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## MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: RYAN

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### WSA 14 – DAKOTA-SCOTT WORKFORCE SERVICES – SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### RYAN

Before becoming a youth participant Ryan was working with a transitional program that focused on teaching him basic living skills. Ryan applied to the Scott County Youth Program and expressed a strong interest in landscaping opportunities. The program was able to develop a worksite opportunity with a local employer engaged in organic farming and marketing.



Ryan began working at the farm and his supervisors took notice of his skills immediately. They noticed that he enjoyed this type of outdoor work and showed great interest in learning how to accomplish certain activities. He liked to work with his hands and Ryan stated “I have always wanted to work at a job where I can work outside and use my hands and my strength.”

Over time the supervisors were able to allow Ryan to expand his duties and work more independently. They stated that “At first Ryan needed to be given specific, short term tasks in order to keep him from getting distracted. Over the course of his internship he has progressed and is now able to work more on his own and can complete tasks without becoming distracted.”

Ryan was put in charge of mowing, weeding, planting, cleaning, mulching, and clearing the irrigation system. His supervisor stated that “He has a great attention to detail and is somewhat of a perfectionist.” He noted in his evaluation that Ryan has skills that would be valuable to an employer: “He has shown that he is punctual, dresses appropriately, always prepared for work, works well with others, takes direction well and always works to solve problems.”

Ryan stated that he enjoyed his internship and it has prepared him well for his future as a landscaper. He stated that “I have always wanted to work in landscaping. This internship has taught me skills and responsibilities that I will be able to use in the future. The skills and experience have showed me what it is actually like to work in this field.”

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Ryan has recently obtained his high school diploma and is now seeking employment opportunities. The youth program has helped him gain valuable work experience, job skills and excellent references that will serve him well in his job search.

### SERVICE PROVIDER CONTACT INFORMATION

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