

Council Bluffs Iowa Shares Student Success with WorkKeys[®]

The journey to career and education success at the Council Bluffs Community School District is smoother for students using WorkKeys in career pathways. As a Work Ready Communities partner in Pottawattamie County, the Green Hills Area Education Agency shared teacher insights.

I have a Transition Alliance Program student who took the NCRC this semester and he earned a platinum. Being in a therapeutic environment throughout high school, this young man has been setting his sights at entry level jobs with little opportunity for advancement such as a fast food worker or grocery store clerk. The platinum score on the NCRC has motivated him to consider careers that require more skills as well as exploring post-secondary educational opportunities. The NCRC has been instrumental in showing him that he can perform academically at a significantly higher level than he has estimated. Because he doesn't have practice with rigorous coursework, he is concerned about taking 12-15 college credits, but trying one or two classes is a possibility. He is participating in the Reverse Job Fair in May and is including the NCRC on his resume.

I had a student who took the NCRC before she graduated. She earned a silver rating which qualifies her to be a paraprofessional with CBCSD. Unfortunately, she moved to Kansas City, Kansas in January and we were exploring Kansas Community Colleges for her to earn an associate's degree to become a para. However, I recently learned that Kansas recognizes the NCRC as an approved assessment for paraprofessionals and I am assisting her in getting her NCRC certificate number so that she can apply for paraprofessional positions in Kansas.

