

# Transition Works

*Where your future begins*

## Nebraska VR

Nebraska Department of Education

## Learning to Earn: Macy Munderloh

Macy Munderloh, a West Point High School student, first learned about Nebraska VR from her teacher, Mrs. Rood, during her junior year of high school. After her first meeting with Nebraska VR Pre-Employment Transition Services Coordinator Misti Halsey, Macy had a great first impression. She saw the advantage of Pre-Employment Transition Services to be helping high school students begin to explore different types of jobs. Macy experiences a learning disability that makes it difficult to stay focused and on-task. This sometimes makes it difficult for Macy to understand what is expected in a workplace setting.

Before helping Macy with the job exploration, Misti learned about Macy's skills and interests, instructed her in self-advocacy, and provided her with work readiness training. They also practiced skills for interacting with co-workers and supervisors. When out in her community, Macy got the opportunity to complete two job shadows at Graybeal's Food and Hy-Vee Dollar Fresh. During a work-based learning experience (WBLE) at the Hillside Villa Nursing Home, she gained hands-on experience working in a variety of different positions. She started in the dining area serving the residents and setting up dining tables. She then transferred to the laundry area and worked in the kitchen.

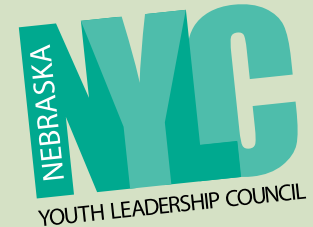


*~Macy Munderloh*

When asked how it felt to be in a work environment, Macy stated "it felt great, and I liked it a lot. I liked that I could meet new people that I can trust, and I have had really good support from my boss." Macy is also proud she can be a better self-advocate after practice and role-playing exercises with Nebraska VR. "I can tell my supervisor what I want and need. It's a little hard, but I know I can do it."

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## Opportunity Knocks



The Nebraska State Leadership Council (NYLC) seeks students to participate in a unique opportunity to:

- Meet others who experience a disability
- Make friends
- Develop communication and life skills
- Gain confidence
- Learn how to self-advocate

The NYLC Mission:

"The NYLC was created "by youth for youth". We are leaders and advocates who experience a disability. We travel the state promoting disability awareness and educating our peers on transitioning to college or work."

To learn more about the NYLC, go to their website at: <http://nylc.nebraska.gov/>



# Learning to Earn: Macy Munderloh

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Macy explained some of the most important things she learned, "I need to do a better job of sweeping and cleaning up before I leave. I also learned to be totally honest all the time, respect other's feelings, and be respectful to my supervisor so that I can trust them, and they will trust me." Macy shared she thought her supervisor would describe her as someone who is kind, caring, respectful, and takes good care of the residents.

Since first meeting Macy, Misti observed a great deal of growth and maturity in Macy. She is now able to focus and work on the task at-hand.

The Hillside Villa Nursing Home said, "We are thrilled that we are able to provide these opportunities and have truly enjoyed working with Macy." When asked if they would recommend other businesses host a WBLE, they said "Absolutely!"

The WBLE at Hillside Villa was so successful she received a job offer after the experience was over and is now employed at the care facility. Her job is to serve residents, wash dishes, put them away, and she helps cook when needed to fry hamburgers and plate desserts.



## Employers Speak

Strong partnerships with businesses and organizations in communities across Nebraska are key to providing opportunities for students to explore career choices and develop employability skills. We've asked one of these partners to provide some insight as a WBLE host.

### How were you introduced to Nebraska VR?

Currently four schools (Madonna, Omaha Public Schools, Westside Schools, and Ralston Schools) come to our hospital for work experience learning.

### How were you introduced to the student?

Through their prospective schools.

### What were some of the work duties during the WBLE?

Students learn duties with our Environmental Services (Housekeeping), Central Supply (stocking and pulling orders), Supplies and Linen (stocking nurse servers on the floor with a set guide of supplies and linen for patient rooms), Food Services (cleaning eating areas, prepping food, and more), and other special projects.

### What did the student do well from the beginning?

Each student learns the layout of the hospital so they are able to find their way around. They will then learn the baseline duties of housekeeping (changing toilet paper, paper towels, soap, hand sanitizers, vacuuming, dusting, trash, washing windows, and more). Once they are comfortable with these duties, they will learn other parts of Environmental Services, Food Services, Central Supply, and about stocking the nurse servers.

### What surprised you about the experience?

The students each have their own strengths and talents. Experiencing different areas help them find what they are good at and what would be a potential future career for them.

### How do you feel about your role in preparing a student for the future?

It is amazing working with the students. I feel they teach us just as much as we teach them in the workplace. They are an essential part of our team and we want to help them with their future.

Tammy Rivera, Supervisor

CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center Bergan Mercy Hospital,  
Omaha

## Connect with Us

Nebraska VR provides Pre-Employment Transition Services for students with disabilities. We partner with parents, schools, and employers to help students prepare for the future. Transition Works, published by Nebraska VR, is intended for students with disabilities and their families, as well as educators.

### Physical Address:

500 South 84th, 2nd Floor  
Lincoln, NE 68510-2611

### Mailing Address:

PO Box 94987  
Lincoln, NE 68509  
Toll Free: 877-637-3422

Find additional resources for students at: [vr.nebraska.gov/students](http://vr.nebraska.gov/students).

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