



“ETC.” NEWSLETTER

“YOUR VISION IS OUR MISSION”

JAN. 2022

Cheers to a New Year and New Goals!!! (Story in the words of the client)

Hello, my name is B.S. I am currently a student at Portland Community College. I am studying to become a disability rights advocate, with a focus on disability leadership. I plan to transfer to Portland State University to earn a major in general social sciences, and a minor in business. I have been totally blind since birth, and can see light perception, but no visible colors nor objects.

My passion for disability advocacy comes from businesses and organizations that are improving the lives of people with disabilities in unique and one-of-a-kind ways. While I was attending a virtual summer work program for the blind in the summer of 2020, I got to interview the staff at an organization called Community Vision, which thrives to help people of all abilities to live and work in the communities of their choice in the state of Oregon.

When I heard about their on-going Seven Corners Collaborative initiative, that consists of seven branches of disability inclusion under the roof of one universally designed building, I was very fascinated and extremely pleased at how up-to-date and passionate they were about their work.

After I completed spring term at PCC, I wrote a letter to Community Vision and attached a copy of my most recent resumé. I told them that I am looking into becoming a disability advocate and that my drive is from working on behalf of people with disabilities in one-of-a-kind ways that have never been thought of

before. Within a few days, the staff at Community Vision responded with great enthusiasm, saying that there was available work in one of the seven branches that make up the Seven Corners Collaborative, the Assistive Technology Lab, abbreviated as the AT Lab.

Before starting, I was helped with making this experience a paid work experience via the Galt Foundation and I was also given a Job coach to assist me as needed, provided by Exceed Enterprises. Without my Job coach I don't know what I would do if I needed help with visual tasks, which come into play with the three projects I'm working on this summer. The three projects are looking at the overall accessibility on the AT Lab website, testing free GPS navigation apps for the blind and visually impaired, and my most exciting project, researching ADA accessible recycling bins across the city of Portland.

I have not yet started all three of these projects, and I don't mind if they're incomplete or in progress when I resume college in the fall. I'm simply excited about my job because I know I'm improving the lives of my people on a large scale, with no end nor sense of completion in sight. I always think that there is room for improvement when it comes to improving accessibility for people with disabilities in all areas of life.

Update: B.S was being supported by an Exceed job coach Katurah with his internship. During his internship Katurah assisted him with filling out weekly timesheets that were not accessible with his software. She also acted as his eyes to explain what she was seeing on the websites that he was testing so that he

could determine if the accessibility features were accurate, he then provided feedback to Community Vision. Exceed wants to Congratulate B.S. his internship and advocacy path...you are making a difference for your peers!!! 😊



Jared B.	1/1
Shannon K.	1/1
Sylvia B.	1/1
Michael M.	1/6
Robert A.	1/8
Alex D.	1/9
Tanya E.	1/11
Nathan B.	1/13
Micah D.	1/16
Ross E.	1/17
Kyle S.	1/18
Heidi F.	1/24
Andrew V.	1/25
Mike S.	1/25
Mason S.	1/26
Deanna P.	1/27
Jose R.	1/27
Robert L.	1/28
Rex Y.	1/30



New Employment Path and Small Group Job Opportunities

Please reach out to Gina Leatherwood at ginal@exceedpdx.com if you are interested in learning more about open positions.



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