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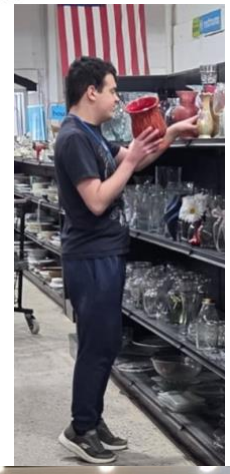
For Immediate Release:

Bucks IU Celebrates Five Years of SEQUEL Programs for Adults with Disabilities

March 3, 2026 - Doylestown PA: Five years ago, as more families sought structured job coaching and community-based supports for adults with disabilities, the Bucks County Intermediate Unit (Bucks IU) responded by launching SEQUEL. Designed to help adults with disabilities build purposeful lives beyond the classroom, SEQUEL supports participants in pursuing competitive employment, volunteer service, and meaningful leisure activities, while intentionally strengthening their independence and connection to the broader community.

SEQUEL is built upon the Bucks IU's 55 years of experience providing exceptional special education programs and services to individuals with disabilities. This strong foundation enables Bucks IU team members to effectively identify and understand each participant's individual needs, goals, and challenges.



Right: SEQUEL participants volunteered to stock and straighten shelves at the local Habitat for Humanity store in Warminster. Through hands-on community service, participants practiced teamwork, problem-solving, and job skills while giving back to a local organization that strengthens neighborhoods.

Below: A fun afternoon was shared being creative and painting reusable tote bags at AR Workshop in Newtown.

“SEQUEL was intentionally designed to be person-centered and growth-oriented,” said Lorie McCrory, Supervisor of Adult Programs and Services at the Bucks IU. “By placing each participant’s interests at the forefront, we help them lead their best lives through meaningful community engagement and the development of lasting relationships.”

SEQUEL Community Participation

Designed to promote self-determination and increased independence, SEQUEL’s Community Participation program connects individuals with local opportunities based on their preferences, needs, and interests. These experiences are customized to foster valuable life experiences, confidence, personal growth, and meaningful community relationships.

Joanne Romig, whose son Daniel attends SEQUEL part-time, shared, “Danny’s participation in the SEQUEL program has been extremely rewarding. It provides the guided independence he needs and deserves, opportunities for community integration and giving back, and fun experiences with peers, all under the watchful and caring support of SEQUEL’s direct support professionals. It has been a true blessing for our family.”

SEQUEL participant Carmen Colon added, “I like to go into the community. It feels great!”

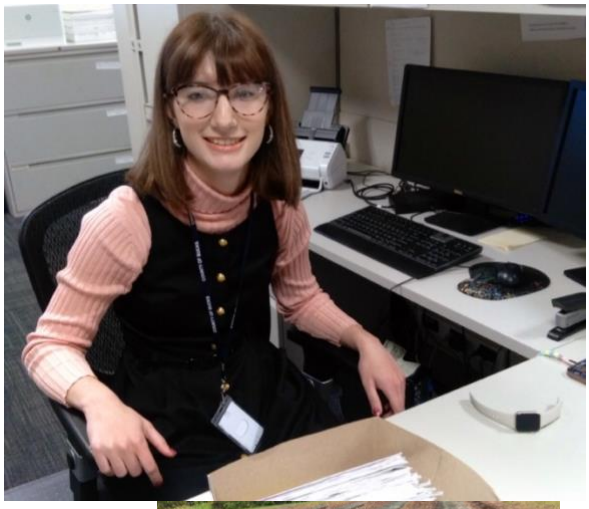
Since 2021, SEQUEL’s Community Participation program has grown from six to forty participants, a growth of +567%, providing more than 440 hours of community engagement hours each week. Seven SEQUEL Community Participation groups currently operate in regional hubs located in the upper, middle, and lower Bucks County.

SEQUEL Supported Employment

As an approved provider through Pennsylvania’s Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), the Bucks IU’s SEQUEL program offers Supported Employment services to adults with disabilities seeking meaningful and sustainable employment.

SEQUEL aligns each participant’s strengths, interests, and goals with appropriate employment opportunities, supporting increased engagement as workplace skills are introduced and developed. Services include evaluations, community-based work assessments, pre-employment supports, employment supports, and job retention and mentoring services.

“Our business has had the privilege of partnering with the Bucks IU to support individuals participating in internship and work experience opportunities,” stated Mr. Logan Wodotinksy, Manager of Lou’s Farm Mart in Bensalem. “These individuals consistently demonstrate dedication, resilience, and meaningful growth. The supported employment services provided by the Bucks IU not only develop essential workplace skills, but also enrich our organization with fresh perspectives, strong work ethics, and a positive impact on our team culture.”



Above: Sophia Smith, enjoys the job she was able to get with the County of Bucks in Doylestown. Sophia digitizes marriage certificates by scanning them into the county database, where they are used for inheritances and genealogy searches.

Right: Learning how to properly plant strawberry plants provides skills and knowledge that can be manifested in a future employment position or in a home garden.

SEQUEL’s Supported Employment program has served nearly 700 individuals since 2021, offering work assessments, job development, job coaching, and job mentoring. Participants have secured employment across healthcare, environmental services, government, restaurants, and grocery stores, ranging from a few hours per week to full-time roles with benefits. Supported Employment services are available throughout Bucks County and the surrounding communities.

Program Goals

Through both community participation and employment services, the Bucks IU’s SEQUEL program provides life experiences that help participants feel independent, welcome, safe, and confident.

Personal growth and development are supported through team-based projects, conflict resolution, and problem-solving activities. Service projects promote kindness and civic responsibility while allowing participants to practice professional behaviors, including punctuality, appropriate dress, and respectful communication. Independence is further developed through activities such as public transportation travel training, budgeting for grocery

shopping and meal planning, time management, and task completion. Participants gain hands-on practice placing orders, scheduling appointments, and appropriately requesting assistance.

SEQUEL offers both full-time and part-time participation options to meet the scheduling needs of participants and their families. This flexibility allows individuals to balance community immersion with other life commitments while receiving consistent support from Bucks IU's professional staff.

The first five years of the program have been exciting and have shown great growth and the Bucks IU plans to continue expanding SEQUEL in response to the community needs. Future plans include growth of existing programs with the addition of enhanced workplace-readiness training and the development of additional regional program sites to increase participant access. SEQUEL remains committed to promoting independence, employment, and meaningful community participation for adults with disabilities.

Support SEQUEL

Local businesses, community partners, families, and advocates: Become a SEQUEL partner and experience first-hand the exceptional value of our community partnerships and supported employment program. Find out more about SEQUEL at www.BucksIU.org/AdultPrograms or email Lorie McCrory at LMcCrory@BucksIU.org.

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ABOUT THE BUCKS COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT (Bucks IU):

Celebrating 55 years of service! The Bucks IU supports improvements and advancements in student learning by providing exceptional educational programs, innovative professional development, and advanced business/technology services. The organization serves people from ages birth through adults, students in public and private schools along with their staff and administrators, and the community of Bucks County. The Bucks IU acts as the liaison between local schools and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. For more information, go to www.BucksIU.org or call 215-348-2940.