

The Master plan — Going for the Goal with Help from the Team

An Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) combines a person's interests and abilities to help create a path to successful employment. All IVRS job candidates develop an IPE to help guide the services they receive. Sometimes there is a period of research to find those goals.

However Master Bush had a very solid idea of what he wanted to do. Master was very active in athletics and wanted to continue playing sports, and then to pursue a career in coaching.

It was fortunate he was assigned to Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services Counselor, Steve Neuharth, who understood his passion for sports. Neuharth has his own background in sports and coaching. Neuharth said that provided a lot of common ground.

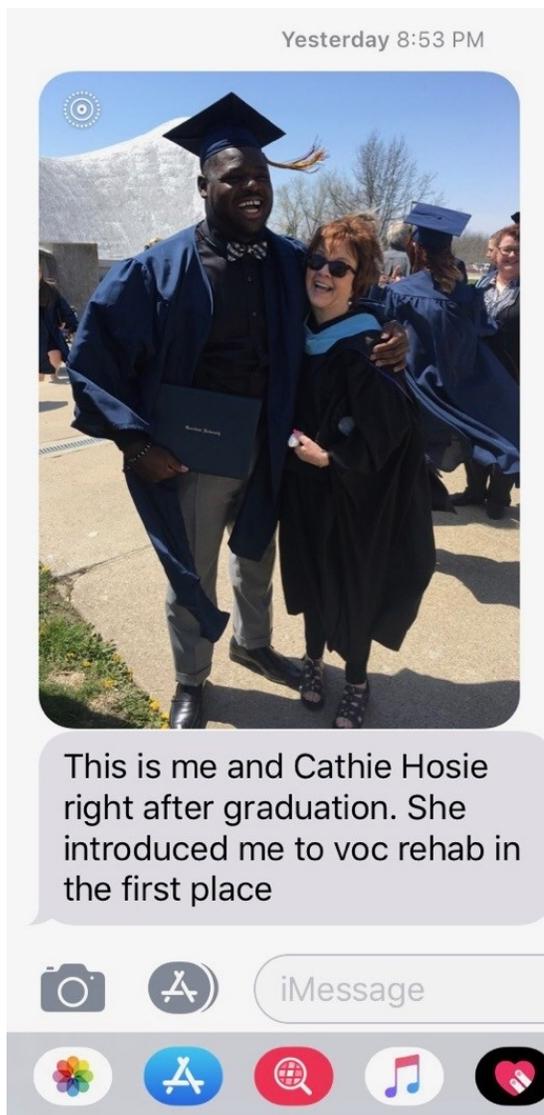
Ultimately the qualities and interests Neuharth initially saw in Master would help to ensure his success.

"He needed to rely on his persistence and strengths to build a career," Neuharth noted.

Master was attending Graceland and was struggling with academics -- particularly math -- when he was referred to Neuharth by the Director of Student Support Services (Lamoni Campus), Cathie Hosie.

Neuharth says Graceland does an exceptional job of Identifying struggling students and providing referrals.

"They try to do everything they can to help them graduate," he said.



A message from Master

and interview skills as he began applying for coaching positions.

"I knew he was interviewing. I kept in contact," Neuharth said. "I knew he was going to get a job."

Recently Master accepted a position teaching physical education and coaching in Fort Worth, Texas.

It's a career path that Neuharth himself embarked on more than 20 years ago -- coaching and working in education. In fact, Neuharth still continues his role as a coach to the many job candidates he counsels at IVRS. He enjoys watching them all grow and excel under his tutelage.

"I give them every option I can," he said. "I'm like a coach for them too."

Neuharth was able to help provide the right combination of encouragement, as Graceland University staff provided math assistance and tutoring to keep Master on track with his degree. IVRS also provided assistance with tuition expenses.

IVRS Rehab Associate Dorene Rusk also worked with Master. She said, "Master always made it to appointments and returned calls. He got his grades and schedules in on time. The TRIO program at Graceland is always very accommodating to students with disabilities and they were also great to work with. Master took advantage of the services that they offered as well."

"You have to accept help," Neuharth advised.

Once Master was back on track he was able to complete his degree in physical education and graduate in May 2018.

"I'm happy he got through," Neuharth said.

Neuharth then turned his attention to assist Master in working on his resume