

**From:** [Kim Beal](#)  
**To:** [Jason Cassel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Community Partnership  
**Date:** Friday, May 29, 2009 8:20:51 AM

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**From:** Sean P. Curran [mailto:scurran@meccorp.mec.edu]  
**Sent:** Fri 5/22/2009 2:33 PM  
**To:** Kim Beal  
**Subject:** FW: Community Partnership

Ms. Beal I wanted to send you a copy of the e-mail that I sent Mr. Watson.

Mr. Watson,

I am writing to let you know about the outstanding community partnership that 3 of your employees have been involved in. My name is Sean Curran and I work at the Merrimack Special Education Collaborative(MSEC) in Billerica.

A number of years ago I began working with George Kouloheras when George was located at Siemens in Chelmsford. George worked with a young man through our internship program, and the placement was a great success. The gentleman who George worked with has been with our program for approximately 15 years and has held down a variety of jobs. After working with George the first year he told me, "this is the best job I have ever had and George is my favorite boss!"

When George moved down to Middlesex Community College in Bedford, we were concerned that this young man may lose his position. Fortunately for us George put in a good word with Wayne Allen, who was taking over for George, and the internship has continued the past 2 years. Wayne has also been a tremendous partner with MSEC and the gentleman still maintains, "this is the best job I have ever had!"

George moving down to Middlesex actually created another opportunity for one of our people. This young man had not worked for a number of years before starting to work with George last year. Over the past 2 years, through George's patience and guidance, the second gentleman has become much more outgoing, has improved his work and social skills, and now looks forward to the end of his vacations so he can go back to his job. His staff at his group home remarked, "this is the happiest I have seen him in years!" Again this is possible because of George and his staff at Middlesex.

Finally, this past year George referred me to Tina Bodnar down at the Lowell Campus of Middlesex Community College. Tina worked with a third gentleman who had been laid off from his food service position that he had held for years. The new manager at his old job forced him out, and this

gentleman was extremely bitter and his confidence was shaken. He only worked with Tina for a short time, but it was enough to help him regain his confidence and feel better about looking for a new job. After working with Tina he now knew, "I can still do this, I'm a good worker!" Working with Tina played a vital role in him obtaining his new job, and we are very grateful.

The past 20 years I have worked with people with disabilities to help them find job placements and trainings in the community. I have worked with hundreds of employers who have offered not only jobs, but the mentoring and guidance that is so essential. We have been extremely lucky over the years to work with so many great businesses and organizations, but none of them have done more for the workers from the Merrimack Special Education Collaborative than George, Wayne, and Tina. They are definitely employees that Epicurean Feast can be proud of!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Sean Curran  
Merrimack Special Education Collaborative  
(978)528-7800 x228