

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Oakland SEHS and Judson Center collaborate on Autism Connections Program

Oakland University's School of Education and Human Services and Judson Center will combine their unique expertise to provide high quality services to individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other disabilities throughout Southeast Michigan.

Through this partnership, the School of Education and Human Services would further its goal to be a premier university center for the study and advancement of the general body of knowledge regarding ASD and other disabilities, increase the employment potential of individuals with disabilities and continue the education of students, professionals and the community at large.

"We are very excited to be working with such a great university. Our partnership with Oakland University will allow us to continuously improve and validate the outcomes of our programs through external research. Also, we look forward to enhancing our comprehensive array of social and family support along with our programs for treatment and employment, so that Judson Center can continue to provide life-changing results and care for the children, adults and families we serve who have special abilities," shared Cameron Hosner, CEO & President of Judson Center.

"The Autism Connections Program will provide a great research and teaching environment for our faculty and students," said Jon Margerum-Leys, dean of the School of Education and Human Services. "We will also be able to support the Judson Center's mission of providing assistance to individuals, their families, the community and state agencies for proven treatment options and future employment for those with ASD."

Other goals of the collaboration are for the organizations to assist each other in providing in-kind support and joint fundraising efforts for mutually agreed upon projects. Some of these will include program evaluation, research projects conducted by OU faculty and students, paid and unpaid internships, student learning and development opportunities, and marketing opportunities for collaborative programs.

About the Judson Center:

Judson Center is a non-profit human service agency that provides expert, comprehensive services in southeastern Michigan that strengthen children, adults and families impacted by abuse and neglect, autism, developmental disabilities, and mental health challenges so they are successful in their communities. Since opening its doors in 1924, Judson Center has grown to change the lives of more than 6,000 children, adults, and families each year. Judson Center Headquarters is located at 4410 W. 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073. For details, visit www.judsoncenter.org or call 248-549-4339.

About the School of Education and Human Services:

The School of Education and Human Services offers undergraduate and graduate study programs that provide theoretical knowledge plus experiential learning opportunities so graduates are well-prepared for their chosen profession. SEHS is recognized for its successful recruiting of outstanding faculty and strong partnerships with local school districts and community agencies. Learn more at oakland.edu/sehs/.



Drew McDonald, left, foreground, and Christopher Wattai participate in the collaborative laundry service program.

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