get the Job?
- Can I Get Help?
- Getting to Work

Start | Internet | 3:54 PM

Website Parent Section

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the 'Connect-Ability' website. The browser's address bar shows the URL http://www.connect-ability.com/for_parents/forParents.php. The website's header features the 'connect-ability' logo with the tagline 'See the ability. See how we can work together.' and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with buttons for 'Career Center', 'Transportation', 'For Employers', 'For Youth', and 'For Parents'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a list of links: 'Why Work?', 'What Do I Want To Do?', 'What Can I Do?', 'Getting Experience', 'How Do I Get The Job?', 'Can I Get Help?', and 'Getting To Work'. The right column features a large image of a man in a light blue shirt talking to a group of children, with the caption 'A PERSON WHO BUILDS A PLAYGROUND'. Below this image is a section titled 'Connect a Friend' with the text: 'Your son or daughter is about to experience the rewards of becoming a member of the workforce and contributing to the community.' and a link 'Get them connected'. The browser's status bar at the bottom shows 'Done, but with errors on page.' and the system tray includes the Start button, taskbar icons for various applications, and the system clock showing 3:36 PM.

What's Inside

Connect-Ability - Bringing Connecticut's Employers and People with Disabilities Together - For - Microsoft Internet Explorer p

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address http://www.connect-ability.com/for_parents/forParents.php Go

Media Gallery | About Connect-Ability | News | Contact Us

connect-ability See the ability. See how we can work together. Enter Keyword Search >

Career Center Transportation For Employers For Youth For Parents

Home / For Parents

- Why Work?
- What Do I Want To Do?
- What Can I Do?
- Getting Experience
- How Do I Get The Job?
- Can I Get Help?
- Getting To Work



A PERSON WHO BUILDS A PLAYGROUND

Connect a Friend

Do you know a friend or colleague who might be interested in Connect-Ability?
[Get them connected](#)

Did you get connected?

Your son or daughter is about to experience the rewards of becoming a member of the workforce and contributing to the community.

He or she will learn new skills, meet new people, have new experiences, and, of course, earn money. The transition to work can be exciting and challenging for any young person. You can

Done Internet

Website: Employer Section

Connect-Ability - Bringing Connecticut's Employers and People with Disabilities Together - For - Microsoft Internet Explorer p

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address http://www.connect-ability.com/for_employers/employer.php Go

Media Gallery | About Connect-Ability | News | Contact Us

connect-ability See the ability. See how we can work together.

Enter Keyword Search >

Career Center Transportation For Employers For Youth For Parents

Home / For Employers

- Building Diversity
- Recruitment
- Hiring
- Evaluating the Workplace
- Retention
- Become a Top Employer
- Employer Resources
- Q & A
- ADA ABC'S
- Myths and Facts
- Support For Employers
- Working Together



A PERSON WHO KEEPS A COMPANY RUNNING

Connect a Colleague

Do you know a friend or colleague who might be interested in Connect-Ability?
[Get them connected](#)

Did you get

At Connect-Ability, we focus on the ability of all. That includes employers.

There are many advantages for businesses who hire people with disabilities. Not only will a company be able to utilize the skills and superior qualifications of a very able worker; they will also achieve a more diverse workplace.

Done Internet

Website: Career Center

Connect-Ability - Bringing Connecticut's Employers and People with Disabilities Together - Care - Microsoft Internet Explorer p

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help



Address http://www.connect-ability.com/career_center/careerCenter.php Go

[Media Gallery](#) | [About Connect-Ability](#) | [News](#) | [Contact Us](#)

connect-ability

See the ability.
See how we can work together.

Search >

Career Center

Transportation

For Employers

For Youth

For Parents

[Home](#) / [Career Center](#)

> Search for a Job

- Why Work?
- Work and My Benefits
- What Do I Want to Do?
- What Can I Do?
- Paths to Success
- Getting Experience
- The Job Search
- Getting Help on the Job



A PERSON WHO SAVES HEMLOCKS

Connect a Friend

Do you know a friend or colleague who might be interested in Connect-Ability?

[Get them connected](#)

Did you get connected?

A new job starts with a dream...

Reaching that dream will involve hard work: gathering information, making connections, and pushing forward until you arrive at your destination.

Whether you have had a disability for years, or have recently experienced an illness or injury, your goal may appear out of reach. But all journeys are traveled one step at a time.

Done

Internet

Website: Transportation

Connect-Ability - Bringing Connecticut's Employers and People with Disabilities Together - Tran - Microsoft Internet Explorer p

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address <http://www.connect-ability.com/transportation/transportation.php> Go

Media Gallery | About Connect-Ability | News | Contact Us

connect-ability See the ability. See how we can work together.

Enter Keyword Search >

Career Center Transportation For Employers For Youth For Parents

Home / Transportation

- Public Transportation
- Options
- Owning and Modifying a Vehicle
- Transportation Glossary
- News



A PERSON WHO DRIVES A DUMP TRUCK WHO CAN'T WALK

Connect a Colleague

Do you know a friend or colleague who might be interested in Connect-Ability?
[Get them connected](#)

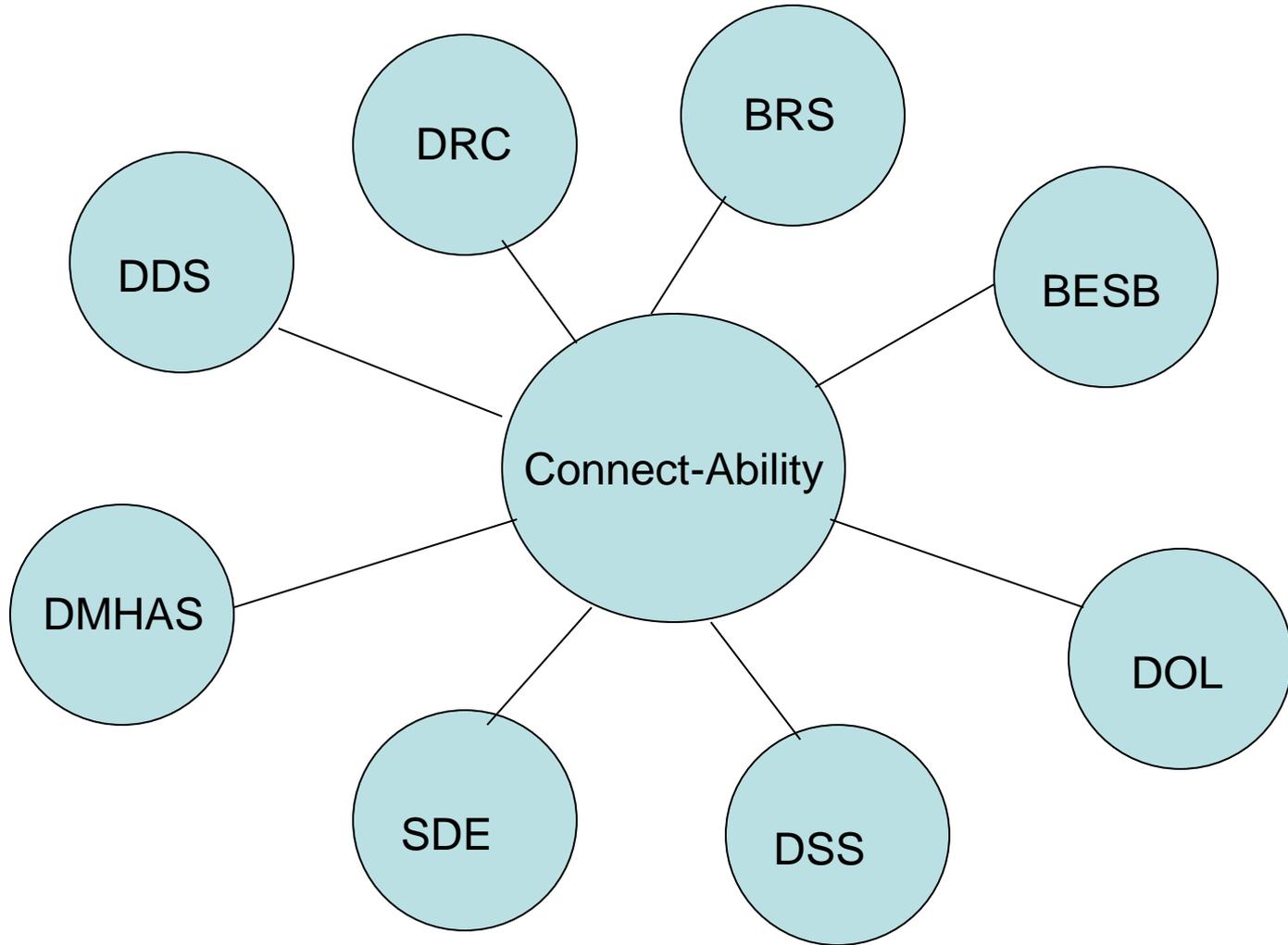
Did you get connected?

"I have a job, how can I get to it?"

Reliable transportation is important for everyone who needs to get to a job. Some people may wish to own and maintain their own vehicle. Others may choose to hire a reliable driver. If these options are too costly, many people use public transportation with great success. There are many ways you can get to your job. Just take a look at the options to find the one that works for you.

Done Internet

Organizational Structure in Practice



STATE AGENCIES

Partnership Model

- **Connect-Ability creates a partnership model**
 - **Brings state agencies and service providers together into a common system**
 - **Creates a single point of entry for job seekers and employers**

Challenge from the Governor

July 12, 2007 letter urges all state agencies to:

- **Become aware of Connect-Ability**
- **“Recognize the value of highly motivated and skilled people with disabilities as a key to a thriving workforce”**
- **Embed equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in not only our personnel practices, but in our daily outlook in our jobs**
- **Do all we can to connect individuals with disabilities to jobs in business, industry and government**

Challenge from the Governor

“...people with disabilities can be among the most valued workers in a company or organization when given the chance to put their skills to good use.

The challenge is to overcome the barriers that stop many people from getting jobs in the first place.”

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Your Ideas?

Contact Us

- www.connect-ability.com
- Info@connect-ability.com
- **1-866-844-1903**
- **Patti Clay, Connect-Ability**
School to Work Transition Workgroup Liaison

See the ability.

See how we can work together.

Helping Your College Student Prepare for Job Interviews

10 Tips for Career Planning

1. Encourage your child to visit Career Services (and don't be afraid to drop by yourself)
2. Advise your child to write a resume
3. Challenge your child to become “occupationally literate”
4. Allow your child to make the decision
5. Emphasize the importance of Internships

10 tips (con't)

6. Encourage extracurricular involvement
7. Persuade your child to stay up-to-date with current events
8. Expose your child to the world of work
9. Teach the value of networking (and help them to join a professional organization)
10. Help Career Services

Career Services Can Help

Make an appointment with a career counselor and obtain a copy of the SCSU Career Services Handbook online (careers.southernct.edu) or from the office in Schwartz Hall room 102.

- Four Year Career Plan
- Job Search Strategies
- Resume Samples
- Cover Letter Sample
- Thank You Letter Samples
- Interviewing Strategies
- Sample Interviewing Questions
- Steps to Choosing a Major
- Career Planning Information

Developing a Professional Portfolio

- Include a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and other career area appropriate samples of your work.
- Do not use a writing sample that has been written on by a professor, instead make any appropriate corrections and print a new copy.

Activity

- Review the job posting or job description and make a list of all the key characteristics or skills the job requires. Also, add your strengths to the list. Try to include at least 10 items on your list.
- For each skill on the list you have made write down a specific example of a time you used the skill successfully. For example:

Situation! Action! Result!

S In my Communication 100 class at SCSU, I worked with a team for 16 weeks to develop a presentation about how to improve something at the university.

A Our team conducted surveys of students, which I then analyzed, and determined that parking needed to be improved. I also worked with another team member to identify and contact engineers and contractors to assess the cost and feasibility of building more parking garages on campus.

R Because of my strong research skills and our group's ability to work well together, our team not only earned an A+ on the project but we were also asked to present our research to the university parking committee who ultimately decided to implement one of our suggestions.

Practice Makes Perfect

- Choose your 5 best stories and use them to convey the type of employee you can be when you are on an interview!
- Role play with a career counselor, family member, or friend.
- Try the Perfect Interview at Career Services.

Dressing for the Interview - Men

Photos

Dressing for the Interview - Women

Photos

Do Dress for Success

- **DO try on your outfit BEFORE the day of the interview or Career Fair.**
- **DO wear a dark colored conservative suit.**
- **DO wear moderate, comfortable, and clean dress shoes.**
- **DO be well groomed, get a fresh trim.**
- **DO bring a portfolio, or a briefcase, pad, and pen.**
- **DO wear properly fitted clothes and undergarments (no peek-a-boos).**
- **DO have nails manicured and trimmed. Neutral or clear nail polish only.**

Don't Let Your Fashion Choices Cost You the Job

- **DON'T wear fads or casual fabrics like leather and denim.**
- **DON'T wear loud colors, or that fish multi-colored tie you got for your birthday.**
- **DON'T use too much hair spray or gel.**
- **DON'T wear flashy jewelry or facial piercings.**
- **DON'T bring a purse and a briefcase. Choose only one.**
- **DON'T overdo the perfume or cologne. You may want to skip it completely since many people have allergies to fragrances.**
- **DON'T dress like you are going out for a night on the town.**

You Don't have to Spend a Fortune

- Borrow from a friend or relative who wears the same size
- Shop consignment, e-bay, and Good Will for bargains
- You don't have to spend a lot to look polished and professional. Start shopping as much as a year before you begin the interviewing process to cash in on end of season values, get an idea of how much things cost and what stores you like.
- Watch the details. Having a suit properly tailored and good quality accessories goes a long way in giving a polished look.

Resources

- <http://www.connect-ability.com/>

What are soft skills?

1. Communication – being able to communicate with internal and external clients both spoken and in writing
2. Collaboration – being able to play well with others
3. Self Starter – don't wait to be told what to do – find something or ask
4. Commitment and Ownership – of your actions and the interactions you have with those around you
5. Integrity – arrive on the job site on time, have a clarity of purpose as to why you are working
6. Straight Talk – own up to your mistakes, everyone makes them
7. Teamwork – understand how to lead and motivate a team
8. Decisiveness – Being able to make tough decisions without all the data and then acting upon the decision once you made it
9. Constructive Risk Taking – Understanding risk, how to take risks, when to take risks, and what insurance do you have on the side in case it doesn't work out
10. Selling – you have to be able to convey your ideas to your peers to get their buy in so having a little bit of a "sales" mentality will help
11. Understanding what others do – look beyond your own "academic clan" to be able to see the entire picture
12. Understanding "Delayed Gratification" – You don't always get rewarded every time you do something well

As you look to move into the workforce, which of these "soft skills" do you possess? Which ones need a little more work?

Submitted by: Judy Brobst, Career Center Liaison, College of Natural Sciences, Colorado State University, November 11, 2009

TOP SOFT SKILLS Desired by Employers

- Show up for work every day and on time
- Be able to work effectively in teams
- Demonstrate initiative; ask for more work when finished
- Be flexible; take on new assignments with a positive attitude
- Provide good customer service to both internal and external customers
- Take pride in doing a good job; demonstrate a can-do attitude
- Demonstrate high personal standards
- Report to work in appropriate attire
- Be able to resolve conflicts in the workplace
- Be eager to learn

From:

Jobweb.com-Career Development and job-search advice for new college graduates

Top 10 Qualities Employers Seek

1. Communication skills (verbal and written)
2. Honesty/integrity
3. Teamwork skills (works well with others)
4. Interpersonal skills (relates well to others)
5. Motivational/initiative
6. Strong work ethic
7. Analytical skills
8. Flexibility/adaptability
9. Self-confidence
10. Organizational skills

Why Work? Why Now?

Other Resources and Ideas for Planning the Workshop

Make the students into employers. Have them think about who they would hire.

Have a panel of upperclassmen and graduates to talk about how they found their jobs.

Have a Prep Rally where students can prepare resumes, refine interviewing skills, go to a job fair, and practice (or maybe even get a job).

Build a strong partnership between your career center, assistive technology center, the local independent living center, employers, municipal government, the Connecticut Business Leadership Network, and the area vocational rehabilitation agency.

Create internship placements.

Additional resources:

Summer jobs:

http://kidshealth.org/teen/school_jobs/jobs/summer_job.html#cat20180

Internships in science and mathematics especially for people with disabilities:

<http://ehrweb.aaas.org/entrypoint/>