



## Partnerships in Community Living Inc. Helps Empower Staff with College of Direct Support

DirectCourse is proud to work with some of the best organizations in the country; companies who dedicate their time and resources to enhance the lives of those with developmental disabilities.

The College of Direct Support (CDS) had the pleasure of providing services to one such organization, Partnerships in Community Living Inc., who strives to continually evolve as a leading person-centered provider of services to individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as create the best training and consultation for issues related to developmental disabilities in America.

### Providing Affordable, Customized Training

Prior to using the training solutions available through DirectCourse, Partnerships in Community Living Inc. was training their staff in a classroom setting that would take place over a two-week orientation. However, they soon realized a need for a more modern, intuitive solution, one that would allow learners to meet objectives at their own pace.

“We knew we needed a solution that would meet our needs today and could offer a trusted online learning platform where training our support staff could be a natural part of their workflow or they could complete the exercises on their own time,” said Jaclyn McConnell, Workforce Development Manager for Partnerships in Community Living Inc. “Not only is it accredited by the NADSP, the College of Direct Support offers the flexibility for our learners to access courses online at any time, allows supervisors to add customized content as well as gives learners monthly assignments and deadlines.”



**“It has given me more confidence in my skills and made me more comfortable teaching my fellow DSP’s and suggesting new ideas. I’ve been given increasing opportunities to train new staff.”**

**– Bella Houser**

## Cultivating Strong Leaders

Offering a full curriculum of training for staff at their organization they put through the NADSP credential program, the College of Direct Support provided Partnerships in Community Living with the expert content needed to develop staff leadership knowledge and skills in order to help others lead more meaningful lives.

Performance Manager, Elsevier’s learning management system, allows users to track every staff member’s status as they navigate through each objective-focused lesson and achieve skills within each competency area. Tools embedded in the content delivery assist learners in bringing trusted knowledge to the workplace through discussions, on-the-job training checklists and reflection exercises. In addition to education, users can also document the results of any assessments, certifications, checklists, discussions, acknowledgements or surveys.

McConnell has been utilizing the College of Direct Support platform for more than two years now and it is the only online education resource Partnerships in Community Living Inc. employs.

“DirectCourse is now a key component of our service delivery here at the Partnerships in Community Living Inc. and we are working to further deepen the integration of the College of Direct Support with other staff training programs,” added McConnell.

**“It has made me more aware in how I’m providing support and how to help other people learn to work with the people I support.”**

**– Breanne Vifian**

DirectCourse is a collaboration between Elsevier and the University of Minnesota’s Research and Training Center on Community Living.