

## NEXUS Success Story

NEXUS program graduate Victor Rodriguez completed an internship at a Van Nuys, California, courthouse and later joined the staff of the nonprofit National Health Foundation in Downtown Los Angeles. In his new role, Victor earns a salary and enjoys full benefits, including health insurance and an employer-contributed 401k.



Transforming Challenges into  
Bright Opportunities!



9919 Sunland Boulevard, Sunland, California 91040

### For More Information:

Program Director

**Gabriela Sanchez**

Phone: 818-535-2085

Fax: 818-908-9192

Email: [gsanchez@tierradelsol.org](mailto:gsanchez@tierradelsol.org)

Nexus Project Coordinator

**Rabail Ansari, MSW**

Phone: 818-679-6230

Fax: 818-908-9192

Email: [ransari@tierradelsol.org](mailto:ransari@tierradelsol.org)

tierra  
DEL SOL  
FOUNDATION



**College and Community  
Citizenship Program:**

**Your next Step...**

**NEXUS**



## About Tierra del Sol Foundation and NEXUS

Headquartered in Sunland, California, Tierra del Sol Foundation has been serving individuals with disabilities since 1971. Tierra offers 11 acclaimed and nationally accredited programs each designed to promote the efforts of people to fulfill their potential to lead full and rewarding lives. NEXUS, established in 2007, is one of Tierra's newest fully accredited programs.

**NEXUS is a post high school transition program** offering a "college to career and community life" path for young adults with disabilities. NEXUS assists young adults who are exiting high school to identify and pursue their dreams to go to college and ultimately to transition successfully into the career of their choice.

**NEXUS is a highly rigorous, full time program** with an average ratio of 1 NEXUS Coach for every 3 students. With their coach/mentor, participants follow a "learning through doing" curriculum that includes:

- 1) Exploring career possibilities and identifying a path that truly fits
- 2) Enrolling and succeeding in the college or vocational education courses essential to the identified career path
- 3) Independent community utilization and transportation training
- 4) Building true work skills, capacities and social skills through volunteerism
- 5) Self advocacy and positive social relationship development
- 6) Professional presentation and resume building through internships.

### **NEXUS is a time-limited program.**

The program is specifically designed to assist young people to grow and transition through the typical high school to responsible adult life phases in approximately 3 years. At the halfway point NEXUS participants begin to work with the Career Navigator to identify remaining courses or skill development areas for the final push. The final six months are devoted to resume development, job exploration and coordination with Department of Rehabilitation and other employment placement and support resources.

### **NEXUS participants are earning success.**

Recent NEXUS students have completed certificates in diverse fields including graphic arts, early childhood education and Microsoft Office applications. The overall college grade point average of NEXUS coached students is 3.26. Recent graduates have become successfully employed in a variety of good jobs. Students have also earned their AA degrees and transferred to 4-year colleges.

## Quick Facts:

- NEXUS serves students from the San Gabriel/ Pomona and San Fernando Valleys, helping people succeed in their home communities.
- Classes take place Monday through Friday, six hours each day and meet within a seven-mile radius of students' homes.
- Program coaches encourage the use of public transportation, including Access Services, and many transportation options are available.
- Because Tierra always seeks new ways to meet clients' needs, NEXUS is always evolving, ensuring that individuals involved in the program consistently enjoy the very best services.



## Quote from Tierra del Sol Foundation Executive Director Steve Miller

"The era of limited possibilities is over. Every young adult should have a dream about the kind of life they want to achieve for themselves. When you match a motivated young person's dreams with a supportive family and well-designed services, anything is possible. Our students are proving this every day."

Transforming Challenges into **Bright Opportunities!**