

GOPEN FELLOWSHIP QUARTERLY REPORT

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Fulfilled or Projected Performance Measures

From February to April, the Spectrum Skillshare project has continued to fulfill a number of Federal Performance Measures, including cross-cutting measures, informal community supports, quality assurance, education measures, and employment measures. For example, one mentee who had dropped out of college and was still searching for a job is now employed and attending community college. A mentee who had struggled with finding local employment found a well-paying job in Japan as an English teacher. Another mentee is doing well in his developmental math and English classes at his community college, and looks forward to transferring to mainstream classes after completing them. In addition, one of the mentors received assistance from the Fellow on her CV, résumé, and application for graduate school.

Current Progress

February, March, and April were primarily focused on the continuation of the program and the strengthening of mentees' skill sets. Mentees checked in at different rates depending on their individual needs; some needed more continuous mentoring, while others only needed to check in once in a while. Toward the end of February, we held the "Moving Toward Career Success" workshop, which was attended by six autistic self-advocates. Participants learned how to improve their résumés, hone their cover letters, succeed in job interviews, and creating a solid career network.

While the program has been largely successful, we have encountered some challenges. One mentee returned to teaching abroad in Japan, thinking that was her only chance to find decently paying employment, though this job was better-paying than her previous job in Thailand. One mentee struggled with anxiety when preparing a document to use as the basis for her Social Security application. Some mentees had difficulty keeping in touch with mentors throughout the process, though all of them reported progress.

Plans for the Following Reporting Period

We will continue to hold mentor and mentee meetings over the next three months, and we will also put on a second 'Moving Toward Career Success' workshop, which will be more interactive. Participants will bring résumés and cover letters, and will be directed through comprehensive edits of job application documents and will learn more skills to improve their luck at job interviews.

Timeline

Completed

July and August - information-gathering and publicity

August and September - information-gathering and publicity

September and October - recruitment and publicity

October and November - recruitment and orientation

November and December - mentor/mentee meetings

December and January - mentor/mentee meetings; planning for first workshop

January and February - mentor/mentee meetings

February and March - mentor/mentee meetings

March and April - mentor/mentee meetings

Ongoing

April and May - mentor/mentee meetings; planning for second workshop/presentation

May and June - wrapping up, final workshop and presentation