

# VOCATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

AT NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED POST-SECONDARY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND HIGHER FUNCTIONING AUTISM.



## Alumni Testimonials 2015

**T**HE VOCATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM taught me how to live on my own. I learned how to pack my own luggage and travel the world independently with my friends. Currently, I have two jobs: working at a school district in food service and at the Disney Store™. Prior to those, I worked for 10 years as a cashier at K.B. Toys." – TARA COLLINS '01

"VIP helped me make new friends and live on my own. I have my own apartment in Manhattan. I learned a lot of jobs skills at the Vocational Independence Program. I think VIP is great!" – IAN KNIGHT '11

"Making new friends was one of the best things that happened to me at VIP. Budgeting was an important skill I learned that I still use. Today I work at a law firm providing clerical support." – REBECCA LEWIS '06

"I work at Hillel at Brown University helping advertise events. VIP gave me the confidence in seeing new places and traveling on my own. I made new friends and I am more independent." – ROBIN ANCOWITZ '01

"VIP helped me make new friends, become more independent and develop my work skills. I work for an agency in Westchester that helps others with disabilities. I work in the office." – EMILY YAN '09

"I have worked for the past 15 years in the medical records department of the Burke Rehabilitation Center. VIP helped me with the job interview process; gave me the patience to search for a job and go through the interview; the patience to work every day year after year; and the computer skills to work in the medical records department. The interactions with others more complex than myself helped me understand others and adapt. I live on my own and am dating a VIP alumna." – MICHAEL HAYES '99

"I liked working in the cafeteria, making friends, and interacting with others. I have been married for 10 years and travel with my wife, Rebecca, all over the world with VIP. I work in the dining hall of a senior citizens center in New Jersey." – ERIC MARK '97

"Currently, I work at Modell's Sporting Goods™ and Bagel Boss™. At VIP, my internship was at Modell's, which easily transferred to a store in my home town. VIP helped me be a better employee by being on time, and giving me the skills I would need for the job, and the social skills I would need to use on the job. It also taught me to problem solve so I can stay employed. At Modell's™, I am responsible for attaching security devices to all the items. At Bagel Boss™, I do maintenance. The independent living skills were invaluable. I loved learning the travel training skills. I am waiting patiently to find a home of my own, and I am 100% looking forward to living on my own." – ADAM SHAPIRO '13

## Support for each student:

- Academic Counselor
- Vocational Counselor
- Social Counselor
- Financial Advisor
- Job Coach and Independent Living Skills Coach (if necessary)

For detailed information on our programs or to book a tour, please contact:

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[nyit.edu/vip](http://nyit.edu/vip)

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