



## **CAMPUS-BASED ENTERPRISES**

### **Vocational Education for Students with Disabilities**

“ We can learn to do something by doing it or by doing something that closely resembles it. Specific skills can be isolated and developed through exercise designed to accelerate the process of achieving competence, that abstractly capture the essence of a skilled task.”

*(A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Solution to Skills Shortages in Australia, Victor Quirk, Centre of Full Employment and Equity, The University of Newcastle, Australia, 2009)*

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF CAMPUS-BASED ENTERPRISE:

1. Campus-based enterprises are a way of teaching and a way of learning. It is not an addition to the curriculum or an alternative curriculum.
2. Teaches students to manage personal, school, or community businesses that promote the acquisition of skills that are related to jobs in the community or learning to work for themselves (self-employed).
3. Prepares students to take over their own decision-making, learning, goal setting, data collection, progress monitoring, and learning results.
4. The role of staff is as trainers, mentors, and facilitators.
5. What it does not look like: The staff running the business, the staff doing any of the work, the staff is more visible in the transactions with the Chamber, business mentors, business partners, and customers than are the students.
6. Technology is used for communication, data collection, and advertising.

#### RESOURCES FOR CAMPUS-BASED BUSINESS START-UPS

1. Local Chamber of Commerce: assistance with a business plan, advertising, and local business mentors and partners.
2. The Small Business Association from the local community college or university.
3. Agricultural endeavors: Local Agriculture Extension Center, Master Gardeners, and Foresters.

#### EXAMPLES OF CAMPUS-BASED ENTERPRISES

1. Bicycle Repair Shop
2. Farm To Table (Agriculture)
3. Craft Creations: knitting, jewelry making, specialty wreaths, tie-dyed scarfs/ties, etc.
4. Green Team: Growing seedlings and tree plants for replanting private land or government owned land. (Agriculture)
5. Restoration: obtaining donated furniture to restore and resale
6. Coffee Café (There are no coffee carts in the world of work. Develop and operate a small morning café with coffee, tea, pastries, etc.)
7. Regional enterprises
  - a. East Texas: Wooden signs, burnt wood crafts
  - b. West Texas: Decorative cowboy hats
  - c. Panhandle: leather goods
  - d. Central Texas: Tie-dyed hats
  - e. Rio Grande Valley: Piñata Party Planners
  - f. Gulf Coast: Fishing lures and sunglass ropes/holders

#### THE TRANSITION FROM CAMPUS-BASED ENTERPRISE MODEL TO EMPLOYMENT

1. There should be a business plan for each business and one for each student.
2. To ensure the skill acquisition leads to employment skills, develop a business plan with each student and parent, to determine if, when, and how the skills learned could be used to develop a “self-employment” business as a part-time job during secondary school or as a young adult after the student has exited public school.
3. Prior to self-employment, the Campus-Based Enterprise operates as an “Enclave Program”.