

# Country Roads Program



The Country Roads Program is an on-campus program designed for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) and developmental disabilities (DD). The goal of the program is to enhance student independence by providing academic courses, social engagement and applied work experiences.

Students will live in a shared residential housing arrangement, participate in social activities across campus and receive career education and training. A two-year core track focused on independent-living skills and workforce preparedness, plus the option of an advanced track for an additional two years are available. During the advanced track, students will apply their new skills in workplace settings and can enroll in select WVU certificate programs.

## **COUNTRYROADS.CEDWVU.ORG**

### **Student Opportunities**

Students who are enrolled in the Country Roads Program will have a variety of empowering experiences both on- and off-campus. These experiences will be focused on daily living, occupational preparation, and early preparation for higher education. Below are some examples of the areas for opportunity:

- Student-centered planning, job discussion and exploration
- Work experience
- Career seminars
- Mock interviews
- Integrated courses
- Monitored progress
- Student & sporting events
- Student organizations
- Personal safety awareness

### POTENTIAL STUDENTS

The Country Roads Program will admit up to eight students each academic year. The first year for the program will begin in the Fall 2020 semester on the Morgantown, West Virginia campus.

### **Admissions Criteria**

Students will be recruited from communities throughout West Virginia (WV) and neighboring states. Individuals who meet the following criteria will have to complete an application that will be reviewed by the Country Roads Admission Committee for the upcoming academic year:

- Documentation of an intellectual disability, with significant limitations in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior (defined by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities)
- Completed four years of high school education, preferably culminating with a high school diploma or certificate of completion
- Was eligible for IDEA services while in school; had an IEP in school
- Age 18-26 years; Students must be 18 years of age by August 31 of the year they start
- Maintains adult rights and is a United States citizen
- Has the desire and motivation to participate in college experience

### Applicants should have a demonstrated ability to:

- Independently administer and manage medication and medical needs
- Utilize technology (cell phone, laptop)
- Maintain independence and stability
- Function independently for sustained period of time
- Be sociable with groups of new people
- Handle changes in routine and new experiences
- Take direction to complete assignments
- Read and comprehend at a third-grade level or higher and use a calculator

### **PROGRAM SUPPORT**

In the first year of The Country Roads Program, much of the cost falls on individual families through tuition, housing, and programmatic fees. At this time, the estimated cost for a student enrolled in the program is \$39,466 annually. Financial aid programs are available to families but are limited given the non-academic focus in the first two years. Program contributions will help reduce this cost for families

# Who Can Support the Country Roads Program?

Anyone who wishes to contribute to The Country Roads Program may do so regardless of the donation amount. This may include individuals, small or large business owners, and other groups.

# How Can Someone Provide Support to the Program?

We worked closely with the WVU Foundation to establish a donation fund. This fund gathers all donations and contributions into one place so that we can develop scholarships and support the other costs associated with implementing the program.

If you are interested in donating, use the following link to access the fund:

https://give.wvu.edu/ced

# What Do Gifts Provide to the Program?

The largest gift a donation can bring is to reduce the costs for families. Donations may also be designated for program supplies, student events, and peer mentor support. If you prefer your donation is used for a particular activity or piece within the program, you may send us specific notes specifying your preferences when you make the donation at the above link

All donations are tax deductible. The WVU Foundation, Inc. is an independent, tax exempt, 501 (c) (3) charitable organization (Tax ID 55-6017181). Your official donation receipt will be sent by email or by U.S. mail within a few days.

# Who Do I Contact If I Want to Support the Program?

If you are interested in contributing to the program but have questions, please contact: Dr. Lesley Cottrell (|cottrell@hsc.wvu.edu)

Dr. Daniel Long (Daniel Long@mail.wvu.edu).

A WVU Foundation representative is also available if you have questions about monetary donations to the program. Please contact Clare Flanagan at 304-293-0788 or cmflanagan@hsc.wvu.edu.