



WORLD INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY

3075 Adeline Street • Suite 155 • Berkeley CA 94703-2577 • (510) 225-6400 • <http://www.wid.org>

Evidence Supporting the Employment Empowerment Curriculum

This content was first taught to students with disabilities at the University of California, Berkeley. This same course was later taught by different instructors at San Diego State University and Cal State University, Fullerton. The Kessler Foundation of New Jersey provided a grant to research the impact of this course on the students with disabilities at all three universities over a two year time frame. As a result of this research, the evidence below suggests that the lessons of this course make a significant difference in both the employment readiness and outcomes of those who studied it.

The table below shows you the learning achieved by the students with disabilities.

How Students Felt About These Factors Before and After Taking This Course	Before – Positive	After - Positive
Believed disability is an asset to employers	31.6%	90.9%
Felt unprepared for work or not having a career plan	51.6%	10.7%
Were able to answer "what work do you hope for?"	46.8%	92.3%
Knew workplace values	34.6%	76.3%
Felt comfortable in job interviews	19.9%	86.0%
Felt comfortable working with people	38.5%	87.1%
Felt comfortable speaking about accomplishments	24.2%	87.1%
Felt comfortable sharing thoughts freely	34.4%	88.6%
Understood what employers are looking for	32.5%	93.8%
Believed it would be hard to get job with disability	67.5%	19.1%
Able to demonstrate leadership skills	44.2%	84.6%
Felt comfortable discussing accommodation needs with employers	26.6%	85.1%
Understood and were ready to respond to employer' fears about hiring persons with disabilities.	28.2%	94.6%
Know disability laws	26.3%	93.9%
Believed employers will want to hire them	29.1%	93.1%
Believed disability is a source of pride	65.5%	91.6%

But even more importantly, "Did these students get jobs?"

Well, they did. In fact, the data from this research study tells us that they got jobs at more than twice the rate of other students with disabilities. Plus, the student completing the course got jobs at about the same labor force participation rate as ALL other youth (without disabilities) in their age range.