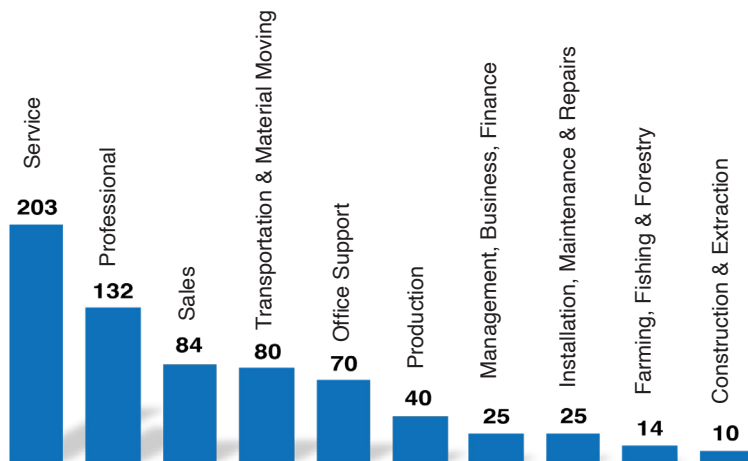




## Occupations for Competitively Employed Nebraska VR Clients



## Nebraska VR Return On Investment

On average, a successfully employed person returns

**\$2.78**

to Nebraska taxpayers for every

**\$1.00**

spent through Nebraska VR services.



## Learning to Earn - Taylor O'Neil

Taylor O'Neil, a Blair High School student, is interested and excited to gain more skills and try new work options. She was introduced to Nebraska VR Pre-Employment Transition Services Coordinator Aubrey Gutierrez as a sophomore in 2023. She had a good first impression, found the experience very helpful, and says she wishes she would have started working with Nebraska VR earlier in school. Taylor experiences a learning disability that sometimes makes it difficult to understand what is expected in social settings and in the workplace.

While participating in several Pre-Employment Transition Services activities during school, Taylor received job exploration counseling from her Coordinator. Activities to understand her work interests, skills, and abilities helped her learn more about herself. Discussions and practice exercises helped her learn when and who to ask for help in a job setting. She also worked to build skills in completing job applications, writing résumés and cover letters, choosing reliable references, and using good manners in a business setting. They also completed mock interviews.

Out in the community, Taylor visited several businesses to learn and explore more about specific jobs and to be introduced to a variety of workplaces. She toured Pizza Hut, Subway, Jeanette's Animal Shelter, and Little Blossoms Daycare and Pre-School. During the summer of 2023, she participated in a work-based learning experience (WBLE) at Goodwill in Blair. This was one of ten innovative short-term Transition Summer Programs available across the state that year. During the experience, she helped in salvaging, separating, and sorting of donated items. Taylor liked the work environment and job duties. She gained real work experience and confidence.

Taylor helped with childcare and activities at another WBLE in the summer of 2024. The experience was hosted by Little Blossoms Daycare and Pre-School in Blair. Taylor's Coordinator Aubrey shared, "Working in childcare was not even a consideration until touring the day care. Because of that experience, Taylor was able to see she was interested in the work and she was willing to explore this specific job."

Taylor's parents are appreciative of the information and guidance available to help their daughter succeed. Nikki O'Neil, Taylor's Mom, had positive things to share about the activities and services available through Nebraska VR to her daughter. Nikki said, "My daughter participated in this program last summer and came out of this program with more confidence and better self-esteem. She made some friends along the way. These are opportunities that you, as a parent, need to take advantage of. These work experiences helped my daughter mature and grow into an adult and to learn more about what is expected of her in the workforce."

