

Hewlett Packard (HP), a business partner of the CSAVR-National Employment Team (NET), recently launched a nation-wide program to leverage the talents of individuals on the autism spectrum as traditional hiring practices would often screen out these qualified and talented applicants. HP has partnered with state vocational rehabilitation agencies along with PROVAIL, a community rehabilitation partner, to offer a unique program, focused on recruiting, hiring, and retaining qualified candidates on the autism spectrum.  Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS, MDHHS, State of Michigan) sent a client who is also a current Michigan Tech University Student for a 1-week cohort experience at HP in Boise, ID.  HP covered all the expenses for travel, lodging, and meals.

**The MRS customer’s mother shared with MRS staff, “our whole family and friend support unit is beyond happy,” when she received the news that her son was hired for a summer internship with HP, after completing the cohort experience. “It has been a long process to get here, but we can all finally see the potential for our son as an adult to have a successful job and life. I wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you do every day to help many people in the community.”**

The HP corporate lead for the hiring initiative raved about this candidate from Michigan, sharing, “the MRS customer is a super star and expecting multiple offers. He was the strongest candidate of all of the intern class --- disability or not. Shout out to Michigan!”

The opportunity to connect qualified vocational rehabilitation job seekers with business partners throughout the United States serves as a testimonial to the success of the CSAVR-NET mission, a one-company approach to meet the talent-needs of our business partners.