ASK A PARENT WEBINAR

MANDEL A. M. MONTILUS & NADEGE M. CHERUBIN

10/16/19
Mandel:
• 25 years old, very social for someone on the autism spectrum – diagnosed with language & cognitive delay – graduated from GSU IDEAL program in career readiness /digital media & art design – loves books, adding numbers until infinity, TV, computer, video games, cartoons – currently looking to enter the job market – past time: studying French, taking guitar and painting lessons

Nadege:
• Certified court interpreter and translator in state & federal courts. Hold an MA in translation & interpreting studies – passionate about translating culture, people in honor of both source and target languages. Having a son on the autism spectrum, discovered herbs, healthy eating and lifestyle to help heal the disconnect between the gut and the brain
EARLY YEARS / COLLEGE & VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

• MANDEL:

• BEGAN AT THE CHICAGO UNIVERSITY LAB SCHOOLS
• THEN MOVED TO HAITI FROM 5-12 YEARS OLD – MONTESSORI SCHOOL
• REENTERED THE US EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY UNTIL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION FROM WARREN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
• WARRANT TECHNICAL SCHOOL: GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS
• GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY : CAREER READINESS – DIGITAL MEDIA / ART DESIGN
DECISION FOR COLLEGE / ADMISSION PROCESS

- GA Vocational rehab school
- Attempts the regular college enrollment route
- Kennesaw summer college experience
- Georgia Tech post-secondary inclusion program
- Piedmont College
- Roadblocks: Placement Test
- Out-of-Pocket Tuition
- Rigorous admission process
FIRST YEAR - NAVIGATING COLLEGE

• ENROLLMENT APPROVAL AT GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY NEW IDEAL PROGRAM
• 2-YEAR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM WITH OPTION TO CONTINUE BEYOND THE TWO YEAR
• UBER CHARGES OR TIME OFF FROM WORK TO CHAUFFEUR MANDEL AROUND
• GSU IDEAL PROGRAM HELPED CONNECT WITH MARTA BUS SERVICES TO TRAIN ON RIDING BUS & TRAIN
• LIVED WITH FAMILY
• BROUGHT OWN LUNCH TO SCHOOL & HAD DEBIT CARD TO USE AS NEEDED
FINANCING COLLEGE

STRESSFUL FIRST YEAR AS GA VOCATIONAL REHAB FUND NEVER CAME THROUGH

IDEAL PROGRAM CERTIFICATION PROCESS LASTED ALMOST THE 2 YEAR

PAID OUT-OF-POCKET TUITION

THEN IDEAL DEPARTMENT OFFERED SCHOLARSHIPS

IDEAL CERTIFICATION: FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY
Fought to extend college experience beyond the 2-year

Requested a focus on subject where most able, i.e., French

Transition into workforce
WHAT YOU WISH YOU KNEW BEFORE ENROLLMENT

- Would need to pay out-of-pocket for a while
- Would have no opportunity beyond 2-year
- Transition to work – a new process
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY

*ADVICE TO PARENTS CONSIDERING COLLEGE.

Advocate: Advocate for a certificate on specific skillset

Push: Push study around strength subject: French

Incorporate: Incorporate job internship beyond the 2-year

Ensure: Ensure option beyond 2-year was firm

Identify: Identify areas of interests/strengths / customize college experience around interest/strength