



The Vodec Voice

Realizing **Potential**

2023 Adult Transition Program Graduates to be Honored at Vodec



Top Row Left to Right: Day Services Coordinator Kristen
Students: Joslin, Gavin, Ryan, and Christian
Bottom Row Left to Right: Students Lilly and Rachel, Day
Service Assistant Amanda Franks, Student Ryan, Day Service
Assistant, Tana Lidgett

Council Bluffs, IA- on May 24th, Vodec will hold a graduation ceremony for the 2023 Adult Transition Program (ATP) students, their families, and friends. Fifteen students will be exiting the program after completing their course of study.

"I'm proud of what these young adults have accomplished," said Steve Hodapp, Vodec CEO, "It's been a joy to watch them explore, grow, and develop skills that lead to independence at home and at work."

Luau theme for 2023 Spring Fling Dance

Omaha, NE.- The Vodec annual spring fling dance was held on April 11, at the Omaha development center. A live DJ played music. All of the music was played by a live DJ and at the request of the consumers who attended the dance. Employees assisted consumers and ensured that everyone had a fantastic time.

A luau theme was selected for this year's dance. The consumers selected the theme by ballot. Each consumer voted on which theme they wanted. "Consumer choice is one of the highest priorities we have here at Vodec," reported Micky Jackson, Services Operations Director. "Our employees

This will be Vodec's 16th graduating class of ATP students. Vodec was approached in 2006 by the Council Bluffs Community Schools district to facilitate ATP. "In response to teachers and parents, ATP has grown in size, the scope of services, and in the number of students served," states Hodapp. Transition programs are an option for eligible students in special education. ATP provides additional learning and support for these students after their senior year of high school. "Most students remain in the program for three years or until their 21st birthday approximately," states Regina Greco, ATP Supervisor. "During their time in ATP, the graduates have experienced community work experience, practiced daily living skills, practiced financial literacy skills, explored leisure activities, and made connections to resources that will continue to serve them after they graduate," adds Greco.

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined- Thoreau



Above left to right: April Krause, Production Director and Justin taking a selfie at the 2023 Spring Fling

loved the idea of a luau. The theme inspired employees' creativity they and pulled the dance together." Vodec employees purchased scenic

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island backdrops, and colorful leis, made island-themed refreshments and dressed in Hawaiian-themed shirts.



Above: Brandon voting for his choice of theme for the Spring Fling.



Above left to right: Kya, James, Krystal, Ashley, and Jon posing together in front of a tropical backdrop.

Preparing for Emergencies

Urbandale, IA- On April 21st, consumers from the Cares Day program visited The Clive Fire Department, in Clive, Iowa. During the visit, they met with firefighters, checked out the fire trucks, examined firefighting gear, and listened to a presentation from the firefighters on fire prevention, and fire emergencies.

“Preparing for emergencies is important, especially for individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues. Interacting with first responders such as firefighters, police officers, and EMTs before an emergency is key,” states Elise Axtell, Day Services Supervisor.

In the case of a fire, individuals need to get out quickly. In these cases, there may be a lot of fire, smoke, and noise. In other cases, the fire emergency may happen in the middle of the night and a consumer may awaken to a chaotic scene unfolding around them. Their lives may depend on following the instructions of the firefighters on the scene. A firefighter with their gear and mask on may look frightening to some consumers. This is why we want to familiarize consumers with first responders,” Axtell adds, “We are immensely grateful for the help of the Clive Fire Department.”



A Clive Firefighter displays his firefighting suit and personal protective equipment, so that consumers know what to expect if there is a fire emergency.

Millions of Americans live with physical and mental disabilities. It is important to know your risk and build your fire prevention plans around your abilities.

- ✓ Have smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Interconnect your alarms, so when one sounds, they all sound.
- ✓ If you are deaf or hard of hearing, use smoke alarms with a vibrating pad, flashing light or strobe light. These accessories start when your alarm sounds.
- ✓ Test your alarms every month.



Plan your escape around your abilities.

- ✓ Know two ways out of every room.
- ✓ If possible, live near an exit.
- ✓ You'll be safest on the ground floor if you live in an apartment building.
- ✓ If you live in a multistory home, sleep on the first floor.
- ✓ Being on the ground floor and near an exit will make your escape easier.

For more information and free resources, visit
www.usfa.fema.gov





Vodec Plans a Busy Summer for Students

Steve Hodapp, Vodec CEO

Officially summer starts soon. There'll be lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer to look forward to. Maybe a nap under a shade tree. But life does not slow down at Vodec! We have an exciting summer planned in our Student Services programs in Council Bluffs, IA, Urbandale, IA, and Omaha, NE.

Leading off in Council Bluffs, is the graduation of students who have been attending our Adult Transition Program (ATP). They worked hard every day to complete their requirements. Graduation is the fruit of their labor.

Congratulations to the graduates!

And ATP will offer two three-week summer sessions beginning in June. These will be an extension of life skills training and integrated community activities, along with job skills training, for high school students with developmental disabilities.

We're on the cusp of rolling out another program in our Student Services department. We expect our application to be approved soon (maybe already, by the time you read this) to be a provider under Iowa's Child Care Act. This Youth Services program will offer curriculum-based services to

youth aged 13 to 19 years old who are in families meeting Iowa's income eligibility guidelines. Youth may or may not have developmental disabilities.

This program will originally be in Council Bluffs.

For information about Student Services programs in Council Bluffs, call 712-328-2638.

In Urbandale, we'll offer a summer session of our Transition Focus program. This will focus on independent living skills training and integrated community activities for high school students with developmental disabilities. The session starts in June, but applications can be completed anytime this summer.

Call 515-777-2114 for information about Vodec programs in Urbandale, Iowa.

Our Omaha location will offer summer availability to our School Transition program. This is an extension of the program offered throughout the school year. Students with developmental disabilities will work on learning and enhancing their employability skills. In addition to the employment training program, we will also be offering a summer habilitation program. This second program focuses on independent living skills while incorporating integrated community activities designed for students in high school or transition.

Call 402-455-4648 for information about Vodec programs in Omaha, NE.

Vodec Summer Apparel Now Available



For a limited time only. The online store is now open until June 1st, 2023. Use the link below to start shopping.

<https://vodecapparel.itemorder.com/shop/home/>





612 S. Main Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Our mission is to provide services to persons with disabilities in order that those persons may live, work and participate in the community in the least restrictive environment to achieve their full potential.

Vodec is an equal opportunity employer. There is equal opportunity for services and for employment, retention and advancement without regard to race, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability and veteran status or any other classifications protected by state or federal law.

Vodec is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations may be tax-deductible.

Our Offices & Locations:

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We are thankful for these generous donors.

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Jacque Evans
Steve Hodapp

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Andrea Smith

Vodec is certified by:

- The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)



- Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
- Iowa Department of Human Services
- Nebraska Department of Education

Vodec is affiliated with the following organizations:

- Council Bluffs, Iowa Chamber of Commerce
- Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC)
- Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP)
- Iowa Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
- Nebraska Association of Service Providers (NASP)
- Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce

Vodec is an authorized provider in the following Iowa HealthLink networks:

- Amerigroup
- Iowa Total Care

Vodec is a contracted Community Rehabilitation Program with the Iowa Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Vodec Entrance Criteria:

- Be at least 16 years of age for employment services
- Have behavior that is not dangerous to self or others
- Have medical needs within Vodec's scope of service
- Have transportation needs within Vodec's capability to provide
- Have funding in place prior to service provision

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