

Community Connections Career Partnership - Ohio

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C3P(O) Kicks-Off its Third Year



This school year, we currently have four schools participating in this exciting program: Franklin Heights High School in Columbus has a CIP class of 10 students and a CAP class of 11 students; Rushmore Academy in Marion has 11 students who are working towards their CIP and 5 students who are working towards their CAP; Medina High School in Medina has 9 CIP candidates and 3 CAP candidates; and Clermont Northeastern High School in Batavia has 7 students who are working towards their CIP.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 C3P(O) Kicks Off its Third Year
- 1 Spotlight – Medina High School
- 2 My C3P(O) Experience – By CAP Candidates at Medina High School
- 3 Send Us Your Stories

Spotlight: Medina High School



Students from Medina High School participate in a team-building exercise.

My C3P(O) Experience

Charles Mains, CAP Candidate

Medina High School

At the very beginning of my junior year I didn't know what I was getting myself into. My teacher came up to me to see if I wanted to join this program and I said why not. This year in high school I tended to miss a lot of school. On the first day that I had to interact with one of the clients, it was the most uncomfortable thing I've ever had to go through at first. When I was approached by the client, he came up to me and said "How you?" I wasn't sure if he was asking how I was or who I was, so I asked a Q who works at RHC (the building I go to during the day to hang out with the clients) and asked him to repeat himself. She said that he was asking how I was. From there we started to develop a relationship that at first, I was not sure what to call it, but now I know that it was more than simply a friendship, it was dependency and advocacy. I began to help him out around RHC and I began to understand him; how he speaks and what his actions and symbols mean.

Going to RHC everyday started to feel like home. I started to become more comfortable being around the clients and more excited every day to go there. RHC became my reason to go to school, to show up and try.

Because of this program I have been doing better in school and I realize how important this program is, not just to me, but to the clients. Since the beginning of my senior year, the only days of school I have missed was when I was in the hospital, which even then was only three days. I have improved so much from my junior year to my senior year, thanks to this program.

I really think this program is a great thing to get into even if you have had no experience with people with developmental disabilities. Look at me, I have never interacted with anyone who has DD and now I'm doing great. This program itself has made me a better person and not just with school related things, just in general. I have improved all over and all across the board. If I could I would definitely do this program for a third year.

My C3P(O) Experience

Arielle Kent, CAP Candidate

Medina High School

Last year I started a program called C3P(O). This program is life changing, you could say to be honest. It changed my life in so many ways involving my career plans for the future, my school attendance, my social skills, my grades, and even my perspective on the clients I work with.

C3P(O) is a internship program for high school students who are in 11th or 12th grade. In the program we get the opportunity to have hands-on training along with working with people with special needs and disabilities. What we do is during our school class hours we get dropped off at the daytime program of our choice and work with all the different clients who are at the facility. The things we do might sound simple, and to others they might sound not that important, but I PROMISE YOU MYSELF that from being in this program, I've noticed that it means so much to the clients I work with. Seeing the smiles and happiness; just watching them open up to me and lastly, looking forward to them seeing me. Watching certain clients grow just from my help makes me feels so good inside and out.

During this program that we do all school year, we are assigned a type of assignment called a "Portfolio". What we do is pick one or two clients, even more if we choose to. We take the client or clients we choose and work with them using the four work samples we were assigned. For example, last year in my first year in C3P(O), I helped my client learn to count money along with identifying which coins were which and how to tell how much they were worth. To help him even more, I made a hands-on chart out of a paper plate and glued fake money onto the plate labeling which was which. Working with my client I also formed a type of connection with him, getting him to trust me, look up to me to be the one helping him on the right track, and even just goofing off sometimes, having fun and putting a smile on both of our faces.

Now that I'm in my second year in this program I can actually see myself working in this type of field after I graduate high school.

My C3P(O) Experience

Joey Lyon, CAP Candidate

Medina High School

C3P(O) is a program that teaches you how to help kids and adults with developmental disabilities and teaches you life skills. When I heard about this field, this was something I never even thought about. I saw kids everyday with disabilities at school and saw them around town, but I never knew how to approach or even talk to them. It truly was kind of sad.

One day I got a pass to go to my counselor's office and she had one word for me - C3P(O). At first I was confused, "A DSP? What's that?" The more questions I had, the more answers she gave me. Like I said I never even thought about this field but it was that day that I went home and thought about it. I talked to my dad, my friends and even myself about it. My dad said it was a great idea and my friends were confused about the whole thing. So now I was left to make my decision.

The next day I thought about it all day at school and then my study hall came. I got a pass to my counselor's office and she gave me that look like "What's the answer," and all I could say is I would be glad to do it.

So for one year I would be an intern through the C3P(O) program at Medina High School, part of the first kids to do it in NE Ohio and the second class in Ohio. Don't get me wrong, but meeting everyone who put this program together was nerve racking. But, in just a few hours it was those people who made me more than excited to actually start the program. In just a week or two I would start to visit the sites and the first site I visited is known as Paradise. SHC runs the day program off of Wooster Pike Rd. They had just as many questions as I did when this program started.

The second site is known as Smith, a site SHC runs off of Smith Rd. The third site was Columbia and Liliana, a home off of Columbia Road run by TLC. It was that site that made me fall in love. The clients where fun and the staff made me feel comfortable. Specifically, one client made me smile at Liliana every time I came to visit.

The house was like a home away from home between the staff and the clients. When I came to visit and see them they made me feel needed and I loved it.

Don't get me wrong, everyone in this program loved a different site but it was at this site that I connected with the clients. C3P(O) has taught me lessons that I can not only use when I am at the sites but when I go home and/or walk around town.



Send Us Your Stories

What are you working on right now – in class or at your internship site? What is your favorite part of C3P(O)? How are your staff working together to mentor the students in the program? How are school personnel coming together to support the program?

Wouldn't you like to hear what the C3P(O) program is doing at other schools?

Whether individually or as a group, we invite you to share these things with us to publish in the newsletter so that students, teachers, providers, and others can share your experiences, too!

Submit to: jhall@opra.org



