**Blake**

(Blake)

My name is Blake. I live in Champlin, Minnesota and I am a software engineer for a company called Infinite Campus. We provide K through 12 school districts with student information systems. While I was in high school, I was working with Transition Plus. We created an IEP, which is an educational plan. Part of my IEP included working with Vocational Rehab. I worked with Vocational Rehab throughout college. They helped – they helped me with career exploration. They helped me with tuition. They helped me prepares for interviews, so like with practice interview questions. They helped me build my resume. Through Vocational Rehab, I did receive benefits counseling. I had a benefits analysis done, which helped me picture of what to expect. When I first started out, I was definitely fearful of losing my benefits, because they helped cover so much of my daily living routine. And I guess the biggest question about it was if, if they employment didn’t work out, how was I going to get those benefits back? Get back to the way the way things were while I could try again. While I was in college, a classmate of mine told me about an internship that he had worked here at Infinite Campus, and he had suggested that I might be a good, it might be a good fit for me. And so I had applied here and the internship turned into a job.

(Matt)

One of the things I really like about Blake is that he has a great attitude and is willing to attack anything we throw at him. Blake is a software engineer. He impressed us with the technical knowledge he had and what he would be bringing to the team. He showed that he was ready for a full time position and that he was going to be able to contribute to our team.

(Blake)

Getting into this job has opened up so many different things for me. I mean, it gives me a reason to get up out of bed every day. It gives me the opportunity to go do more things that I like to do, so I can go out with friends without really worrying whether I can afford to go out with my friends. Some of the other things I enjoy doing is I bowl on a bowling league. I actually, this year I purchased my own bowling ramp because a lot of times the equipment that’s at the bowling alley is kind of beat up. So having my own ramp allows me to have a little more of a consistent game. From working with VR, I’d definitely consider myself successful and independent, which is very important to me. I want to be as independent as I possibly can be.