



Tyler Hacking



OCCUPATION:
Compost Specialist, UVU

VR COUNSELOR:
Claudia Knight, Nate Nielsen, Amanda Brown

VR PROVIDED ASSISTANCE:

- Individualized plan for employment
- Vocational counseling & guidance
- Educational assistance
- Disability treatment assistance
- Assistive technology
- Clothing for school and employment

Tyler Hacking dreamed of earning a bachelor's degree to become a botanist. He had previously attempted this over 10 years prior but wasn't able to complete school because he didn't have the needed support. Tyler came to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) to realize his dream. Throughout this experience, Tyler received support and guidance from his team of VR counselors, who connected him with career coaching, medication management, and educational financial support.

Tyler was extremely successful in school. He is co-authoring three articles in scientific publications on research he assisted with over the past four years. Tyler was a teaching assistant for undergraduate environmental science classes and completed work study as a student researcher. He was president of several student science associations, conducted research on fungi and hydrologic watershed, and

presented at 16 botany events. For his work, Tyler was featured in Utah Valley University newspaper, UVU magazine, and the Daily Herald newspaper. Following graduation in August 2022, Tyler was offered employment with UVU as a compost specialist where he has secured research funding for further study in biochemistry and biotechnology. Tyler is applying to PhD programs to further his research and to contribute to a greener planet.

Tyler states, "My experience with vocational rehabilitation was a dream come true. Without VR help, I would have never made it through my bachelor's degree. I was supported in learning a variety of skills which have made me a highly competitive candidate for further professional study. I am currently continuing my research, growing my own small business, and applying to PhD programs. Thanks VR!"