

## 8. As a vocational rehabilitation counselor familiarize yourself with job placement issues and ASD.

This is a link to a document that the University of Missouri created in response to the need to assist people with ASD toward successful employment:

<http://www.dps.missouri.edu/Autism/Adult%20Autism%20&%20Employment.pdf>

## 9. As a vocational rehabilitation counselor, be aware of the on the job accommodations that are found in many success stories.

The Autism Society of Minnesota has developed an employment strategies brochure and manager's guide book designed to assist employers.  
<http://www.ausm.org/supportServices/employmentResources.asp>

Some suggestions include:

- » Clarify job expectations
- » Use visuals to instruct and organize
- » Communicate in a direct manner
- » Structure the workplace to avoid distractions or sensory overloads
- » Minimize multi-task assignments
- » Allow independent roles, assign a job mentor
- » Establish job routines
- » Work with a job coach

Other resources for supported and customized employment can be found at:  
<http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/5a-employment-autism.html>

## 10. Learn more about the Big Picture – the digital economy and economic development issues.

Look at these quick facts about the economic impact of the digital economy, an analysis by William Bronston, M.D., :  
<http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/8c-economic-impact.html>

Read this for an in-depth understanding of just how big the industry is and its implications:  
<http://www.theesa.com/>

Explore a new framework and Six Core Subjects for best educating students to align with global competitors:  
<http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/7-education-reform.html>



P21 Framework Definitions: [http://www.p21.org/documents/P21\\_Framework\\_Definitions.pdf](http://www.p21.org/documents/P21_Framework_Definitions.pdf)

See the efforts and gains of the state of California in tapping the potential of the digital economy. The progress is reviewed in this report from the Resources and Links section of California ICT Digital Literacy Assessments and Curriculum Framework Digital Literacy Pathways Report:  
<http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/pdf/10-DLP-ICT.pdf>

California Legislation Assembly Bill No. 2471:  
<http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/pdf/ab-2471.pdf>

Development of these products was financed in part by grant number G1001MNBS24 from the Department of Health and Human Services,

Administration on Developmental Disabilities, under provisions of Public Law 106-402. Content of these products does not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities or the Minnesota Department of Administration.

*Wondering how  
to find work for a  
smart, loyal, tech-  
savvy individual with  
Autism  
Spectrum ?  
Disorder ?*

*Top 10  
Actions for  
Vocational  
Rehabilitation  
Services*

**IT IS VITAL TO HELP INDIVIDUALS  
PREPARE FOR FUTURE CAREERS IN  
THE DIGITAL AGE**

1. As a vocational rehabilitation counselor, how can you best assist individuals with ASD to be employed in technology fields (for those who are interested in such a career)?

Employers have told us that to get a digital technology job, the industry standard is a:

- » Degree
- » Paid work experience
- » Certifications

The rest of this brochure will assist students in Transition to get on the path to a strong career.



2. As a vocational rehabilitation counselor, you need to be aware that there are numerous success stories involving individuals in transition and adults with ASD employed in technology fields.

From Document Imaging to Super Computer

Read about Aaron Erdman's success:

<http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/5d-aaron-erdman.html>

Malcolm Roach, currently a freshman at Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC), is a graduate of the Perpich Center for Arts Education, a state school in Golden Valley that he credits with reinforcing his desire for a future in the arts sphere. Once he completes his studies at MCTC, he plans to earn his bachelor's degree at the Minneapolis College of Arts and Design (MCAD)

<http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/5c-perpich-ctr-roach.html>

Other media coverage on employment success can be found through this link:

<http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/3c-media-coverage.html>

3. Serve those in their transition years by familiarizing yourself with high school resources that provide a path to a technology career.

This link lists high schools that may better suit the needs of students with ASD. The Perpich Center for Arts Education promises that staff is committed to assuring all students go on to college and into a career:

<http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/5c-high-schools.html>

4. Encourage people in transition to consider enrollment in computer camps, places that are inclusive and not segregated:

This link lists computer camps in all school districts, and summer computer camps at Macalester College :

<http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/5b-computer-camps.html>

Computer Explorers offers technology summer camps for children and young adults, those between the ages of 5 and 14, through school district Community Education Programs. The 2010 summer schedule included 29 different class offerings, ranging from video game design and digital film making to engineering and architectural design, at 48 different locations. Check with the Community Education program in your school district as to whether they will take advantage of this opportunity and to see what is scheduled for 2011.

<http://www.computerexplorersmn.com/>

5. To assist those in the transition years, familiarize yourself with resources to help develop social skills.

Contact AuSM (Autism Society of Minnesota) for Social Skills learning and other workshops.

<http://www.ausm.org>

6. Urge people in transition to call on the resources of specialists. Some have focused for years on developing the skills of people with ASD.

College Autism Spectrum is an independent organization whose sole purpose is to assist students with autism spectrum disorders and their families. Please consider using this resource in post-secondary education planning.

Website:

<http://www.collegeautismspectrum.com/>  
Brochure: <http://www.collegeautismspectrum.com/media/collegeautismspectrum-brochure.pdf>

7. Review, and stay current on, all of the colleges in Minnesota that offer technology degrees.

<http://www.mncdd.org/asd-employment/pdf/09-MNC-DQ.pdf>