

Understanding the Value of Post-Secondary Opportunities for Individuals with IDD

Presenters:

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Session Outline

1. The HALO Program and its importance
2. Development of the HALO Program
3. Description of Initial 2-Year Program
4. Description of Expansion and Transition Year
5. Person-Centered Application Process
6. Growth of the Program and moving forward
7. Success within and beyond the HALO Program



The HALO Program and its Importance

Provides a higher education experience for students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities or other learning challenges at Heartland Community College

- Develop independence and time management skills
- Create capacity for independent decision making
- Encourage responsibility
- Cultivate self-advocacy skills
- **Have an excellent college experience**



Development of the HALO Program

Progression through the years:

- 2007 – College conversation began
- 2008 – Community inquiry
- 2009 – Application open for HALO Program
- 2011 – Program redesigned to align as a CTP Program
- 2016 – 2-year program/certificate model
- 2020 – 2021 – COVID break
- 2023 – Awarded ICCB grant
- 2024 – Awarded ICCB grant



Initial 2-Year HALO Program

2-year certificate working to gain an understanding:

- Academics
- Soft skills
- Life skills

The program has a rotating course schedule

- Community Awareness
- Health & Wellness
- Exploration of Independent Living
- Math for Life
- Computer Technology
- Social Development
- Cooking Skills
- Money Skills
- Reading & Writing for Life



Initial 2-Year HALO Program

A day at HCC for a HALO student is very similar to other students

- Regular class schedule
- Independent time
- Peer Mentors

Students show understanding of learning objectives through

- Course work
- Experiential events
- Personal growth over the 2 years



HALO Expansion/Transition Year

Single year opportunity that looks at assisting students navigate their next steps in life

- Seeking college credit courses or certificate offerings
- Working towards more gainful employment

Courses offered

- Social-Emotional Development
- Success Education **
- Transition to College or Workforce
- Professionalism



HALO Expansion/Transition Year

A day at HCC for an Expansion/Transition student is very similar to other students

- Regular class schedule
- Independent time
- Peer Mentors

Student course work is elevated to mimic the rigor of a credit course

- Some students are enrolled in other credit courses



Person Centered Application Process

A very personalized application process

- Campus visit to discuss the student and the program
 - Determine best fit for the student
 - Discuss eligibility
 - Discuss application process
- Full application submission
 - 2 person review
 - Student/guardian interview
- Acceptance or denial



Person Centered Application Process Eligibility

Initial 2-Year Program

- Minimum 3rd grade math, reading and written skills
- History of special education services
- Ability to participate in most of the program or class activities
- Sufficient emotional stability to adjust to the program

Expansion/Transition Year

- Minimum 3rd grade math, reading and written skills
- History of special education services
- Ability to actively participate in courses through
 - Effective advocacy skills
 - Initiative
 - Clear communication skills
- Sufficient emotional stability
- Desire to take credit-seeking courses or become more gainfully employed



Person Centered Application Process

Application Process

Initial 2-Year Program

- HALO application
- Official high school transcripts
- Junior year IEP
- 2 HALO recommendation forms
- HALO scholarship form

- Exemption form (if necessary)

Expansion/Transition Year

- HALO expansion application
 - Student interest questionnaire
 - 1 – 2 Recommendation forms
 - Parent/Guardian questionnaire
 - HALO scholarship form
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If necessary:

- Official high school transcripts
- Official college transcripts
- Junior year IEP
- Exemption form

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Growth of the Program and Moving Forward

- Build connections in our community
- Bridging the gap for students
- Expanding into Livingston County
- Continued increase in student participation
- Continue to expand funding opportunities



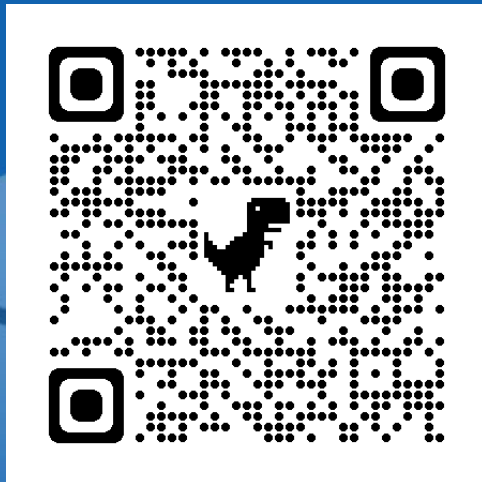
Success Within and Beyond the HALO Program

Success is not ours to determine but in the perspective of the
Student

Thank You!

For More Information

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