Project FOCUS

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Purpose
• To help students with intellectual/developmental disabilities achieve academic success, independent living, and employment goals.

History
• Project FOCUS is a two-year post-secondary education program.
• Project FOCUS started three years ago with one student.

Community Service Paradigm
• Volunteering at Project FOCUS is a social change.

Social Issue
• The lack of inclusion within higher education environment.
• There are not enough resources for students.

Approaches to the Issue
• Educational coaches help the students.
• Project FOCUS helps the students find jobs and internships.
• My approach to the social issue would be to volunteer as often as possible, and to promote inclusion in my future classroom.

Current and Ideal State
• Currently, not every college has a program for students with disabilities.
• The ideal state would be inclusion for all and accommodations for all students.

Making a Difference
• I helped many students with their homework, and I built friendships.
• As a whole, Project FOCUS is helping create an inclusive environment.

Professional Learning
• I am able to get hands on experience working with students with special needs.

References
• Hadley, Wanda. "The Four-Year College Experience of One Student with Multiple Learning Disabilities."
• Madaus, Joseph W. "Navigating the College Transition Maze: A Guide for Students with Learning Disabilities."
• Shah, Nirvi. "After Special Education, Students Turn to College."