



SPECIALIZED EDUCATION SERVICES JOHNATHAN'S STORY:

Johnathan, a Stepping Stone day treatment student, is getting ready to spread his wings! Making the leap from school to work can be a tough transition, which is why he's utilizing our job-readiness services as he prepares to graduate high school.

Since Johnathan joined us this past June, he's taken advantage of many of our Vocational Education programs while receiving therapeutic support. On campus, he's worked in the dining hall, auto shop, and at our "Tiger's Treasures" store, where students can use earned currency to purchase personal items for self-care or entertainment.

He enjoys helping students budget and make spending decisions, observing, "The little guys look up to me when they ask for my advice on what's a good purchase."

He's done so well, he's progressed to working off campus. He's part of a landscape crew at a local golf course and will soon be picking up hours at Home Depot. His ultimate goal: to work hands-on with cars or as a mechanic.

"Johnathan moved up quickly and is self-motivated. He's such a hard worker," says Jenni Mendoza, Director of our Career & Technical Education Program. "It's great to see him working as part of a team. I'm very confident that he'll achieve whatever he sets his mind to!"

Johnathan credits Allendale for helping him grow. "Allendale is different because of how teachers help you individually," he notes. "I'm ready to take advantage of all the opportunities I can!"

Allendale's Educational Services Program
...helps students determine their own goals, building academic skills, good work habits, & self-confidence, through a meticulous K-12 individualized education program.

Program highlights include:

- Educating nearly 500 students on a year-round basis, including residents & daily commuters from 60+ school districts.
- Replicating our success through partnership with local public school districts.
- Facilitating credit recovery & improving graduation outcomes.
- Offering specialized classes & individualized attention via small class sizes & high adult-to-student ratios.
- Providing vocational training through on-campus grounds-keeping crews, laundry, greenhouse, auto/small engines, carpentry, embroidery/sewing & food service programs.
- Facilitating employment & job coaching for over 100 students, including training & employment at local businesses.
- Enrollment in local community college vocational campus.
- Providing college funding & vocational-training grants to disadvantaged kids.

"ALLENDALE PROVIDES ME WITH THE STRUCTURE THAT I NEEDED--NOW I CAN WORK HARD & FOCUS ON MY OWN GOALS FOR MY OWN CAREER PATH!"

Johnathan, pictured to the left with one of his Job Coaches, Jenni Mendoza, Allendale's Director of Career & Technical Education Program.