

Unity Special Education Board Report

May 2024

Hospitality Foundations Program at Northwood Technical College



High School Senior, Mandi Daniels, is shown above learning new skills at Not Justa Cafe in New Richmond, Wisconsin.

Unity School District supports students who will benefit from the Hospitality Foundations program at Northwood Technical College. The program is designed for students with intellectual disabilities or other learning challenges. Enrolled students attend a 16-week short-term technical diploma program in New Richmond that includes classroom learning, on-site job experiences, and coaching. The program prepares students for entry-level hospitality and customer service jobs through interactive training and community-based experiences. Graduates learn to identify personal strengths and transferable skills, apply employability skills, and demonstrate customer service abilities. They also identify and correct workplace environmental issues. Some past graduates of the program have even been offered positions upon graduation.

Transition Readiness Grant

Unity School District applied for the Transition Readiness Grant sponsored by the Department of Public Instruction. The grant is designed to help Wisconsin students with disabilities transition smoothly to competitive work and post-secondary education after high school. The district is competing for funding to implement evidence-based practices supporting successful transitions for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The state awards \$1.5 million to school districts for transportation options, Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Training Programs, post-secondary tuition and student support, and transition training for staff members. Unity School District requested approximately \$60,000. Thank you to high school teacher Jaime Weness for generating ideas and Kara Holden for helping with the financials. The district will find out in July 2024 if the grant will be awarded.

