



Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies

University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

# Ready for the Future: Maine Youth with Disabilities Developing Work Skills

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## Summer Work for ME

For the past two summers, CCIDS' Summer Work for ME project has provided a range of paid work experiences at Eastern Maine Community College for area high school students with developmental disabilities. Over the 6-week project period, students gained insight into their own strengths and interests and cultivated career awareness. The project received funding from the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council and leveraged funding from the MDOL Bureau of Rehabilitation Services to provide job coaching for the students.



Student working with grounds crew



Student working in admissions office



Student working in dining services



Students receiving instructions from supervisor

**Paid work experience in high school is a strong predictor of positive adult employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities.**

### Partners and Collaborators



Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

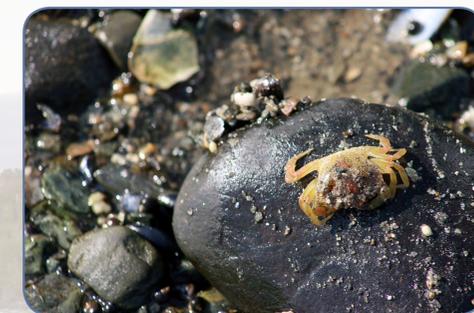


## Intertidal Green Crab Census Project

CCIDS, with funding from Maine EPSCoR SEANET, partnered with the Community Environmental Health Laboratory at Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory to train and engage middle/high school students with disabilities from coastal Hancock County school districts in intertidal census work. Enrolled students were offered paid internships, and received training in the identification of invasive species, data collection and data management.



Student intern identifying a crab species



Close-up of an invasive green crab



Friendships develop while working together



Janet May and student intern recording green crab census data

Summer Work for ME received funding from the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council and leveraged funding from the Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, to provide job coaching for the students at the work sites through vocational rehabilitation program situational assessment dollars. Community rehabilitation provider, KFI, led the development of the work sites at Eastern Maine Community College and coordinated the hiring and training of job coaches. Additional funding was provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (Grant No. 90DD0005).