

# SCBDD Partners with Vanguard-Sentinel Career & Technology Center to Provide Training for Students Seeking DSP Career

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Developing and maintaining a quality provider workforce to serve local individuals with disabilities is one of the greatest challenges facing us today. Currently in Sandusky County, the demand for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) is greater than the available pool of trained and qualified providers.

This is a trend across the State of Ohio.

In a pilot program launched this school year, SCBDD partnered with Vanguard in the Community Connections Career Partnership-Ohio program, also known as C3P(O). The curriculum, which was developed by the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) and the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, is a combination of on-site internship work with community agencies and classroom work based on the DSPaths curriculum.



Involvement in the C3P(O) program provides students enrolled in the program specialized training and work experience. Upon graduation, the hope is that these students will find positions as DSPs and continue working in the disabilities field.

*“DSPs assist individuals with disabilities in leading full, self-directed lives and contribute to their communities,”* said David Reichert, Director of Community Relations for the SCBDD. *“They are essential in ensuring people with disabilities have equal opportunities to lead a life they desire,”* he said.

Reichert believes that aligning this project with provider agencies in Ohio creates a win-win environment in that local provider agencies will have access to a pool of trained and qualified candidates to fill vacant positions and students graduate with certification to begin their career immediately.

*“The work of the DSP changes lives, every day. They make independence a reality for many in our community by helping with daily activities, accompanying them to doctor appointments, cooking and serving meals, performing light housekeeping duties, running errands, and even provide companionship. They bring people out into the community to interact with others, to learn and to grow as people. The importance of their work cannot be over-stated,”* he said.