

# CPD joins statewide program to help neurodiverse young adults

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Marissa Bell and Dallin Phillips both secured jobs through the Employability Clinic at the Center for Persons with Disabilities.

The Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University has joined in a multi-university program aimed at easing the way for young adults with certain disabilities, including autism, to enter the workforce or higher education.

The [Utah Neurodiversity Workforce Program](#), which started at the University of Utah, strives to help neurodiverse students enter jobs or higher education on completing high school. It's a group of young people whose potential—for out-of-the-box thinking, dedication and focus at work—has remained untapped all too often. Neurodiverse workers include those with autism, dyslexia, Tourette's syndrome and other neurological conditions.

CPD Director Matthew Wappett will be the project's principal investigator at USU, and he is encouraged by the way it is helping universities cooperate to bring about social justice for a problem that has been largely invisible.

"It's really exciting to see us come together," he said.

The project's aim is to train not just students, but also educators and potential employers about including neurodiverse young adults.

Read more on the [USU website](#).