12-6-2018

Project Focus

Anankan Thangaratnam
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, thangara@unlv.nevada.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/educ_sys_202

Part of the Education Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/educ_sys_202/85

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Undergraduate Research at Digital Scholarship@UNLV. It has been accepted for inclusion in Second-Year Seminar Posters (COE 202) by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.
The purpose of project FOCUS is to help college age students who have intellectual or developmental disabilities deal with college life here in UNLV. They have 3 main things they focus on – Academics, Employment and Independent living.

Their paradigm is to use the principles of the Universal Design for Learning and Person Centered planning to provide a 100% inclusive program that helps college students achieve current and future academic, independent living, and employment goals.

FOCUS addresses the social issue of trying to mimic the same college and life experience for Autistic students as for non-Autistic students. Currently the issue is improving, but needs more marketing to ensure every eligible student is aware of it. The ideal state is for every Autistic student achieve confidence and independence, and the world around them to be more inclusive. I agree with FOCUS that this is a great way to do it, and with more funding and marketing it can be achieved.

Focus introduced their first student in 2015, and are now in over 275 campuses across the country.

My role with focus was to help students with homework, as well as having lunch with them and walking around campus. It was different than my expectations since I wasn’t aware they were going to be working on similar classes and workloads as us, and the social aspect of the charity was a surprise as well.

I learnt how much help we can give to Autistic kids lives with these small contributions. Definitely an eye opener both personally and professionally going forward.

REFERENCES
http://unlvcoe.org/focus/
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2970745/
https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1153&context=ejie