

EXPLORING THINK COLLEGE VERMONT ACADEMICS AND EMPLOYMENT

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SUMMARY

People with disabilities face challenges going to college and getting jobs. To help, there are more job and college programs focused on inclusion. Do these programs also help people start careers that match their goals? This study asks graduates of Think College Vermont @ UVM what has helped them.

WHAT IS THINK COLLEGE VERMONT?

Think College Vermont @ UVM (University of Vermont) is a small, inclusive, academic, social, and vocational program. It is for students with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities seeking a college experience and career path. Over two years, students earn a 9 to 18 credit Certificate of Professional Studies for non-matriculated students.



WHAT HELP DO STUDENTS RECEIVE?

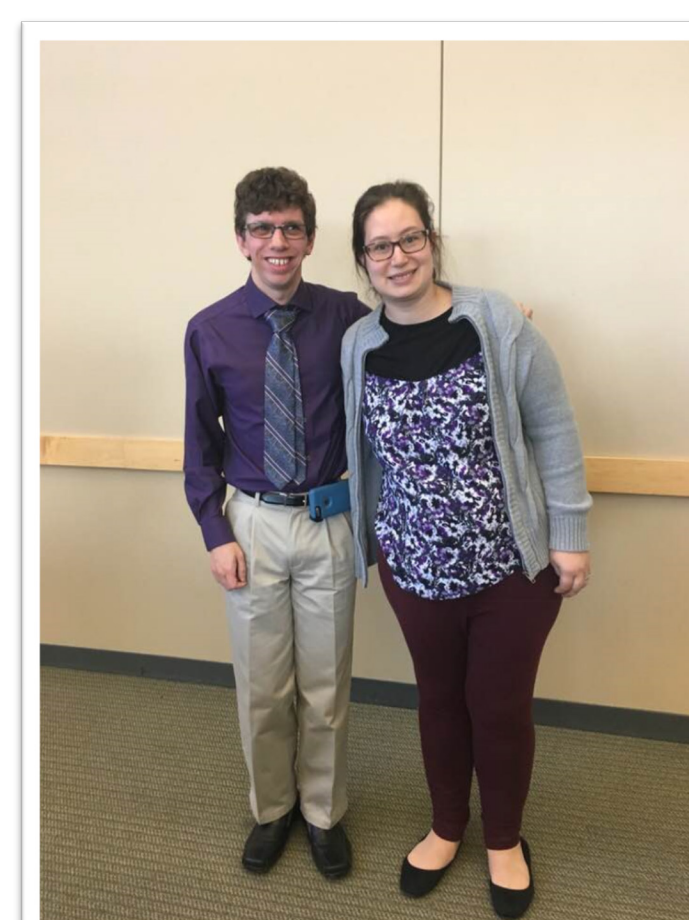
Academic Enrichment

Socialization

Independent Living & Self-Advocacy Skills

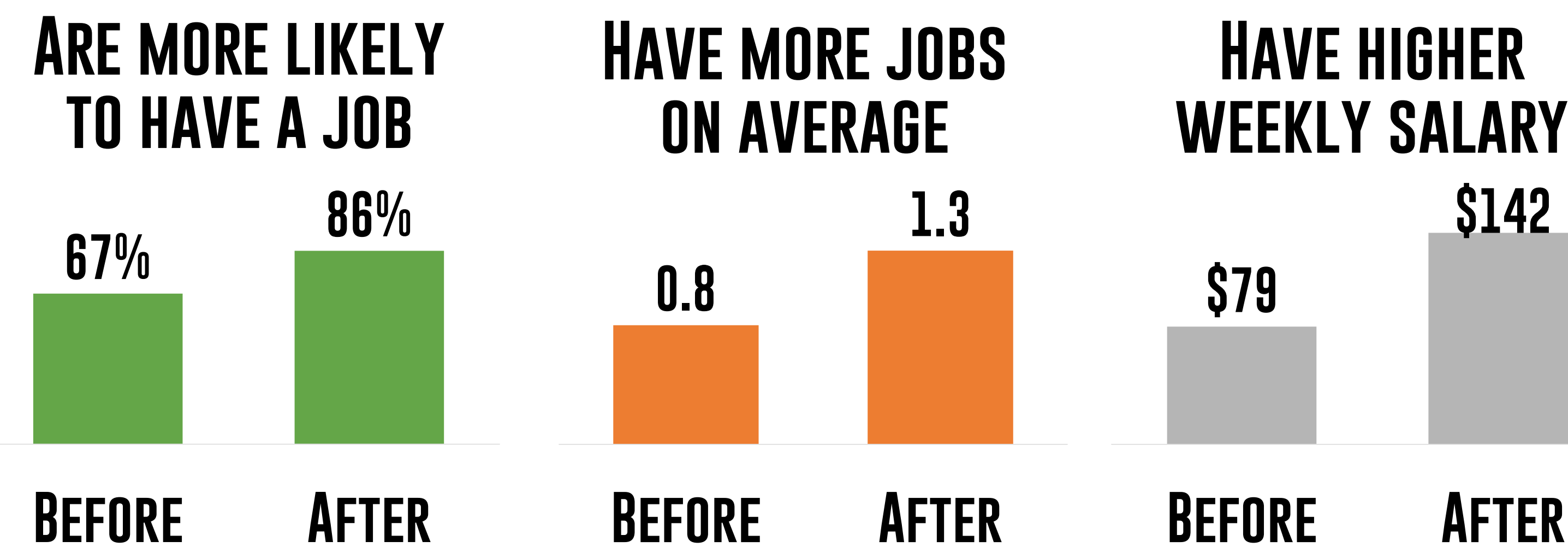
Work Experience & Career Skills

Think College Vermont @ UVM uses student-centered planning, academic advising, and peer mentors. The three photos below show Nicole in Think College Vermont.



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED ABOUT JOBS?

Think College Vermont students share information about their jobs before and after the program. So far, we have learned students:



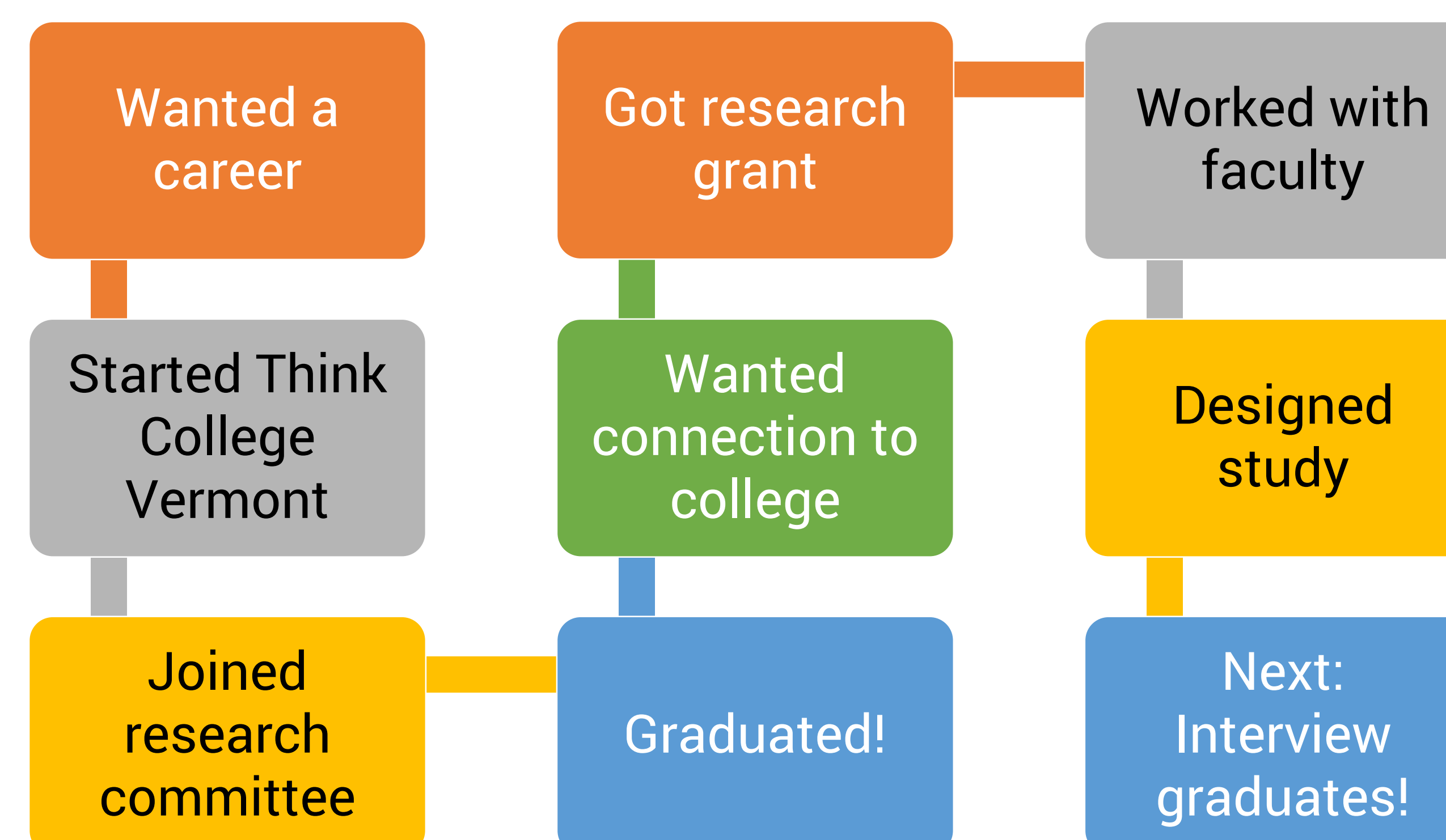
Jobs in maintenance or stocking went from 50% to 24%. After Think College, graduates had many different types of jobs.



HOW DOES THINK COLLEGE VERMONT SUPPORT CAREERS?

Starting a career can mean more than having a better job. Nicole wanted to learn more by talking to other Think College Vermont graduates.

HOW DID NICOLE START THIS STUDY?



HOW WILL NICOLE'S STUDY HELP?

Nicole believes college matters for everyone. She decided the best way to learn how Think College Vermont helps with careers is to hear from other graduates. She will interview other graduates asking what was helpful and not helpful (questions below). She applied for and received a grant to support this study. She is now working with UVM faculty to get approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB), begin the interviews, and analyze and publish the findings.

1. How did Think College staff help you with your goals for employment?
2. How did your mentor help you?
3. What kind of classes did you take to help you with your job goals? Why?
4. What skills did you take with you from classwork?
5. What did you do for your internship and why? How did it help with your future employment?
6. How did college help you advocate for yourself? For others? How did this advocacy help you grow as a person?
7. What did you do for your independent learning?



WHO SUPPORTED THIS?

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WANT TO LEARN MORE?

To learn more about this study, please email jesse.suter@uvm.edu
To learn more about Think College Vermont @ UVM, please email the director Bryan Dague Bryan.Dague@uvm.edu



Think College VT website



CDCI website

CENTER ON DISABILITY & COMMUNITY INCLUSION

