The Barber National Institute has partnered with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) to provide Pre-Employment Transition Services for Youth, a new program to help students between 14-21 with a disability who have an IEP or 504 plan who want to plan now for future employment.

Services are provided by the Barber National Institute Supported Employment program, which has more than 25 years of experience assisting hundreds of people in finding and maintaining employment.

The program includes two new opportunities:

**Group Pre-Employment Classes**
Classes for students ages 14-21 who are still in school; students do not have to be approved for OVR services to participate. Our staff with experience and training in Supported Employment will offer these courses to small groups of students in their high schools. Courses include instruction on:
- Self Advocacy Training
- Independent Living Skills
- Workplace Readiness with lessons designed for future competitive integrated employment.

**Community Pre-Employment Experience and Assessment**
Students who have been approved for OVR services can now request services from the Barber National Institute while they are still in school. These services include Job Shadowing Opportunities and Transportation Assessments. With this new option, students will have the opportunity to participate in job tryouts through the Job Shadowing experience in their areas of interest. They will receive hands-on unpaid work experience at local businesses while Employment Specialists work one on one to provide assistance and assessment.

Coupling the Job Shadowing experiences with an in-depth Transportation Assessment will assist students with future decisions pertaining to realistic career opportunities. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Early Reach Coordinator working with your school can guide the referral process for interested students.

We look forward to supporting employment exploration while in school and real work opportunities upon graduation!

For more information on Pre-Employment Transition Services for Youth, please contact:
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