



# HOW DID OUR COMMUNITY ADAPT TO THE PHASEOUT OF SHELTERED WORKSHOPS?

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# HISTORY

- Years ago, when a student with disabilities graduated from high school many times their work options were only at a workshop/work center
- The workshop/work centers provided daily routines of work-type activities
- Many times, the work activities were only done inside that building and contracted with community businesses
- The participating individuals received sub-minimum wage payment
- Payment was based on a contract formula

# EMPLOYMENT FIRST LEGISLATION

- Delaware chose to be an Employment First State
- Employment First means Delaware has a goal of Competitive Integrated Employment for all, including individuals with disabilities
- Competitive Integrated Employment =
  - Individual is paid at least minimum wage by employer
  - Work hours/days can accommodate individual needs
  - Individual works with all employees, not in separated work areas

# MOVING FORWARD

- Impacts students transitioning from school and adults transitioning from workshops to community integrated employment
- Access community resources
  - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
  - Division of Visual Impairment (DVI)
  - Division of Development Disability Services (DDDS)
  - Department of Education (DOE)
- Utilize various tools (e.g., Positive Personal Profile / Visioning) to continue path towards competitive integrated employment

# PREPARATION TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT

- Build your individualized transition team.  
Possible members:
  - DVR Counselors
  - DDDS Columbus Navigators / Pathways to Employment
  - DVI Counselors
  - School transition staff – Educational Diagnostician, Transition Specialist, Teachers
  - Family friend / relative

Meet with Vendor to follow visioning ideas for career pathway

- Job development
- Job coaching



# ALLEN'S SUCCESS STORY!





Questions?

