



# EXPLORE

## Minnesota Independence College & Community



MICC participants achieve sustained, independent living; rewarding employment; financial security; personal growth; and responsible citizenship. We adapt, evaluate, and continuously improve our methods, recognizing and valuing each individual's skills, contributions, and dreams. We champion all participants, carry their successes into the world, and collaborate with others in service of **our vision**.



Our proven person-centered curriculum and services create an environment where autistic and neurodivergent adults can create and define their own journey to success.

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# Learn Skills. Experience Life.

MICC provides a post-secondary college program to young adults with autism and learning differences & access to join a life-long community program. With autism spectrum disorder diagnosis on the rise, this is a critical time to expand our programs to serve more students while also making sure it is affordable to families of all income levels.

**Certificate Programs: Retail, Culinary, Hospitality & Health Services**

**All MICC career programs are endorsed by Century College**

**100% Employment for eligible participants**

**Minnesota ROI: \$38 return for every \$1 invested**

## The Need

Only 1/3 of individuals with autism have any kind of postsecondary education

Less than 1/2 have held any kind of paid employment within four years of graduating from high school

87% continue to live with parents after high school

24% are considered socially isolated – meaning that they have not had contact with anyone outside of their family for over a year (pre-pandemic statistic)

In MN, the number of students with ASD receiving special education services has grown by 138% since 2009

**"I WOULDN'T BE WHO I AM TODAY WITHOUT MICC. I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE THINGS I NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE."  
-MICC Graduate**

## Fall 2022 Highlights

- Highest number of enrolled students in an incoming class
- Largest wait-list in MICC History
- The most racially diverse incoming class (33.33% increase from 2021)





# MICC CAREERS



MICC Careers Program emphasizes integrated competitive work for adults with autism spectrum disorder and learning differences across all MICC programs by providing high-quality experiential learning opportunities and employment support services designed around personalized employment goals.

We strive to change the perspective and current state of employing individuals with disabilities. MICC provides vocational skill-building curriculum and activities, practicum experiences, and person-centered employment support services. MICC Careers Program delivers and evaluates courses and supports to ensure our participants are quality employees and relevant and employable in their chosen industry. The Careers Program offers a variety of employment services to MICC College students, Community participants, and alumni. These services include job placement, job retention, and service coordination.

## CAREER SERVICES

Career Services are available to Community Program participants and MICC alumni at any time post-graduation. Participants are assisted with an individualized, person-centered process to access services, supports, and resources of their choosing to achieve and maintain their desired employment outcome.

**Service areas include:**

**Employment Exploration Services; Employment Placement; Employment Retention**

Services are designed to assist participants who are seeking employment to learn about opportunities within the community and choose outcomes that are based on their preferences, strengths, abilities, and needs. Once employment is obtained, participants have the option to receive job retention supports such as training at the new job, problem-solving, job advancement, transportation training to the job site, and continuing education courses.



## ACCREDITATION

The Careers Program is accredited by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities); an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. Careers staff work with CARF surveyors to ensure best practices regarding employment services, curriculum, and facilities for participants in the Careers Program. A CARF accreditation demonstrates substantial conformance to standards and shows that processes developed by the organization are likely to result in positive outcomes for participants. Each accreditation lasts three years, and involves annual paperwork sent to surveyors and maintaining ongoing conformance to the conditions made effective by CARF.

