



612 South Main Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

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Vodec Takes on Different Role in Reverse Job Fair

Vodec participated in a Reverse Job Fair Wednesday, March 21, at Abraham Lincoln High School.

What makes this type of fair interesting is its unique structure.

Unlike a typical job fair where the employer sets up a display to entice potential job candidates, in this fair, eager job candidates set up their own displays — ready to discuss their resumes and interest in a variety of businesses.

Attendees then have the

opportunity to meet with job seekers showcasing their skills in the hopes of gaining full- or part-time employment.

Participants come with varying degrees of skill levels and experience seeking entry-level employment. The annual event is inspired by the Equal Employment Opportunity initiative.

The Reverse Job Fair was hosted in a collaborative effort with IowaWORKS, Council Bluffs Community School District,

Check out the
Vodec FY17 Annual
Report online at
www.vodec.org

Goodwill Industries and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

The event is set up to help connect candidates with employers looking for qualified workers.

Join us on Social Media!



Help us “Go Green” and sign up for The Voice online at www.vodec.org or by emailing Mike at mwatkins@vodec.org.



THE Voice

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Vodec consumers work on a project for Cenveo client R.J. Reynolds. It's one of several projects that Vodec regularly does for Cenveo, one of the top suppliers of printed labels in North America.

— Photos Used Courtesy of John Miller

Cenveo Partnership Provides Reciprocal Rewards

In the 10 years Vodec has partnered with Cenveo, John Miller has seen tremendous value and reliability in the work done by Vodec.

Reciprocally, he recognizes the value the business relationship offers to Vodec, providing consumers with work they can do well and of which they can be proud.

“It’s definitely a good match for their skill sets, and from a capacity and needs standpoint, Vodec consumers provide a quality service we can always depend upon,” said Miller, the National Sales Manager and a 29-year employee of Cenveo, which produces labels for a variety of clients nationwide.

“This is a relationship built on trust, consistency and great work that I see continuing.”

The business partnership began as the result of a cold call from Vodec. Having a special needs daughter and having spent time with developmentally disabled adults, Miller knew of their immense pride and abilities to do work that would benefit Cenveo’s clients.

One of the most recent projects Vodec consumers have performed for Cenveo include collating and packing labels and kits for one of its biggest clients — R.J. Reynolds, among others.

“This is a relationship built on trust, consistency and great work that I see continuing.”

— John Miller, Cenveo

Miller said Vodec has always been on time with its projects, does fantastic work and is up front if the timing of a request is bad or can’t be met due to other work happening at the time.

Vodec Business Development Director Joe Willard said Miller was one of the first customers he met when he started last summer, and he knew quickly that the organizations shared a great working relationship.

“When John told me about our long track record of churning out quality work in a timely manner, it confirmed for me that I was working with a team committed to excellence and exceeding our customers’ expectations,” Willard said.

Cenveo is just one of several client partners that regularly works with Vodec — and because of the long and strong relationship, it is definitely one of the organization’s favorites.

Athletes Excel at Special Olympics Iowa



Vodec’s athletes practice throughout the year to compete in different sports, and on March 10, that practice paid off at the Special Olympics Iowa Mid-Winter Tournament in Iowa City. Vodec’s two Cheer Squads placed second among competitors, along with two basketball players who finished second and a third who placed sixth. “Special Olympics gives our athletes a chance to show their creative side and work as a team. Our athletes love the challenge that this competition provides and are very proud to be VODEC Vikings!” said Vodec Residential Services Supervisor Jennifer Koedam.



Vodec Recognized During Nebraska’s Birthday Party

A group of Vodec staff, consumers and family members visited the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln March 1 to discuss the value of developmental disability services in a “fun and positive way, and gain the support of State Senators and others.”

Vodec consumer James Driscoll spoke about his

own experiences with developmental disabilities and the importance of being accepted in the community.

The morning event was in conjunction with Nebraska’s 2018 “Birthday Our Way” celebration, which honored the state’s birthday and birthdays of Nebraskans with developmental disabilities

“The observance of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is designed so citizens have increased access to employment, education, housing and social opportunities,” said Brian Kanter, Board President of the Nebraska Association of Service Providers and CEO of Developmental Services of Nebraska.



Vodec consumer James Driscoll spoke during the Nebraska Association of Service Providers event March 1 at the Nebraska State Capitol.

Vodec Entrance Criteria:

- ▶ Be at least 16 years old for any employment training program
- ▶ Have behavioral needs within Vodec’s scope of service
- ▶ Have medical needs within Vodec’s scope of service
- ▶ Have transportation needs within Vodec’s capability to provide
- ▶ Have adequate funding in place (including service hours authorization or private payment in place) for services being requested
- ▶ For in-home service, applicant’s home must meet basic health and safety requirements

For more information, or to apply for Vodec services, contact Daryn Richardson at drichardson@vodec.org or call (712) 328-2638.

Vodec is certified by:

- Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
- Iowa Department of Human Services
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation
- Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation
- Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC)

Vodec is affiliated with the following organizations:

- Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce (Iowa)
- Human Services Advisory Council
- Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP)
- Iowa Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
- Nebraska Association of Service Providers (NASP)
- Nonprofit Association of the Midlands (NAM)
- Omaha Chamber of Commerce (Neb.)
- Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce (Neb.)
- Urbandale Chamber of Commerce (Iowa)

Vodec is an authorized provider in the following:

Iowa HealthLink networks:

- Amerigroup
- United Healthcare



From the CEO’s Desk:

Pre-vocational employment training service is being discontinued by more Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) providers.

This is in anticipation of its discontinued funding by CMS (Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services). “Promoting community integration for older adults and people with disabilities remains a high priority for CMS,” according to a May 9, 2017, information bulletin from CMS.

CMS’ view of pre-vocational service is one of non-integration. CMS originally planned to discontinue funding on March 17, 2019. However, CMS announced extending it to 2022 in the bulletin, “in light of the difficult and complex nature of this task.”

Vodec is a LTSS provider offering pre-vocational service in Iowa and Nebraska. Neither state is discussing amending its transitional plan with CMS to take advantage of the



Steve Hodapp
VODEC Chief Executive Officer

extension to 2022. This leaves us wondering if either state will take advantage of the extension date. It makes planning challenging. Until otherwise known, we need to plan for the earlier date.

For the last year, we’ve been assessing goals and employability skills of consumers in our pre-vocational service. Goals for a pre-vocational service consumer includes community employment.

Skills need to indicate community

employment as a viable option. So, a lot of pre-vocational consumers with input from their program planning teams transitioned to day habilitation service available from Vodec.

Pre-vocational service consumers remaining will be encouraged to consider transitioning to day habilitation or community employment.

As we approach the end of the year, consumers with their guardians’ support may want an employment training setting. We will gauge the strength of that demand and explore alternative provision methods without funding from CMS.

Vodec’s position on pre-vocational service remains supportive. We recognize it is not appropriate for all consumers. Our plan is to continue offering some version of it as long as there is demand and alternative support for it.

Stay tuned!
Steve Hodapp
Vodec CEO

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**November 2017 through February 2018*