The “Journey to Successful Employment” Program

Offers:

- Career and Educational Assessment
- An Aboriginal Alternative Learning Program
- Structure of Intellect and Sensory Integration Training
- Computer lab
- Essential Workplace Skills
- On the job work experience
- An innovative and proven learning strategy in a safe environment

Mission

This program is designed to provide innovative solutions to those struggling to find or keep a job. The instructors’ goal is to identify and respect individual learning styles and to provide strategies and resources for participant success. This program was designed to give hope to those who haven’t had the opportunity of expressing their full potential.

Program Description

The program will assist participants to participate in skills development projects by providing basic literacy and essential skills training as well as other services addressing the specific needs of participants to facilitate and expedite their transition to employment.

Goals

- To provide a safe and culturally appropriate environment.
- To provide an innovative teaching model for adult learners to meet participant learning needs.
- To assess the learning needs of participants.
- To provide innovative and proven remedial strategies to develop underdeveloped or undeveloped skills.
- To provide tools for participants to identify their strengths and passions.
- To provide a positive workplace experience.
**Program Components**

1. **Structure of Intellect (SOI)**

SOI assesses twenty-six separate learning abilities and provides a learning profile of strengths and areas that are underdeveloped or undeveloped. Based on this assessment, participants are provided with remedial booklets to enhance or develop comprehension, memory, problem solving, evaluation and creativity skills, which are critical for successful learning.

2. **Integrated Practice Protocol (IPP) (Sensory Integration Program)**

It may seem odd to think that standing on a balance board would have any connection at all with improving learning abilities but it does. The brain must be able to organize information from all of the senses so that efficient learning happens. Sensory Integration exercises help the brain to do this. Participants utilize the IPP room each day to develop skills such as focusing, concentration, audio and visual memory and more.

3. **Literacy Program (Audiobook Reading) (AR)**

The AR program is a multi-sensory approach that opens the door to literacy. Participants listen to an audiobook while following along with the matching word-for-word text to increase speed of reading and overall comprehension. Participants will have options to select topics of interest.

4. **College Placement Assessment**

Every participant will have the opportunity to complete a college placement assessment to determine grade levels that can help with planning for further education or career choices.

5. **Guiding Circles**

Guiding Circles is an interactive, flexible and holistic career development program designed to guide individuals toward career paths. The workbooks combine a traditional Aboriginal approach with contemporary career development concepts to help the participant achieve career satisfaction, breakdown cultural barriers, develop support networks and better understand Aboriginal workforce challenges.

6. **Brain Gym**

Brain Gym movements bring about improvements in focus, comprehension, academic abilities and reduce stress in both learning and other areas of life.

7. **Contextualized Teaching and Learning**

Contextualized teaching and learning uses both hands-on learning and real world experiences. Participants learn by doing. Participants will have access to a toolbox of activities to apply to what they are learning. What you learn in the classroom can be applied to everyday life. Contextualized teaching and learning recognizes the participant’s knowledge base as the foundation to start or move forward with their learning.
8. Essential Skills

Essential Skills are the skills needed for work, learning and life. They provide the foundation for learning all other skills and enable people to evolve with their jobs and adapt to workplace change. Through extensive research, the Government of Canada has identified nine Essential Skills. These skills are used in nearly every occupation and throughout daily life in different ways and include: Reading Text, Document Use, Numeracy, Writing, Oral Communication, Working with Others, Continuous Learning, Thinking Skills and Computer Use.

9. Employability Skills

Employability Skills are the skills, attitudes and behaviours that you need to participate and progress in today’s dynamic world of work. They include: communication, problem solving, positive attitudes and behaviours, and adaptability. Understanding and applying these skills will help you enter, stay in, and progress in the world of work.

10. Workplace Readiness and Experience and Leadership

- Resume and cover letter writing
- Interviewing skills and preparation
- Cross cultural sensitivity training
- Getting along with others
- Workplace ethics and expectation
- Attitude at work
- On-going support and mentorship
- Continuous learning through self direction
- Know your Rights

Additional Programs Available

- Family support and grief counseling
- Alcohol and drug counseling
- Pre natal and Early Childhood Development support
- Housing resources
- Primary Health Clinic
- On-going support during and after program.

Program Structure

Three months in classroom setting:

Mornings: Sensory integration work, remedial modules, reading and math program.
Afternoons: Guiding Circles, core skills, personal and social skills, career options, self development and workplace transferability.

Certificate programs: First Aid, Foodsafe, WHIMIS, Computer Training

**Three months on-the-job experience.**

**Personal Commitment**

This is a drug and alcohol free environment.

Each participant must be committed to participating in the assessment and remedial processes as well as other program activities and expectations. Participants will be asked to sign a contract agreeing to program guidelines.

**Program Benefits**

- Living allowance: $315 per week for six months
- Transportation costs as needed
- Day care costs as needed
- Workplace equipment as needed
- Criminal Record Check (if required by employer)

**Eligibility**

Aboriginal adults 17 years and older experiencing unemployment, underemployment, on income assistance or experiencing barriers in finding or keeping employment are eligible for this program.

**Service Information:**

- Assessments: Mid August 2010
- “Journey to Successful Employment: Program:
  - Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Penticton
  - Personal assignments
  - Allowance based on attendance
**Program Referrals:**

Application and referral for this program can be made through the following Employment Services offices:

- **Okanagan Indian Band:** 250-542-4328 #209  jenny.louis@okanagan.org
- **First Nations Emp. Serv. - Vernon:** 250-558-3345  fnesvernon@shawbiz.ca
- **Westbank First Nation:** 250-768-0227 #220  pmorven@wfn.ca
- **Ki-Low-Na Friendship Ctr:** 250-763-4905 #221  employment@kfs.bc.ca
- **Penticton Indian Band:** 250-770-3210 #132  gkruger@plib.ca
- **Ooknakane Friendship Ctr - Penticion:** 250-490-3504  rlterbasket@friendshipcentre.ca
- **Lower Similkameen Indian Band:** 250-499-2705 #103  eas@lsib.net
- **Osoyoos Indian Band:** 250-498-6935  jfeist@oib.ca

**For further information, contact the “Journey to Successful Employment“ Program:**

- **Vernon:** 778-475-5999  email: marilynjourney@shawbiz.ca  lorrainejourney2shawbiz.ca
- **Oliver:** 250-498-5570  email: s.falkus@gmail.com  jgoodsky@gmail.com