

# **OLMSTED CENTER FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVICE**

As we celebrate twenty years in vocational training, we want to share many of the changes in programs at Olmsted. Many of you may have used our programs in the past and for some of you this may be an introduction to the type of programs we offer. Some of the changes in terms of new programming and updated rolling admission procedure are:

- New curriculums and revised curriculums approved by both Office of Child and Family Services- NYS Commission for the Blind and the NYS Department of Education (attached)

- A calendar of course offering dates for the remainder of 2019 and a new flexible rolling admission policy which offers more frequent opportunities to start training

- Some of the policy changes to our programs:

- 1.Online students are no longer required to attend any onsite programming- online courses are 100% online learning including some live web based instruction and activities

- 2.Effective July 15, 2019- eligible applicants are no longer required to have a high school diploma or equivalency; we are able to provide a vocational skills baseline to assess readiness for the program and do use this as part of the admissions process.

- Counselor coordination for placement assistance- Olmsted will provide placement assistance services in conjunction

with the “boots on the ground” contact who will be working with the graduate. Over the years, we have determined that those graduates who have an active local contact working as part of the team are most successful and have a shorter employment search.

The Olmsted Center for Sight was established in 1907 to serve the needs of the blind and visually impaired and support the achievement of the highest level of independence. Olmsted is a provider of rehabilitation, low vision, vocational training, manufacturing, contact center, AT and Accessibility related services. The Statler Center is a program of the Olmsted Center for Sight.

We very much appreciate the years of collaboration we have had with our colleagues across the country as we continue to be leaders in providing vocational programming geared toward workforce diversity and personal independence of those who are blind or visually impaired. Contact: Elizabeth Hassett Schmidt, M.S. Edu.

Director, Vocational Skills Training Programs

The Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted M.D. Center for the Visually Impaired, 1170 Main Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14209; Tel: (716) 888-4638, Fax: (716) 888-4638, [eschmidt@olmstedcenter.org](mailto:eschmidt@olmstedcenter.org)