



02 John Kemp... A Look By The Numbers

03 Phillip & His Classmates Are Changing The World

04 Sudden & Lasting Impact

“Get with the Program!”

The Viscardi Center's two new vocational training programs prepare people with disabilities and aging individuals for employment in a variety of settings.

CULINARY SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM

It doesn't take long to know that something new is cooking at The Viscardi Center. The mouthwatering aroma of herbs and spices has filled the hallways since November as our inaugural Culinary Skills training program got underway.

Youth and adults with disabilities, and aging individuals, are introduced to a variety of hospitality career opportunities – from commercial and non-commercial food services to jobs in both the front and back of the house. “The program provides the skills and experiences of a professional kitchen with an intimate, hands-on approach,” explains Rob Foley, the Culinary Skills program instructor.

This introductory course covers kitchen essentials, safe food handling/storage, menu planning, cooking methods, nutrition and healthy diet, budgets/expenses, customer service and guest serving skills, and money handling. Trainees come away with an overall understanding of the food service industry.

The preparation doesn't stop there. To assist participants in landing their first job, they develop a resume and portfolio, practice interview skills, get experience in the Viscardi Café, and venture out for off-site tours and

internships. Upon successful completion of the program, participants earn a Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision (BPSS) Certificate of Completion and are qualified for Food Service/Preparation Worker, Dining Room/Cafeteria Attendant, Dishwasher, Server, Cook, and Host/Hostess positions.

“NAVIGATING FOR THE FUTURE” BUSINESS SKILLS PROGRAM

For those more comfortable in an office setting, “Navigating for the Future” is an enhanced business skills program that develops digital literacy. Attendees learn Microsoft, Apple and Android operating systems and practical job skills. The entry-level course covers computer fundamentals, hardware basics, software essentials, Internet navigation and email, social media for business applications, and general office skills.

Once these skills are attained, it is time to get ready for the workplace with customer service protocols, phone etiquette, resume development and mock interviews, which prepare the trainees for a variety of positions – Virtual Assistant, Secretary, Administrative Assistant, Office Clerk, Receptionist/Information Clerk, Customer Service Representative, and Online Merchant.



“Daniel is doing very well. He is comfortable, motivated and definitely engaged. He comes home every day with stories of the day's events... the program has given Daniel a new found confidence. My wife and I cannot thank you enough for having these programs available for those who otherwise might slip thru the cracks.”

– PARENT OF A PARTICIPANT IN THE CULINARY SKILLS PROGRAM



Share your business experience! Does your company offer internships? Would you be interested in being a guest speaker? Even better, do you have an opening that could be filled by one of our qualified job candidates? If yes, please call 516.465.1490.



Richard J. Daly
President & Chief Executive Officer
Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.

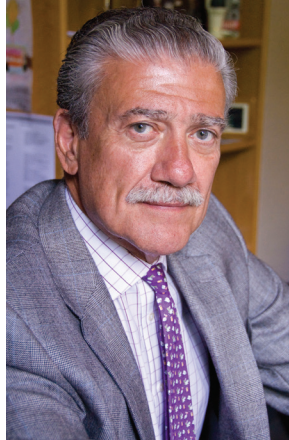


Richard Daly, President & Chief Executive Officer of Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., recently came by The Viscardi Center to spend the day with the children, adolescents and adults with disabilities we serve. One of the 50th annual Celebrity Sports Night honorees, he is a business leader who truly recognizes the contributions people with disabilities bring to a workplace and the importance of being a good corporate citizen.

Daly shared how creating an environment that shows your associates that they work for a company that clearly demonstrates that it cares not only about them, but the community in which they live, raises engagement and productivity.

During his visit, Daly spoke with students in a youth transition services classroom about basic financial literacy, read to the second graders in Henry Viscardi School and advised adults in our work-readiness training program who will soon be seeking employment.

For more information about Celebrity Sports Night, on May 19, visit ViscardiCenter.org/SportsNight



John D'Amico COMMENTARY

Welcome to our first issue of the Viscardi Voice. Through these pages, we hope to give a voice to the thousands of children and adults with disabilities we educate, employ and empower each year. The thousands who have been given the “tools” they need to be active, independent participants of our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces, just like you and me.

The Viscardi Center delivers these “tools” through a vast array of programs and services.

160 children

We educate 160 children (up to age 21) with severe physical disabilities, who are medically fragile, at Henry Viscardi School.

60 at-risk youth

We change the course of the lives of over 60 at-risk youth each year through the PROSPER youth attendance retention/dropout prevention program.

2,000 individuals

We train and place approximately 2,000 individuals with a wide range of disabilities in jobs and supported employment settings, as well as provide the services they need to ensure independence.

250 companies

We partner with over 250 local and national companies to diversify their workforces with qualified job candidates and create a culture of disability inclusion.

100s of children, adults, seniors

We evaluate and educate hundreds of children and adults with disabilities, and people who need assistive devices due to illness, injury or the natural aging process, to enhance their capabilities in school, at work, at home, and in the community.

150 students

We collaborate with over 18 school districts to assist more than 150 students with developmental and learning disabilities in transitioning from school to work and community-based programs.

dozens of drivers

We teach dozens of adolescents, adults and aging individuals who have a disability, or acquired one through an illness or accident, to drive using assistive/modified equipment and vehicles.

I encourage you to read through this issue to learn more about us. I also invite you to come by and tour the Center. I promise, you'll leave here with a whole new outlook on life. Simply, call my office at 516.465.1470.

John D'Amico
President & CEO

Meet Phillip

This Viscardi high school student is already making a BIG Difference.



Creativity and technical savvy is not in short supply at the Henry Viscardi School (HVS) at The Viscardi Center. Students hone their skills in Media Technology and Graphic Art classes that allow them to express their artistic side, and sometimes, make a difference.

Phillip, a 9th grader at HVS, did just that when he submitted his Photoshop project to the Center on the Holocaust, Diversity, and Human Understanding. His entry was chosen as a winner in its "Embracing Our Differences" competition, an annual juried art exhibit that searches for ideas and methods to spread respect for human rights. Phillip's work was among 27 enlarged to billboard size on the grounds of South Ocean Middle School in Patchogue, New York this fall.

A few months prior, Phillip and a group of his classmates had another opportunity to educate others and... spread their wings. They helped further educate the crew members of JetBlue Airways about travelers with disabilities during an exclusive airport and travel experience arranged by the airline. During the round-trip to Boston, JetBlue demonstrated its commitment to its customers and staff with disabilities. The trip allowed JetBlue's Corporate Facility

Team to identify additional ways passenger accessibility could be enhanced during the entire travel experience. Highlights from the jaunt, along with footage from previous crew member visits to The Viscardi Center, were incorporated into an in-flight video shown on all JetBlue flights during October – National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Visit ViscardiCenter.org to view the video.

"When I get older, I would like to be an engineer," said Phillip, "and make things to make the world a better place. I would love to help people with disabilities who are like me and have other disabilities, like if they can't speak or have trouble moving their arms." Given his academic strength, the interpersonal and teamwork skills learned from playing on the school's wheelchair basketball team, and the charisma displayed in several of his Viscardi Sports Night performances, we have no doubt Phillip can reach any goal he sets for himself.



out & about

A visit to Quest Labs, by students in our PROSPER program, helped broaden their horizons and gave them a firsthand view of a lab environment. These types of on-site trips help them realize that there are a wide variety of employment positions they will

be eligible for, if they complete their high school education. The students also met with staff from the Human Resources department to learn about salary scales and different benefit packages – further motivation to earn their diploma. Back in the classroom, they discussed the importance of soft- and hard-skills, where they grasped just how vital these skill-sets are in gaining and maintaining employment in the real world.

NewsBytes

There are many ways to stay connected to the latest happenings at The Viscardi Center.



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ViscardiCenter.org



Read about our 2015 Henry Viscardi Achievement Award recipients, all of whom have a disability and are positively changing the lives of people with disabilities around the world. They're getting individuals employed, providing prosthetic and orthotic devices to the western hemisphere's most vulnerable, ensuring quality healthcare, transitioning Wounded Warriors back to civilian life, and most of all, inspiring our next generation of disability rights advocates! [Meet these incredible individuals by visiting ViscardiCenter.org/about/hvaa](http://ViscardiCenter.org/about/hvaa)

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr., founder of The Viscardi Center, was posthumously inducted into the Long Island Business Hall of Fame in November. This inaugural class included 20 distinguished business leaders.

"Dr. Viscardi was a visionary and had a tremendous impact on the local community, as well as the world. He operated one of the first businesses not only on Long Island, but in the U.S., to be staffed primarily by people with disabilities," said President and CEO, John D. Kemp. It is only fitting that the Hall of Fame is housed at Hofstra University, as Dr. Viscardi collaborated with the institution on ways to make it more accessible for college students with disabilities.



201 I.U. Willets Road
Albertson, NY 11507



Calling All Employers!

Here's your chance to diversify your workforce with qualified people with disabilities.

Be a part of our Career Fair for People and Veterans with Disabilities **April 29** at The Viscardi Center. No fee to exhibit.

Contact Mike Dolan at
mdolan@viscardicenter.org
or 516.465.1546.

You're



34th Annual Reach for a Star Luncheon

5 APR | Crest Hollow Country Club
Woodbury, NY

Featuring a performance by Chilina Kennedy, Star of the hit Broadway musical



50th Annual Celebrity Sports Night

19 MAY | The Viscardi Center
Albertson, NY

Featuring Eli Manning, *New York Giants* quarterback, Bryant Gumbel, *Host of HBO's "Real Sports"* and dozens of sports legends.

For tickets, sponsorships and more information about these fundraisers, visit ViscardiCenter.org or call 516.465.1595.



YOUR LASTING IMPACT

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, this past year we've:



- ★ Improved the productivity in our youth transition services classrooms, vocational training and evaluation rooms by replacing computers and upgrading software – allowing students, at-risk youth and program participants to learn functional academics and life skills, research jobs, and prepare resumes so they can find employment and be self-sufficient;
- ★ Helped over 150 individuals with disabilities experience the power of work by successfully placing them in meaningful jobs at local businesses at all corporate levels. Along with a paycheck, they now have the confidence and self-worth that comes with working and are on their way to financial independence and full participation in our communities;
- ★ Academically prepared and empowered graduates of the Henry Viscardi School for college, vocational training, employment, or community programs.

- ★ Launched vocational training programs for adolescents and adults with disabilities, such as those featured on this issue's front cover;
- ★ Installed new SmartBoards in classrooms at the Henry Viscardi School - offering an improved medium for interactive learning for our students, many of whom have limited mobility and communication ability due to their severe physical disabilities;

That's just the tip of the iceberg! For more information about how you can continue to transform lives, call our Development Office at 516.465.1594.