

Putting Best Practices to Work: Results in Great Transitions



Josh began participating in his high school's transition program as a Junior. He had been in the welding program at **North Bend High School** and showed leadership ability. **Berger's Top Service Body Shop** had been a transition program contact. After looking over the Career Information System for Auto Body Technician and meeting with the student it became apparent this could be a good match.

The employer agreed and the student started with a work experience, which led to an On-the-Job-Training through **Vocational Rehabilitation**. The student was supplied with tools and later through the school, parents and Vocational Rehabilitation he was assisted in paying for the steel and aluminum welding certificates through I-CAR.

The outlook for this profession was good and in this rural area there were no local training programs. The employer had expressed a growing concern that many Auto Body workers in the area would be retiring in ten years and they wanted to train others to replace these workers.

The training for the profession at Berger's was excellent and the student loved the work. He was hired after the On-the-Job Training and has been there for two years. Josh won first place honors at a State Auto Body Competition. Josh also participated in the expanded options opportunity through North Bend High School and **Southwestern Oregon Community College** to continue welding classes for dual credit while in high school. See: <http://www.socc.edu/collegenow/pgs/expanded-options/index.shtml>

Josh's story showcases the extraordinary outcomes that a partnership between Vocational Rehabilitation and local high schools can produce.