Ready for Life Academy

INCLUSIVE COLLEGE PROGRAM

Transition program for people with special needs ages 18-26
Location: Calvin College
Re-established: January, 2017
Funding Partners: Tuition, Ready for Life Scholarship, MIable Account

PROGRAM FEATURES
• Interaction and involvement on a college campus with same age peers
• Lifelong learning model based on student’s individual goals
• Instruction in the core areas of transition by a certified special educator
• Participation in college classes
• Participation in campus activities
• Volunteer job placements on campus and in the community
• Community Living Support services for after school support, as requested
• Four-year program

PROGRAM VALUES
• Individual worth and value
• Lifelong learning model dedicated to:
  o Fostering interdependent community
  o Encouraging strong work skills
  o Cultivating gift-based character
• Inclusion
• Service learning
• Building purposeful relationships
• Promoting healthy lifestyle habits
• Advancing individual responsibility and citizenship

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS
• Diagnosed special need
• Completion of high school with certificate of completion or high school diploma
• Future goals of living independently and having paid employment
• Completed application
  o Copy of IEP and MET
  o Completed school referral form
  o Completed health form
• The following skills will be assessed during the interview:
  o Minimum 3rd grade comprehensive reading level
  o Basic money skills
  o Ability to cross streets safely
  o Knowledge of personal information
    ▪ Name, address, phone number, email address, etc.
  o Ability to write, type or dictate a paragraph
  o Calculator skills
  o Basic conversation skills
  o Beginning life skills
    ▪ Personal hygiene, basic meal prep, etc.
• Signed student guideline and policy handbook
• Parent/Guardian/Caregiver requirements
  o Willing to allow the RFL student the dignity of risk to make individual decisions and move around the campus and community without direct supervision.
  o Signed financial contract taking responsibility for the cost of tuition
  o Open communication with Ready for Life staff

OUTCOMES OF READY FOR LIFE ACADEMY
• Improved self-confidence, independence, communication skills and community awareness for Ready for Life students
• Skill learning and skills development for Ready for Life students
• Increase in maturity level for Ready for Life students
• Meaningful friendships between Ready for Life students and Calvin college students
• On-campus special education learning environment for Calvin college students
• Community commitment to inclusivity

STAFF

Emily Perton
Executive Director
emily.perton@rflnetwork.org
(616)248-3775 office
(616)550-5064 cell

Amber Gilliland
Instructor
amg35@calvin.edu
(630)940-9695 cell

Jamie Smits
CLS Coordinator /Classroom Assistant
jamie.smits@rflnetwork.org
(616)813-8708 cell

Mallory Dye
Social Worker
mallory.dye@rflnetwork.org
(317)670-4904 cell