



South Jersey Workforce Development Board Annual Meeting



(Sewell, NJ) President Fred Keating of Rowan College of South Jersey addressing the South Jersey Workforce Development Board members at our annual regional meeting on December 4th 2019.

We thank Rowan College of South Jersey and Dr. Fred Keating for hosting our 2019 Annual South Jersey Collaborative Workforce Development Board meeting on December 4th. This meeting is comprised of the Workforce Development Board members from the seven southern counties in South Jersey and is made up of 51% business and industry

members. With an estimated 100 members in attendance at this event, we believe this would be a unique opportunity for the board members to hear from President Ali Houshmand of Rowan University and President Fred Keating for Rowan College. Both Presidents spoke at length about the expansion of Rowan University and the merger of Rowan College of South Jersey, the opportunities these two institutions will provide to the current and prospective students, and workforce development programs they offer. President Ali Houshmand discussed Rowan University's expansion in research and how the University sees itself playing a big role in economic and workforce development in the region.

Jeannette's Path to Success



"I know Jeannette is capable of doing a lot," says her mother Barbara. "Having a job and being a part of a program gives her a sense of responsibility. It also teaches her how to be organized. She's doing great!"

Jeannette is an amazing who makes you smile simply by saying hello. Because of her good nature, compassion for others and happy demeanor, you would never know that she lives with dystonia, a neurological movement disorder in which your muscles contract involuntarily causing repetitive or twisting movements. She doesn't let that stop her! For the last 18 years she has been a consumer at St. John of God Community Services' Fulfillment Center and the last 12 years as a teacher's assistant at Shady Lane Child Development Center in Clarksboro, N.J.

"After students with disabilities graduate high school they lose services," said mom Barbara. "I could tell she needed something to do so I signed her up to volunteer at Volunteers of America. It didn't matter that she wasn't getting paid, she needed something to do.

But when a position opened up for her at St. John of God we were excited for her to start. She really grew there," said Mom.

St. John of God offers a number of services to accommodate adults with disabilities. They provide skill development and training for those with special needs who are seeking gainful employment in the community. For adults with disabilities who cannot work in the community, the fulfillment center helps them reach other

employment goals. For more than 35 years, the fulfillment center has offered high-quality order fulfillment and other outsourcing services at reasonable rates. Services include bagging, boxing, direct mail, labeling shredding and more. Adults in the program also have the opportunity to put in a full day's work and collect a paycheck.

While at St. John of God, a position became available at Shady Lane Childhood Development Center.

Jeannette began working there 2 days a week. But with hard work and a love for the job, those hours increased to 30! She continues to work at the fulfillment center one day a week. That one day per week at St. John of God gives her an opportunity to develop other job skills for when she wants to do something else other than working with children.

Kimberly Quigley, Program Supervisor of St. John of God Community Services Adult Services program has known Jeannette for a long time. "Jeannette is truly a success story," said Quigley. "Working at Shady Lane provides her an opportunity to do something she loves. But learning other job skills at St. John of God like socialization, technology, light assembly helps her grow as an employee and as a person," said Quigley.

"I love working at Shady Lane," said Jeannette. "The kids are great and everyone is so nice. The babies love me!" said Jeannette. Jeannette also appreciates the friends she's made at St. John of God. She said they're like family!

St. John of God Community Services is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and to create a hospitable space where people may experience dignity and respect. St. John of God provides multi-dimensional services to individuals and families throughout each stage of life. Programs include a private K-12 special needs school (Archbishop Damiano School), early intervention, inclusive daycare and preschool, adult job training and day services, therapeutic recreation, religious education, and clinic services. St. John of God Community Services is dedicated to the individuals they serve and the community around them.



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