

## College Internship Program Enhances Curriculum For Students With Learning Differences

For more information go to: [is.gd/10h7l](https://is.gd/10h7l)

The College Internship Program has recently expanded its curriculum to include Wellness and Bookends Programs, which augment their current teaching modules and unique services. CIP has also rolled out six new levels of support at their four campuses across the US.

"We are constantly trying to improve our programs and develop new holistic methods to make sure our students get what they need," stated Dr. Michael McManmon, Founder of the College Internship Program (CIP). "We are working to meld our academic, career, social, wellness and residential curriculum to enhance what has become the most comprehensive college and career program in the US."

The College Internship Program offers academic, internship and independent living experiences for college age students with Asperger's Syndrome and other Learning Differences. CIP serves the growing number of students who are aging out of public school systems and need support after high school. Many of these young adults need to develop self-advocacy skills and learn how to function independently before they can be successful in college or careers.

CIP is continually working to enhance it's programs to meet student needs. The new Wellness Program offers individual and group sessions, which help students reduce stress and promote healthy lifestyles. "In addition to being in great shape and strengthening the immune system, exercise and a good diet can increase energy and promote positive social behaviors," stated McManmon. After individual assessments, students receive support in the areas of nutrition, hygiene, sensory issues, weight control and physical fitness.

The Bookends Program consists of executive functioning skills groups in which students come up with organizational strategies for their academics and career internships. Students learn to prioritize tasks, set goals, plan ahead and communicate more effectively. Working in small groups and using visual prompts, students receive instruction on how to carry these skills forward into the workplace and daily life. This program is offered on Mondays and Fridays, serving as "bookends" for each week.

In addition to these two new programs, students at CIP also learn how to deal with social and organizational challenges, which can make the typical college experience overwhelming. "Many of our students went off to a traditional college but weren't successful because their college did not offer the supports they needed," stated McManmon. "Even though these young adults have great potential, many return home, isolate themselves and lose functioning."

CIP provides a bridge for these young adults, easing the transition to college and independence by offering comprehensive instruction in academics, life skills, social skills and career development. Students live in apartments with residential staff available 24 hours a day. All students have advisors, tutors, therapists and social mentors who help navigate real life situations such as grocery shopping and banking. Many have

internships and attend local colleges in conjunction with CIP's classroom modules and services.

In an effort to further meet the needs of individual students and their families, CIP has developed six new Levels of Support. "Some students who come to us may benefit from Level One services such as executive functioning, social skills, meal planning and hygiene while others may be attending college or employed and need our Level Six services," stated McManmon. "The Levels of Support are also designed to be flexible so students can move into a different level when they are ready," he continued. Year round tuition ranges from \$15,500 for Level Six to \$69,500 for Level One. Students range in age from 18-26 and can enroll in the program for up to five years.

A record number of students recently finished the 2008-2009 school year. Even higher enrollment is anticipated next year at CIP's four centers in Massachusetts, Indiana, Florida and California where the program is currently under expansion to meet growing enrollment. For more information, visit [www.collegeinternshipprogram.com](http://www.collegeinternshipprogram.com) or call 1-877-KNOW-CIP.