CLSC Corner: Interviews with CLSC Students

The CLSC program is a program at the University of Delaware that helps people with disabilities that just finished High school to learn how to function in the community, acquire and do a job, or take college courses. My name is Michael Denny, and I am a student with the CLSC program. My goal is to be a writer so I can make video games, movies or a book, and to help me do that I am writing this article for my internship at the Center for Disabilities Studies to hone my writing skills.

What are your current post-high school goals? When students began the CLSC program, they each had a different idea of what they wanted to do after high school. Those goals range from being able to live on their own to getting a job or attending college. For example: Matt wants to work at a hotel being a landscaper; Geoff wants to do a job on the University of Delaware campus; Lazyra wants to be an accountant; and I want be a writer and director for a video game or movie, or at the very least write a book.

How did you come up with your post-high school goals? Generally an advisor or instructor from the CLSC asks us what we want to do. Then, they help us elaborate and explain our goal to them. In the end, we understand our goal better ourselves.

Why did you apply for the CLSC Program? CLSC students generally joined the program to learn how to do more than they could after they left high school. After leaving high school, the students couldn't really go into a job just yet, let alone attend a college class. The CLSC program offered to teach the skills and let the students actually experience college classes and jobs through internships. So, for the CLSC students it is an “easy” decision to join the program if they want to accomplish their goals.

What are the things you want to achieve in your time with the CLSC program? What each CLSC student wants to do at the very least is to, of course, earn or receive the certificate for passing the CLSC program. Some students like myself see the CLSC program as a step in our continuing education. In short, I think all CLSC students will agree that after graduating from the program they will be much closer to what they want to do for their career.
How does CLSC help you meet your post-high school goals?
Students find the CLSC program to be very helpful. A few ways that the CSLC program helps students is with coaching support, and by providing internships. These internships are based on the student's interests and goals. For example, my goal is to be a writer, so I'm doing an internship in writing and I'm writing the article you're reading right now.

What are the things you are personally learning about in your time in the CLSC program?
There are many things each individual student can learn about. Specifically, students learn life skills such as how to handle and manage money and how to better communicate and function properly in the community or workplaces; this includes how to voice opinions. Another thing students can do while in the CLSC program is to attend college classes with support from coaches. Geoff is learning how to handle money and about what is appropriate behavior at an internship.

How do you feel about being in the CLSC Program?
The prevalent view on being in the CLSC program is that it is productive. Some students really like having new friends and the coaches to talk to and hang out with. There are a lot of things to do and I personally just try to get the work done, but it is a very busy experience. But, we are able to learn and do a lot more things in the end.

If you had to pick your favorite class, what would it be?
Geoff, for example, liked the Employability 101 class that was held during the last semester that dealt with job skills and manners. Matt liked our Self-Monitoring and Self-Instruction class that teaches self-advocacy and the more complicated points of taking care of yourself and interacting with other people.

What's the most difficult thing about the program?
The CLSC program introduces many students to the workload of college or what you would find at a job. The schedules are busy and the students are responsible for being on time for classes and internships. Because we participate in the community, there are challenges that come up at a moment's notice at internships and college classes that need to be addressed, just like anyone else attending a class or doing a job. Also, there are assignments, tests and quizzes that need to be done for the CLSC program in addition to the possible college course or internship that students are attending.