



## **Niagara University & Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara Transition Readiness to Employment in the Community Program**

The T.R.E.C. program originated in the summer of 2009 as a result of a partnership between Niagara University and Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara. College of Education graduate students, Sara Murphy and Chelsea Riedl, coordinate the program and serve as instructors.



## **Niagara University & Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara Transition Readiness to Employment in the Community Program**

The program's curriculum is designed over two semesters: first semester is exposure to work readiness skills, technology, and literacy development. The second semester is self-advocacy centered around services and resources that are available to the participants.



## **Niagara University & Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara Transition Readiness to Employment in the Community Program**

Classroom and real-world experiences, along with computers and other technology, were made available to adults who had the opportunity to come to a university campus.



## **Niagara University & Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara Transition Readiness to Employment in the Community Program**

Participants also visited local businesses, such as Wegmans and the Seneca Niagara Casino, to explore possible job options.



## **Niagara University & Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara Transition Readiness to Employment in the Community Program**

This past semester, Dr. Kathleen Brown, Assistant Professor of Education, and her class of teacher candidates studying the Characteristics of Students with Special Needs invited program participants into their classroom. Participants would first meet with Bonar and Rossi to work on a particular skill such as accepting supervision, effective communication, or using technology and then join Dr. Brown's class to work in small groups to practice and reinforce what they learned.



## **Niagara University & Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara Transition Readiness to Employment in the Community Program**

This program is truly an example of both students and teachers learning alike. “My students have said you can read a textbook, but the opportunity to work with these individuals really opened their eyes and provided them with valuable real-life experience,” Dr. Brown said. Dr. Brown has received nothing but positive feedback from her students who expressed that that they believe this opportunity should be extended to all potential teachers.

**Niagara University &**

**opportunities unlimited**



**Niagara University & Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara  
Transition Readiness to Employment in the Community Program**