


## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS



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### INTRODUCTION

In the US, 85% of adults with developmental disabilities are unemployed and employment options are limited and antiquated. The long-standing philosophy is to secure any low-level job rather than finding opportunities best-suited for the person. We reject the notion that a person with a disability is only capable of an entry-level, minimum wage job. We believe that every person has unique skills and talents and that they should be provided the opportunity to turn them into a meaningful life.

Through this project, we will empower communities to implement programming that allow those with disabilities to design their own future through entrepreneurship education and skill development. Ultimately, creating forward-thinking communities that are empowered by possibilities of entrepreneurship.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Celebrate EDU's unique and novel approach is shaking up the disability community. Founded by the family of a young man on the autism spectrum, we experienced the challenges that exist for those with disabilities transitioning out of the "system" and into adulthood. Brent struggled to find employment and a place in the community, but he finally found success as an entrepreneur. Celebrate EDU was created to teach skills in business and entrepreneurship that help people with disabilities to create their own opportunities.

This project will bring Celebrate EDU programs to the Northeast, providing business and technology training to 125 self-advocates with disabilities, 50 family members, and 25 disability service providers. According to the US Bureau of Labor, more than half of today's jobs require some technology skills, yet most with disabilities do not have this training. Our online programs not only teach business and entrepreneurial skills but also equip our students with the digital literacy needed to be successful in 2020.

Celebrate EDU is changing the mindset of the disability community by encouraging them to challenge the notion that "underemployment" is the best option and instead recognize the possibilities for success through the power of entrepreneurship education. Celebrate EDU programs have directly impacted 755 self-advocates and 405 family members/service providers in 7 states. We believe that every person, regardless of ability or disability should have the opportunity to create a meaningful life.