

HALO video transcription

Words on Screen: HALO - Heartland Academy for Learning Opportunities

Speaker: Venus Belew, HALO parent

"It is a scary thing to raise a child. It is a terrifying thing to raise a child with disabilities because you don't always know what's out there. And, are you going to be there for that child? When they're 45 years old and you're 85 years old and you're about to leave. And, how are they going to be able to work or handle it for themselves?"

Speaker: Deann Collins, Normal Community West High School Faculty

"I've seen a big growth in independence among the students who have come through the HALO program. We can only do so much in high school because we're still responsible for the student, but here, they get to come and they're responsible for getting to places on time."

Action: Students eating lunch together and socializing

"And they have more free time and time to interact with lots more different people and to be on their own and to get places."

Action: Student getting one-on-one attention from a teacher

"So, I've noticed their level of independence has increased greatly."

Action: Teacher talking with a student while other students shake hands in greeting. Students high five each other while walking past.

"Several of my students have gotten the jobs - they're in jobs employed in the community now, which was difficult for them when they left high school."

Words on Screen: Building Employability

Speaker: Anita Moore, Director of Disability Support and Tutoring Services

"Students who have completed HALO are currently working in companies in the community, including Country Financial, Heritage Healthcare, OSF, Little Jewels, and BroMenn."

Action: Student writing on notebook paper.

"To help build employability skills in HALO, students participate in several activities including developing a resume."

Action: Two students studying side by side in a computer lab. Student looking at a computer screen. Picture of a resume.

"They do mock interviewing. They do on-campus and community work experiences and they also do

some job shadowing and capstone it with a work placement out in the community."

Action: Teacher working with student at computer station

Words on Screen: Developing Independence

Speaker: Jennifer Bauersfeld, HALO parent

"I would say that two of the biggest growth areas for Seth since he's been a part of the HALO program would be, first of all, independence, and the second one would be his ability to effectively and maturely communicate with other people."

Action: Seth making cafeteria purchase, talking and gesturing to student friend in bookstore.

Speaker: Venus Belew, HALO parent

"The most important, and I think most powerful experience that I have seen develop in William since he has been a member of this HALO program is his confidence level."

Action: William smiling and high fiving a friend

"His ability to take what he has learned here and actually use it."

Speaker: April Hetherington, HALO student

"I've been living on my own for seven months and the independent stuff I do - if we're doing, like a party, I have to make sure I have enough money to get the food and get the food ready.

Action on screen: HALO students on the bus, interacting.

"I take the bus - the Special Services bus - which goes to the place I live - goes right to the door."

Action on screen: HALO students seated around an art project table.

"When I get here at Heartland, I have music appreciation, pottery class, fitness.

Words on screen: Learning at Heartland

Speaker: Ed Carroll, HCC Professor of History

"The HALO students represent themselves so well, and the students take to them. If not immediately, at least by the time we get part way through the semester. By halfway through the semester, the HALO students and the other students just act as students in the class.

Action: Students in classroom

"It adds diversity to the classroom and it adds enthusiasm, and I think that's just a wonderful thing to have in any classroom."

Speaker: Kelli Hartfield, HALO Peer Mentor

"Mostly I assist them with note-taking and being appropriate in class. I also try to get them to interact with their peers. Instead of depending on me, I try to get them to reach out to their peers for help, and they'll obviously reach out to me if they do need help. "

Action: Kelli helping a student with his notes in class

"If there is an issue going on in the classroom, you have that advocate for you that's going to speak, which is their mentor, that's going to speak up for their student, stand up for their student, help your student with any issues or complications that they have."

Speaker: Jennifer Bauersfeld

Worlds on Screen: The HALO Experience

"The HALO program honestly was absolutely the perfect fit at the perfect time for our son."

Image on screen: HALO student, Seth Bauersfeld, happily interacting with history professor and his mother in conversation

Speaker: Deann Collins

"I want the parents all to know about HALO, even if they're not looking at it right now, because it's something I want them to know is there, and they can always look to it in the future."

Image on screen: HALO student wearing chef apron walking down the hall with other students

"It's growing and changing and improving all the time and it's really a great way for your student to experience more independence and get more job skills, and I think it's been a wonderful addition to our array of services for the community."

Words on screen: Heartland Community College. www.heartland.edu 309.268.3259