

2017 PACTESP LIFE/WORK CHALLENGE AWARD RECIPIENT



Brian Yerger is enrolled in the Automotive Technology Program at SUN Area Technical Institute (SUN Tech) as a 13th year student, with the option to have his sending district hold his diploma so that he can attend SUN Tech to gain additional skills and work towards a certificate in Automotive Technology. He is a very social person and eager to learn. He has read the textbook from cover to cover, more times than he says he can remember.

He has maintained excellent attendance and grades in the 80s and 90s consistently in the program. His organizational skills have greatly improved and this year he has maintained a very organized and precise notebook. He understands that this is his “manual” for future jobs. He is academically capable, he cares about his work and sees the relevance of what he is learning. He eagerly participates in classroom discussion and has become an asset to the class and his peers; his classmates work on assignments with him because they know he understands complex material.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation provided driving instruction and now Brian has his license, which is needed to obtain his PA State Inspection License as part of the Automotive Technology Program requirements. He is working with a job coaching agency and will be employed in a short-term job earning a paycheck for the first time ever!

Brian has had many obstacles in his life including his family moving many times. He has had to work hard to develop appropriate social, decision making and organizational skills that will prepare him for the future. Brian is a truly resilient young man.

Brian was nominated by Wendy Chalmers, Resource Specialist, SUN Area Technical Institute.