Assisting students with disabilities in the transition to adulthood . . .

Future Leader in the Making

The first time Chad came to IDS, he was soft spoken and so shy. You could tell he was smart and a thinker but you would never know it because he was quiet most of the time. Chad volunteered with IDS for about a year and worked on his advocacy and independence skills. In particular, he was charged with the task of riding the local bus system to Wal-mart by himself. As Chad did not have a car and neither did most of his suitmates and friends, he had trouble finding transportation to local stores. His parents live out of town so he was on his own. He reluctantly called and confirmed the local bus route and eventually took his first trip by himself. Well, a year later one of his fellow TRIAD AmeriCorps members was commenting on how Hattiesburg does not have any public transportation. Chad immediately responded “Yes, there is. Come to the computer and I will show you all the information.” Chad has become a leader and is sharing his knowledge with others. He has learned to be a self-advocate and is now advocating for others so they too can be independent.

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