

### VTAP Program Description

VTAP is an evaluation, training, and employment program that prepares students for transition to employment and optimum community participation during and after high school.

VTAP sites are customized to support the individual needs and learning styles of students. Linkages to higher education and supported employment occur through the transition planning process.

Obtaining part time employment during high school promotes responsibility, punctuality, and reliability. Working during high school also builds character and self-confidence.

NCHS VTAP Coordinator's  
Hilary Ruyle (ruylehl@unit5.org)  
Heather Plattner (plattnerh@unit5.org)

WEST VTAP Coordinator's  
Erin Schultz (schulzen@unit5.org)

Eugene Field VTAP Coordinator  
Dawn Sheppelman (sheppeld@unit5.org)

Eugene Field DT Coordinator  
Susie Zink (zinkls@unit5.org)

VTAP is in compliance with all State and Federal Department of Labor (DOL) regulations.

*Decker Industries* 

*Dianne Marie Decker*

12/23/1959 – 11/5/2009



Dianne was the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest daughter of Leonard and Peggy Decker. Dianne inspired all who met her. She greeted everyone with a firm handshake and a big smile. She especially loved Elvis Presley, puzzles, magazines, and music. Dianne inspired her sister Jane Collins to become a Special Education Teacher. Dianne moved to Normal in 2006 with her mother Peggy Decker to live closer to Jane and her family. Dianne participated in the Developmental Training Program at ODC and loved the time she spent with her new friends until the closing of ODC in 2009. The friends she met at ODC meant the world to Dianne and her family. ODC was the first program she actively participated in since graduating from Speed Development Center, Chicago Heights, at age 21. It is because of Dianne's love for ODC and her love of watching her sister Jane teach that the Vocational Coordinators of Unit 5 opened the Unit 5 Vocational Training Center in 2010, named *Decker Industries* in honor of Dianne.

## **EUGENE FIELD**

Vocational Transition Assistance Program  
Vocational Training Center, Decker Ind.  
Secondary Services, 18-21 Transition Program  
Adapted Learning Program



**412 East Cypress Street  
Normal, IL 61761**


### Contact Information:

Mrs. Jane Collins  
collinjm@unit5.org  
Administrator  
Main Line: 309-557-4440



## Vocational Training Center, Est. 2010

Eugene Field Vocational Training Center,

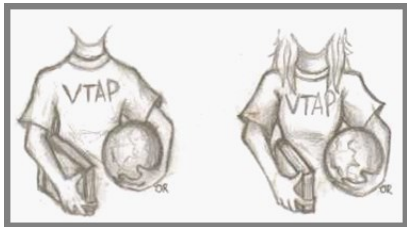
*Decker Industries* 

The VTC provides comprehensive services for students. It is designed to provide short and long term training that will assist each student to achieve personal excellence. VTAP Coordinators design schedules that meet the needs of each student. Students will have an opportunity to learn life and vocational skills through various training experiences: Basic Janitorial and ground maintenance training, small parts assembly, shredding, button making, computer activities, note pad design and production, business card design and production, district lamination, secretarial duties, laundry services, and a variety of other projects as they arise.

### Unit 5: Developmental Training Program

**Developmental Training** is a program offered to individuals with developmental disabilities to help them become more independent in their daily life. Individualized goals are established through the IEP process to meet each individual's wants and needs. This program is best suited to those students who do not qualify for Supported Employment. Supportive Employment programs through Adult Service Providers are time-limited and focused on job placement and training, not long-term support. The DT program is designed to reinforce skills taught in other settings. The program includes training and support to help maintain skills and functioning in hopes of preventing or slowing regression.

The program also provides Vocational Training opportunities at the Vocational Training Center and various Unit 5 Vocational Training sites. DT can be a precursor to Unit 5's **Vocational Transition Assistance Program**.



Sketched and Designed by Olivia Roberts, 2010

## 18-21 Transition Program, Est. 2013

The **18-21 Transition Program** was developed by Unit 5 Special Education Teachers and Staff. The purpose of the program is to provide Unit 5 students with intensive transition experiences and training in real-life age appropriate settings. These students have attended 4 years of high school and are preparing for life as young adults.



### Life Skills I

While individualized for each student, the Life Skills I classroom addresses many of the same area's as Life Skills II with an added emphasis for those students who will transition to the Heartland Halo Program, Supported Employment and/or a Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA/ Intermittent) such as the Bloomington Housing Authority/ Congregate Housing Services Program.



### Life Skills II

While individualized for each student, the Life Skills II classroom addresses needs in the areas of communication, social skills, life skills, functional academics, and independent functioning across all environments. There is an emphasis on independent skills such as; meal planning, current news, budgeting, problem solving, community transportation, adult services, independent living options and social skills development. Instruction is provided in the classroom, community and vocational settings. Students enrolled in this program typically transition to Supported Employment and/or an Adult Developmental Day Training Program.



## Transition Program continued

### Life Skills III

This program is designed to meet the needs of individuals with multiple disabilities. While individualized for each student, the program addresses needs in the areas of mobility/ positioning, communication, sensory stimulation, health/ medical, and adapted life skills. An intense level of support is provided to each student to ensure needs are met. In addition, use of technology and adapted equipment is widely used to provide for a successful learning environment for the students. Instruction is provided in both the classroom and community environments, with opportunities for rec/ leisure experiences in the community. Students enrolled in this program typically transition to an Adult Developmental Training program.



## Adapted Learning Program, Est. 1987

The **Adapted Learning Program** was developed by Unit 5 Special Education Teachers and Staff in 1987. Eugene Field became the home of ALP in 2014.

The students in **ALP** are held to the same academic standards as students who attend NCHS and/or West. Instruction is provided in a self contained environment individualized for each student.

Transition options to and from ALP are based on individual need. The objective is to create a transition plan that allows the student to be as successful as possible.

