

First collaborative visit by Massachusetts Hospital School students

SCIL and our TAP program organized and hosted the first collaborative visit to our service area by Massachusetts Hospital School students in an event that we hope will become the first of many. Michelle Sabino, SCIL's independent living specialist, has been working with students at the Hospital School in Canton where she has developed SCIL's participation in the statewide TAP/IL Center work on that campus. On March 5, 2008, ten of the Hospital School students accepted our invitation and travelled to meet Michelle at the campus of the UMass Dartmouth Campus where we had organized a catered luncheon and program for the students who are making their transition to adulthood.

Michelle herself is not only a graduate of the Hospital School, but an honors graduate of UMass Dartmouth where she took her degree in graphic arts. Her presentation provided the students with the kind of information about the challenges of furthering one's education that only a person who has lived it and done it can offer.

SCIL is deeply grateful to Professor Lester W. Cory of UMass Dartmouth, who provided a thirty-minute presentation about assistive technology, speaking from the perspective of his life's work with SHARE Foundation. Professor Cory turned his engineering expertise toward assistive technology in 1981, and his vision for serving persons with disability became embodied at the University in the SHARE Foundation and the Center for Rehabilitative Engineering. His life's work is nationally recognized.

SCIL's program also included a showing of the film of our own Filomena Tripp's Parachute Jump and a power point presentation on SCIL and the role of IL Centers.

The students toured campus facilities.

The University's Center for Access and Success provided accommodations for the event in the Oak Glen building.

William Boffa, our director of programs who attended the event, reports that the Hospital School Students were a delight to meet. He especially appreciated the attention and enthusiasm they brought to the event.



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