

Comprehensive Vocational Evaluation

Neuro/Voc Assessment

Community Based Assessment

Job Placement Services

Job Retention/ Job Coaching Services

Accommodation Consultations

Get Involved with NVSU:

Guest Speaker At Job Club, we have been fortunate to have employers and other professionals volunteer an hour of their time to speak to our clients. You don't need a long prepared speech, just your willingness to share what you do and to be open to questions. Our clients benefit from talking with people in different professions and businesses. If you can spare an hour, come share your work with NVSU Job Seekers. Contact David Strand at dmstrand@uw.edu

Join the nonprofit board Have a desire to give back?

Become a member of our nonprofit board and get involved with an organization assisting individuals with neurological conditions to achieve long term gainful employment. Our board is seeking professionals with all types of backgrounds, fundraising, marketing, law, sales, IT, to just name a few... If you are interested in learning more about the board, contact board president Matt Storey at matt@directinteractions.com

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HELPING TO BRIDGE THE EMPLOYMENT GAP FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

NVS & NVSU
 Employment Bridge Newsletter

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HELPING PEOPLE WITH NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS GAIN INDEPENDENCE, ONE PERSON, ONE JOB, AT A TIME.



UW: Partners with Business, NVSU, provides vocational assessment, job placement and retention services to individuals with neurological conditions, helping them lead a productive life. In addition, through research, teaching and distribution of information, the unit serves as a national resource in the field of vocational rehabilitation.

Dear Supporter:

We trust that you are healthy and safe! This is a difficult time for all! We are working hard to support our clients with teleconferenced job club, phone interviews with employers, application submissions etc. We had one client hired even last week, but then put on a start hold for a month! We are working toward more creativity here – DVR is not closing!

Of note: The Gala is being postponed from the initial May 17 date until further notice! I'm sure that you understand.

We are working hard to maintain our vocational program which is so important for our clients with neurological disabilities. Consideration of Neurological Vocational Services is appreciated in the "giving" that you are able to do. Again, take very good care of yourself and loved ones during these challenging times.

Warm regards,
 Robert T Fraser, Ph.D., CRC & the NVS Team

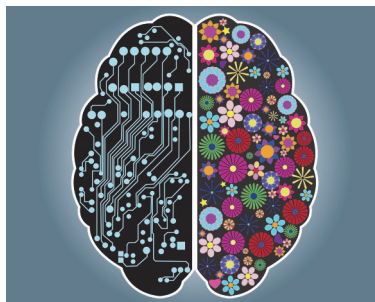
Your Support Funds NVS "Superstar" Interns

In our appeals to you, our wonderful supporters, we always emphasize that your donations are the sole support of our student job coach interns. These are the staff that on a week-to-week basis are the mainstay in assisting our clients with online applications, directly carving out jobs in the community (especially in rural areas), setting up non-paid job tryouts, and providing one-to-one job coaching on both day and night shifts for our clients with cognitive and, at times, behavioral challenges. Who are these special people? We'd like to introduce them below:



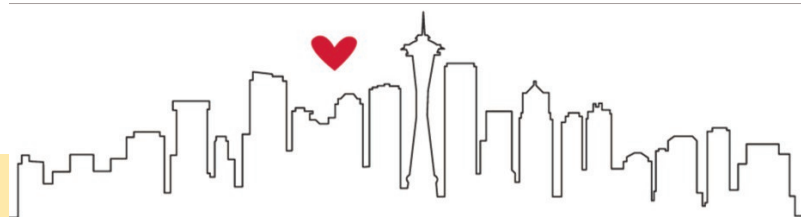
Ben Foster – is a native of Alaska, and completed his education at Whitman College and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in Philosophy and Biology before re-entering the University of Washington in Neuroscience. Ben is currently applying for a master's degree in Medical Ethics, which will be followed by medical school. He is currently interviewing at Northwestern, the Feinberg School of Medicine, and Albert Einstein. Ben is fearless and creative in his job placement approaches and is our only intern who played professional soccer in the Netherlands.

Tessa Warheit-Niemi – comes to us with a "light" double major in Neuroscience and Psychology. Tessa's long-term goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and learn to use neuroimaging techniques to identify targets for early intervention for children with behavioral and emotional problems. Tessa will take a formal academic break in accepting a two-year post-baccalaureate position at the University of Maryland utilizing neuroimaging techniques for measuring infant brain activity – she is on her way! Tessa is special in her range of skills, from enjoying client job preparatory activities to assisting with vocational testing.



Terry Garfield – graduated from the University of Washington in 2019 with a B.S. in Biochemistry and a minor in English. Terry is casting a wide net in her medical school applications and has had a number of interviews. She thoroughly enjoys establishing rapport with our clients and mentoring them through the employment process, and is particularly excellent at establishing non-paid employment trials. We hope to increase her hours with us before she heads to medical school.

Again, our thanks to you for your support of these wonderful interns. Their enthusiasm for our work, exceptional creativity in their service to our clients, and pervasive optimism are invaluable here at NVSU. Plus... you are supporting the "full" development of our future neurologists and psychologists.



Neuro/Vocational Assessment:



Often times, at the beginning of the vocational rehabilitation process, our clients can benefit from guidance regarding jobs that fit their interests. At the same time, they may also benefit from testing to help define their neurocognitive profiles (e.g. cognitive strengths and limitations). Historically, information from vocational interest testing has been reported separately from that obtained through neurocognitive status testing. Engaging in both types of testing separately can be a lengthy process.

Given the number of times we saw the benefit that engaging in both types of exploration/assessment for our clients, we developed a new assessment that combines the usefulness of neuropsychological assessment (neurocognitive functioning, emotional status and personality assessment), with the career planning information provided in a comprehensive vocational evaluation (vocational interests and preferences).

Much of the usefulness of a report comes in the salience of the recommendations provided, and with the Neuro/Voc Assessment, it is no different. Since this is a combined assessment, the time taken to gather this information is greatly reduced, and we're better able to integrate the information gathered into a useful package, with recommendations that target the following:

- ✦ Medical and cognitive/psychological resources to optimize community functioning.
- ✦ Potential employment directions, based on neurocognitive profile, skills, abilities, vocational interests.
- ✦ Potential training/educational directions congruent with neuropsychological profile.
- ✦ Preliminary accommodation ideas (job-based and academic) based on findings from clinical interview and objective neurocognitive testing.

We have received positive feedback about this idea from our friends at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), who have expressed interest in this new assessment, and are beginning to contract with us to provide this new service. As with any new offering, only time will tell regarding its success. However, this highlights another way we are continually thinking of opportunities we can develop to better serve DVR and our clients.

