

Transition Works

Where your future begins

Nebraska VR

Nebraska Department of Education

Learning to Earn: Nate Sears

Nate Sears first heard about Nebraska VR when he was in twelfth grade at Lyons-Decatur Northeast High School. He met Nebraska VR Pre-Employment Transition Services Coordinator Misti Hasley and thought working with her was awesome. After getting to learn more about Nate's skills and interests, Misti helped Nate begin to explore jobs that may be of interest to him. Because Nate mentioned how much he enjoyed hunting and fishing, she knew a work-based learning experience (WBLE) at Pheasant Bonanza would be a great chance for Nate to learn what it takes to be an employee. To ensure he would be successful, she arranged a worksite skills trainer for the hands-on work experience.

During his WBLE, Nate trimmed and pulled weeds in bird pens, fed and watered dogs, cleaned dog pens, filled clay pigeon machines, and replaced mulch in spaces for baby pheasants. He worked hard because he wanted Pheasant Bonanza's Owner and Manager Trent Leichter to hire him in the future. When asked, Nate thought his supervisor would describe him as someone who is "very hard working and passionate about the job."

In addition to completing a WBLE, Nate received workplace readiness training to help develop appropriate behaviors in a working environment. He learned new skills through conversations about budgeting, being on time, and doing the job tasks to the best of his ability.

Misti also helped Nate develop skills in advocating for himself and employment readiness. He was eager to learn about communication, problem-solving, and adaptability. Because of this learning experience,



~Nate Sears

Tools for Learning, Earning, and Living!



AT4ALL is brought to you by the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP). They recycle technology to benefit people with disabilities of all ages. You can search equipment available for loan, demonstration, free or for sale. Items are available in the following categories:

- Computers and Related
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptions
- Hearing
- Learning, Cognition, and Developmental
- Mobility, Seating, and Positioning
- Recreation, Sports, and Leisure
- Speech Communication
- Vehicle Modification and Transportation
- Vision

Go to <https://www.at4all.com/> to learn more!

(Continued on page 2)



Learning to Earn: Nate Sears

(Continued from page 1)

he knew how to ask for workplace accommodations to fit his individual needs.

After Nate successfully completed his WBLE, he was offered a part-time job that turned into full-time employment after high school. This job is consistent with his strengths, skills, abilities, and interests. It is close to his home so he is able to get to work independently. He enjoys the work he does, being able to spend time hunting on the property, and learning taxidermy skills.

About WBLE

(Work-Based Learning Experiences)

For Students. WBLE are a way to explore a field of interest and see if it is a good choice. Practicing employability skills and make personal connections in the community may help in the future when looking for a job.

For Schools. WBLE are a great way to foster relationships in the community and improve student retention rates. These unique opportunities expose students to technology and equipment while meeting the needs of students who experience disabilities.

For Businesses. WBLE provide an opportunity to connect to the community by helping prepare potential future employees with workplace expectations.



Employers Speak

Strong partnerships with businesses and organizations in communities across Nebraska are key to providing opportunities for students to explore career choices and develop employability skills. We've asked one of these partners to provide some insight as a WBLE host.

How were you introduced to Nebraska VR?

When I started in the Human Resources Department at Hy-Vee, we were already working with Nebraska VR and other partners like Goodwill. Working with them has continued to be a pleasure.

How were you introduced to the student?

Typically, it starts with a store tour. From there they will bring the student into the office and discuss what it will look like going forward.

What were some of the work duties during the WBLE?

Where we have had the most success is starting the student up front where they have a lot of customer interaction. They also have other duties such as grabbing carts outside, cleaning, organizing, and sometimes stocking. It is an entry level position which they can sometimes do without a worksite skills trainer.

What did the student do well from the beginning?

The students are very attentive, listen well, and are just excited. They are all easy to work with and so polite.

What surprised you about the experience?

I was surprised by how well the students work and how little I had to do with paperwork. Nebraska VR really does make it easy for the employer.

How do you feel about your role in preparing a student for the future?

I love being a part of it but the real heroes that come into play are our Service Managers, the students, and the Pre-Employment Transition Services Coordinator. I am glad that they look to Hy-Vee for this experience. Our customers enjoy the students as well.

Adriana Henderson, Human Resource Manager
Hy-Vee, Kearney

Connect with Us

Nebraska VR provides Pre-Employment Transition Services for students with disabilities. We partner with parents, schools, and employers to help students prepare for the future. Transition Works, published by Nebraska VR, is intended for students with disabilities and their families, as well as educators.

Physical Address:

500 South 84th, 2nd Floor
Lincoln, NE 68510-2611

Mailing Address:

PO Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509
Toll Free: 877-637-3422

Find additional resources for students at: vr.nebraska.gov/students.

Like us on Facebook at: facebook.com/NebraskaVR.

Follow us on X at: x.com/NebraskaVR.



Nebraska VR - Where your future begins