

# Partnership of a P.L.A.N: Postsecondary Linking Advocacy & Navigation at Ohio State for Young Adults' Growth and Resiliency

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Sponsored by Dublin City Schools PATHS Program and Nisonger Center *Ace!* Program at The Ohio State University.

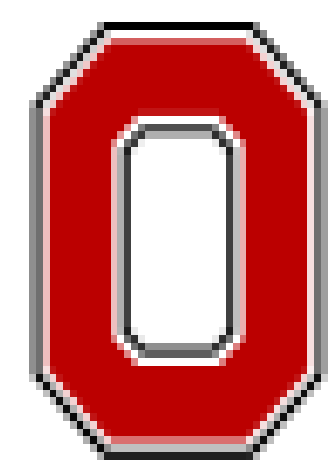


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## PLAN at Ohio State

***This novel partnership between Ohio State Ace! students and Dublin City School students represents a transition learning activity to support exploration of employment, education, and independent living opportunities.***



*Ace!*

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***The benefit of linking students with disabilities still receiving school based services with students with disabilities receiving college level supports allows for networking, skill building, and discovery of post-school success.***

## The Collaboration

The concept for **PLAN** was to:

- find opportunities to foster organic learning environments
- captivate all students into learning
- guide them through decision-making and self-determination processes
- develop self-advocacy skills for their future.

***An interdisciplinary team was formed to create a reciprocal learning environment for students with disabilities, utilizing natural supports on the OSU campus.***

**PLAN** evolved into a topic-driven discussion group where **PATHS** transition students learn from students in the **Ace!** program about:

- a range of social, academic, and life skills that impact students with disabilities;
- matriculating from high school to college from current OSU students
- how to navigate "adulting"

Members learn through discussing experiences, by listening, and offering and receiving input.

Each **Ace!** student brings experiences to the group; they share problem-solving methods, solutions, and practical outlooks.



## The Classroom Experience



### Course Goals

- Enhance confidence and offer challenges to set higher goals, take risks and achieve at higher levels.
- Individual and group recognition and encouragement.
- Advice on balancing a range of academic and professional responsibilities.
- Provide role modeling for student leadership.
- Facilitate the development of increased competencies and stronger interpersonal skills.
- Identify a support system during critical stages of academic and career development.
- Exposure to diverse perspectives and experiences.

### Student Objectives

**When presented with various transition driven topics, students will...**

- make better decisions through critical thinking and creative problem solving.
- select best decisions given specific scenarios and situations.
- assess various issues related to employment, education and independence.
- use thinking and creativity to find solutions.
- identify key strengths and use those strengths to problem solve everyday situations.

## The Campus Experience

### Second Semester Activities

**All activities were self-selected and planned by the students**

- Tour of Campus Libraries
- Guest Speaker: Professor Munn
- Tour of Nisonger Center and ECE
- Visited RPAC
- Met with Student Life Disability Services
- Official Orientation/Dormitory tour
- Tour of Digital Union in Prior Hall
- Tour of Medical Center



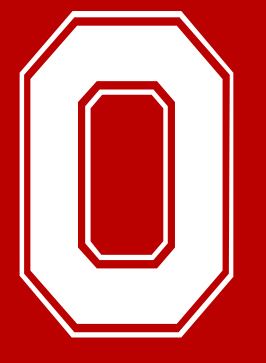
### Qualitative Evaluation

"PLAN at OSU has given me a glimpse into college life. This partnership has also helped me learn to navigate campus with limited support. Lastly, this partnership has helped me think about what I want to do after I exit school services. I do not think I would be as successful and independent in my new program if it wasn't for spending time on campus".

- Dublin Student

"PLAN was a great opportunity to talk to others about how ASD shapes identity as well as pass on valuable advice to those who PLAN serves. I was able to form great connections with the students as well as the teachers and coordinators involved. PLAN was a valuable chance to be a positive presence as the students transition into adulthood, and I am proud to have participated."

- Ace! Student Facilitator



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