

Tina's Triumph

Christina, fondly known as “Tina,” had been on a year-long, strenuous journey of job searching before she crossed paths with Hannah Dean, an Employment Specialist at MRCI in Mankato, MN. Tina's previous employment specialist had warned Hannah about Tina's tendency to back out of job interviews at the last minute. Tina was grappling with the challenge of following through with job opportunities.



Recognizing Tina's nervousness, Hannah decided to take a different approach. Instead of plunging straight into job searching, Hannah thought it would be beneficial to set up tours to different places. This strategy was aimed at easing Tina's anxiety and building her confidence.

They visited a few places, but it was the tour at Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU) that became a turning point in Tina's journey. Tina was enamored with MSU. The vibrant student life and the welcoming manager, Nathan Vogel, left a lasting impression on her.

Motivated by her positive experience, Tina applied for a position at MSU. To her delight, she was offered a position! Tina has now been working in the MSU dining hall for three months and her enthusiasm for her job is evident. She says, “I love my job so much. I have made some friends and I love talking to the students. I really love getting chips and salsa on my break.”

Tina's supervisor, Nathan Vogel, echoes her sentiments, “Everyone loves seeing Tina. We love her outgoing personality and her positive attitude. She brings a smile to all our faces and is an absolute joy to work with. We love having her on our team.”

Reflecting on Tina's journey, Hannah states, “When I first started with Tina, I was told if she didn't get a job by the new year (2024) they would discontinue job searching. I'm happy we didn't give up because she is thriving!”

Tina's story is a testament to the power of patience, understanding, and innovative approaches in overcoming personal barriers. It's a shining example of MRCI's commitment to empowering individuals and celebrating their success.



About MRCI

MRCI provides genuine opportunities for people with disabilities and disadvantages at home, at work and in the community. To become an employment partner, or for more information, please call 507-386-5600.