Next Steps at Vanderbilt Summer Institute

Training: Saturday, June 2nd (Tentative)

Program: Sunday, June 17 – Friday, June 22, 2018

Program Description: The Next Steps at Vanderbilt Summer Institute is a week-long, residential program that offers students seeking preparation for postsecondary education the opportunity to experience a college campus. The curriculum and activities will give students the chance to better understand the expectations of this type of college program.

Counselor role: Counselors will support young adults (between the ages of 17-24) with intellectual disabilities in a living and learning community in residential, academic, and social settings. The ratio of counselors to students is roughly 1:3 with the total number of students typically being in the 20s. Counselors are role models, teachers, and friends to their fellow hall mates. In addition they get to co-teach class sessions, accompany the students on campus to different sites as well as to the off campus activities like dancing at the Wild Horse Saloon. Supporting students in the residence hall will include helping the students to manage their time, sometimes prepare meals, and socialize with new friends. All of which work towards the goals of becoming more independent while learning about attending an inclusive higher education program like Next Steps at Vanderbilt.

The daily schedules include dorm meetings, classroom sessions, relaxation time in late afternoons, evening events like bowling, Iron Chef Competition between dorms, and movie night. Each evening ends with counselor-led group reflections.

Training: During training, counselors will examine student profiles to understand individual needs and ways to support them. They will receive an overview of activities and instruction on how to lead breakout sessions as well as a geographic orientation of the campus.

Time commitment: 7 days, including training and the institute. During the program, counselors stay with the students in the dorm.

Basic qualifications: This position is limited to currently enrolled Vanderbilt students, either in a Bachelor's or graduate degree program, or related professionals (e.g. special education teachers). Current CPR certification is also required. If you are not CPR certified, we will ask that you be trained prior to assuming your position if you are hired. We will pay for the cost of that training.

Preferences: Graduate degree candidates in the fields of Special Education, School Counseling, Psychology and Divinity. Preference is given to those who have prior experience working with youth who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.