

DEI/ISY Success Story

Workforce Challenge –

Lee was involved in a firearm accident when he was 17. In the accident, he lost one eye and had suffered long-term memory loss. His vision was 20/600 and eyeglasses did little to improve his vision. He lived in a very small town and had isolated himself since the accident which led to periods of depression. He was reliant on others for his transportation because of his visual impairment. Vocational Rehabilitation referred him at the age of 18 to Kansas WorkforceONE in the hopes that our programs could collaborate to assist this young man. He attended his first appointment with an Employment Specialist because “VR told him to”. He had no goals beyond earning his high school diploma and at that point still had 3 classes to complete of his junior year and all of his senior classes. He was very bright, but because of the trauma he endured, his motivation to achieve personal and educational goals was lacking.

Workforce Solution –

Most appointments with Lee were held in conjunction with Vocational Rehabilitation in an effort to provide a wraparound approach for Lee. After a few appointments he started to become excited that we could assist him with a part-time work experience and provide him with a job coach to help him transition into employment. Lee had aspirations of attending college before the accident and we helped him realize that this was a goal that was still achievable. While finishing his high school classes, Lee started working part-time in his hometown through a work experience. After completing high school, Vocational Rehabilitation and Kansas WorkforceONE pooled resources and services together to assist him in attending the Colorado Center for the Blind for 5 months. During his stay, they taught him all aspects of mobility, transportation, home management, problem solving and technology. All reports reflected that he did wonderful and was always eager to learn.

Outcomes & Benefits –

Today Lee is living in the Kansas City area and attending Johnson County Community College, where he is enrolled and completing his Associate of Applied Science in Game Development. He has always been interested in computers and gaming and this was his plan before his accident occurred. He currently shares an apartment with his mother but plans to one day live on his own, work full-time, and have a family. Through partnerships and Lee’s own diligence and hard work, his future looks bright as he enters the growing field of computer and application programming and development.