H421F240044
University Of South Florida

INPUTS

- Expertise- Vocational Rehabilitation; Transition Services; Virtual Reality (VR); Artificial Intelligence; Web Design; Apprenticeships; Assistive Technology
- Partnerships - State and local Vocational Rehabilitation; Department of Education; Hillsborough County Schools; Self-advocates; Families; Employers; CareerSource; U-Mass Boston ICI
- Project Advisory Committee
- State of the art technology/ equipment
- Funding

ACTIVITIES

Develop a VR-enhanced job training program

- Prepare a skilled trades job training program that uses VR technology and refine through evaluations, analysis, and iterative feedback.
- Develop a replication and AI-assisted technical assistance (TA) strategy for scaling/sustainability.

Deliver program to participants

- Recruit and enroll participants.
- Deliver DIVE-VRT and employment-focused soft skills curriculum.
- Administer certification exams.
- Provide placement and support in applied learning experiences (internships, apprenticeships) and in obtaining CIE.
- Connect participants to additional job search and placement supports.

Develop a project website

- Present a guide and course for replicating the model to include additional skilled technical trades.
- Provide Tier 1 TA using AI technology and Tier 2 TA through human interaction.
- Train employers about the benefits of hiring IWD and other relevant topics.

OUTPUTS

- # of marketing materials developed
- # of information sessions
- # of participants reporting high satisfaction with the training/certification

- # of participants recruited
- # of participants enrolled
- # of participants trained
- # of participants certified
- # of participants completing applied experiences
- # of employers providing applied experiences
- # of participants receiving job coaching and support post-CIE placement

- # of website visits
- # of downloads
- # of employers engaged
- # of employers trained
- # of resources identified and posted/linked

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

- Increased participant skills in a specific trade and in soft skills needed to be successful within the workforce.
- Participants apply for CIE in skilled trades.
- Increased employer understanding of creating a disability friendly workplace.
- More employers become acquainted with hiring IWD.
- Increased number of employers providing applied experiences.
- Increased understanding of how to replicate the DIVE-VRT model among agencies and organizations.
- Increased capacity to implement the model, as well as improved understanding of important dimensions leading to development of replication process.

MEDIUM-TERM OUTCOMES

- Participants enter CIE with industry-relevant certifications.
- Employers hire participants once they are trained and certified in a skilled trade.
- Relevant agencies and organizations replicate the DIVE-VRT model.
- Project website becomes a knowledge repository.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

- More IWD in CIE within the skilled trades.
- Increased wage outcomes for IWD.
- More employers hiring IWD in high-growth skilled trades.
- Decrease unmet workforce need for workers in skilled trades.
- More agencies and organizations utilizing advanced technology (i.e., VR, AI) to train IWD in preparation for CIE.