



Transition Newsletter

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RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT



I'm Determined! will give you different opportunities to practice skills associated with self-determined behaviors. The website has great information to help you undertake a measure of control in your life, help set and steer the course rather than being a silent passenger on your transition journey.

The website has a variety of resources available to use, for free, to help you transition into employment, independent living, post-secondary schooling, by showing you how to increase your self-advocacy skills.

For more information, check out their website at: imdetermined.org/youth/

This is informational only. DHS is neither supporting nor endorsing this website. Please determine for yourself if you wish to use it and proceed accordingly.

You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So...get on your way!
-Dr. Seuss

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kody Komes applied for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services when he was a sophomore at Sturgis Brown High School. His VR eligibility allowed him to participate in a number of transition services that is supporting him with working towards his career goal of becoming a Diesel Mechanic and an independent adult.

Project Skills

Kody participated in 2 Project Skills at local businesses — Richter's Tire & Exhaust and Farm Service & Repair. Both businesses hired Kody after he completed his Project Skills hours to continue working during the summer months! He learned a variety of tasks through both employers including changing oil, balancing and changing tires, installing parts, and welding farm equipment.

"These jobs helped prepare me for job interviews, what questions to ask and how to answer questions right. They also helped me discover a career path."

Job Accommodations

While participating in the Project Skills, Kody utilized job accommodations that assisted him with learning the tasks associated with the jobs. A job coach helped get everything set up but Kody is self-motivated and his willingness to learn new things helped him be successful. Him having natural supports (mentors) on the job also aided him with success on the job.

Community and Technical Education (CTE) Classes

While in high school, Kody had the opportunity to take CTE classes that helped further develop his training towards his career goal of becoming a diesel mechanic. The classes he took were welding and machining classes which were skills he was able to use on his Project Skills jobs.

Current VR Services

Kody graduated from high school this past May and started classes at Western Dakota Technical College last month. He was approved for the Build Dakota Scholarship which will pay for his tuition and books as long as he continues to do well in his classes and meets other requirements. He worked with Dakotalink and his VR counselor to obtain Assistive Technology devices that will aid him while attending WDTA. His VR counselor will assist him with any needs while going to school and support him on his job at Grossenburg Implement.

Advice from Kody to Other Students

"Don't let your disability bother you. It's in a way, unique. For me, I take my time, look over my spreadsheet, to ensure things are done correctly. That is what [my bosses] liked about me as an employee. And the skills I'm learning will benefit me in the future."

Advice for Working with a VR Counselor

"If you have questions, ask them. If your VR counselor emails or calls you, make sure you get back to them! The benefit of working with VR is getting to have opportunities to work at different worksites to see what you like and don't like on a job."

contact me



Name:

Phone:

Email:

[dhs.sd.gov/
transitionresources.aspx](https://dhs.sd.gov/transitionresources.aspx)



Transfer of Rights at age 18

Do you know that when you turn 18 years old, you are seen as an adult and are in charge of making all your own decisions? For some students, extra help from someone you trust is needed to ensure that the right financial, medical, and legal decisions are being made. And there are a few options available to those that may need some additional supports.

Supported Decision Making (SDM): The process of assisting persons with a disability to make their own decisions, so they can develop and pursue their own goals, make choices about their adult life, and exercise some control over the things that are important to them.

Representative Payee: Another individual acts as the receiver of the United States Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income for a person who is not fully capable of managing their own benefits.

Power of Attorney: This option doesn't require a court hearing. This option consists of a notarized document with specific reasons (medical, financial, etc.) stated, doesn't require a court hearing, and the person with the disability retains authority to make decisions.

Limited Guardianship: Provides a guardian with decision-making authority and responsibility over only selected areas that the person has been determined by the court as unable to manage. For example, a limited guardianship might only apply to health care decisions.

Conservatorship: Individual is appointed with decision-making authority to manage, protect, and preserve the protected person's estate and finances.

We know this is a lot of information and we're sure you have questions. Luckily, there are a number of great resources available to help you and your family make a decision that will allow you the supports AND independence you need.

→ sdparent.org/guides-briefs/approaching-age-18-infographics

→ dhs.sd.gov/guardianship

→ drsdlaw.org/video/

→ tslp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Alternatives-to-Guardianship-Stoplight-Tool.pdf



Register to Vote!

When you turn 18, you have a civic duty to vote! Elections are coming up in November so now is the time to make sure you are registered which you can do by going here vip.sdsos.gov or ask me and I'll help you!

Why vote?

One simple reason—if you don't vote, you give up the right to have your voice heard. Some people do not vote because they may think their vote does not matter. When a person doesn't vote; they are letting those who do, choose who will be their voice. By using your self-advocacy skills, you can make your voice heard! It's important to learn about the candidates and ballot measures before election day so YOU can be an informed voter.

Go to drsdlaw.org/resources/electioninfo/ for more information!



Are you planning to pursue an education after high school? If yes, than now is the time to start researching where you want to go and schedule campus tours to experience the campus community! You can contact your school's guidance counselor to research schools and get campus tours scheduled. When you are scheduling your campus visits, be sure to include a meeting with the school's disability coordinator to find out what assistance they might be able to provide. You can find valuable information about attending colleges and universities with supports on the TSLP website: tslp.org/post-secondary-education/

