



March 4, 2024

To: Employment First Partners

From: Allison Enriquez (Interim Statewide Employment First Coordinator)

Re: Treasure Valley Community College launches Introduction to Supported Employment course

Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC) is running a pilot Introduction to Supported Employment course on their Ontario campus during spring term. This course is a great opportunity for supported employment providers and other partners in Oregon's intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) system.

The course explores the history and basic knowledge of the scope of practice for job coaches and others who support individuals with I/DD. This includes training on how to support others to find, effectively perform and maintain their jobs in the community. Other topics include person-centered practice including dignity and respect, self-determination, and health and safety.

This course fulfills the 12 hours of annual continuing education required by ODDS for employment specialists. It does not replace the required ODDS Core Competency training.

The tuition, fees and course materials for the pilot are covered by the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services' (ODDS) [American Rescue Plan Act](#) funding. That means all students participating in this spring course will be able to take it for free.

Here is some additional information for questions you may have.

Who should take this class?

This course is a great opportunity for people already working in the I/DD system who want to learn more about supported employment. It is also a great course for those working in supported employment since it meets the required 12 hours of annual continuing education for employment specialists. Also, family members of individuals with I/DD, self-advocates, and others might be interested in the class to learn more about supported employment.

Do I have to be a current TVCC student to participate?

You do not have to be a current TVCC student. We expect most students in this course pilot will not be current TVCC students. You can take this one course without having to take any other courses or work toward a degree.

If you have never been a TVCC student, you can [apply online](#), and there is no cost to register. There is an option on that page to select “non-degree

seeking student” if you’re planning to only take this class. After completing the registration for an “application portal account,” you will receive a notification that your registration is complete, and it will include your student identification number. Once you’ve received this information, email Dr. Jessica Breidinger, the course instructor, who will assist you in registering for the course. Her email is jbreidinger@tvcc.cc.

If you are a current or past TVCC student, please email Dr. Breidinger jbreidinger@tvcc.cc to let her know of your interest in taking this course. She will assist you in completing the registration process.

Is there a deadline to register?

Yes. The registration deadline is Friday, March 22.

Will I get TVCC credit?

Those taking the course will receive three credits of Human Services 199 at TVCC. This counts as an elective for TVCC degrees.

When does this class begin?

The first day of spring term is April 1. Spring term finals week ends June 14. The class will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 4:20 p.m.

Will TVCC offer this class again?

TVCC plans to offer the course again. Once this spring term pilot concludes, TVCC faculty will determine how and when the course will move forward.

We hope you will help share this opportunity with partners in the Ontario area who might be interested in this course. We have created both [a flyer](#) and [a social media graphic](#) to help spread the word.

Thank you to our partners at TVCC for offering this important curriculum.

Allison Enriquez

Interim Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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