

# INNOVATIVE VOCATIONAL TRAINING STRATEGIES

**2019 Arkansas Waiver Association Conference**  
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and Laura Wierick, M.Ed.




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**ACCESS®** is a 501c3 nonprofit founded in 1994 offering:

- ACCESS Early Childhood Program
- ACCESS Academy
- ACCESS Therapy
- ACCESS Academic Therapy
- Vocation Innovation Project
- ACCESS Life
- Project SEARCH® Arkansas: ACCESS Initiative in Partnership with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
- Waiver
- ACCESS Evaluation and Resource Center
- ACCESS Gardens
- ACCESS Ceramic

**ACCESS Stella Boyle Smith Early Childhood Campus** 10618 Breckenridge Drive in Little Rock, AR  
**ACCESS Academy and Young Adult Campus and AERC** 1500 N. Mississippi Street in Little Rock, AR




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Governor's Council on  
Developmental Disabilities  
Inclusion. Integration. Independence.



## THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT

To create a path to independent living through competitive integrated employment and promote healthy lifestyles for individuals with developmental disabilities.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

ACCESS employs more than ten individuals with developmental disabilities, some who have come full circle receiving services from ACCESS when they were in preschool.

[www.ACCESSGroupInc.org](http://www.ACCESSGroupInc.org)

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**OBJECTIVE 1:** HOW TO USE ESTABLISHED CURRICULUMS EFFICIENTLY AND MODIFY THEM TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR POPULATION.

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**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO RE-INVENT THE WHEEL!**



There are great curriculums out there, but it is important to modify them to meet the needs of your clientele.

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## MODIFYING CURRICULUM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

ACCESS uses various established curriculums to supplement our Vocation Innovation Project (VIP)



### DID YOU KNOW?

ACCESS is an approved vendor for Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreETS) through Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS).

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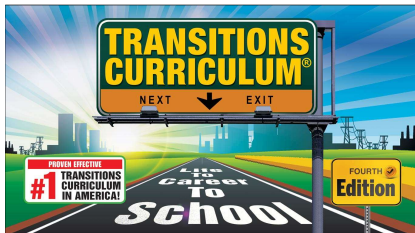
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## SOME CURRICULUMS WE LIKE: James Stanfield®



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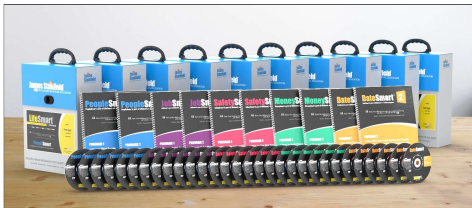
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## SOME CURRICULUMS WE LIKE: James Stanfield®



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## ABOUT THE JAMES STANFIELD LIFESMART CURRICULUM:

**SafetySmart** – Safety at home and in the community

**JobSmart** – How to communicate, dress, and work at your job

**MoneySmart** – Saving and spending strategies, budgeting, etc.

**PeopleSmart** – Building appropriate and effective social skills

### CURRICULUM OUTLINE:

- Video instruction
- Discussion
- Role Play
- Implementation




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## MODIFYING CURRICULUM FOR ACCESS LIFE (ADULT PROGRAM)



### DID YOU KNOW?

Most day-programs do not utilize a curriculum.




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## MODIFYING CURRICULUM FOR ACCESS LIFE (ADULT PROGRAM)

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|-----------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Mindfulness   | ▪ Problem Solving   |
| ▪ Goal Setting  | ▪ Honesty           |
| ▪ Personalities | ▪ Feelings          |
| ▪ Values        | ▪ Responsibilities  |
| ▪ Budgeting     | ▪ CPR and First Aid |




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## MODIFYING CURRICULUM FOR THE ACCESS HORTICULTURE PROGRAM




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**OBJECTIVE 2:** HOW ON-CAMPUS ENTERPRISES CAN BE UTILIZED FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.




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**ON-CAMPUS ENTERPRISES**



ACCESS Gardens | ACCESS Ceramics | ACCESS School Store

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### ACCESS GARDENS

#### Skills learned:

- Growing and caring for plants
- Inventory
- Maintaining the greenhouse
- Customer service
- Sales using a cash register

Individuals working in the ACCESS horticulture department receive competitive wages in an integrated work-setting made possible by grant funds from the GCDD.




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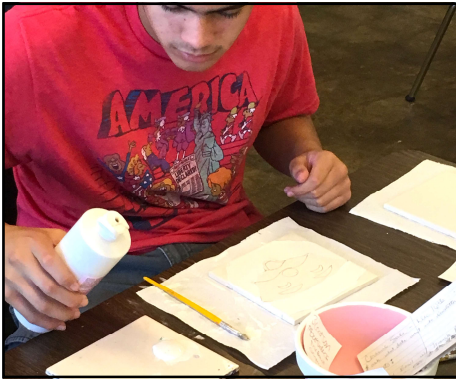
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### ACCESS CERAMICS

#### Skills learned:

- Inventory
- Maintaining supplies
- Customer service
- Sales
- Painting and firing of ceramics




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### ACCESS SCHOOL STORE

#### Skills learned:

- Inventory
- Rotating stock
- Maintaining supplies
- Customer service among peers and adults
- Sales
- Money management




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## ON-CAMPUS ENTERPRISES ARE THE GATEWAY TO OFF-CAMPUS JOBS.




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**OBJECTIVE 3:** WHY MELDING  
SOFT-SKILLS TRAINING AND  
WORK-BASED OPPORTUNITIES  
WILL HELP INCREASE  
INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY  
OF LIFE.




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## TEACHING SOFT-SKILLS OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM



Life skills as part of the environment – ACCESS has made a **culture of inclusion and support.**




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## TEACHING SOFT-SKILLS IN THE COMMUNITY

Community engagement including volunteerism

- Community plant sales
- Arkansas Food Bank
- Little Rock park clean up
- 10 Fitness
- Library
- Grocery store




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## THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS




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 **QUESTIONS?**

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