

APPRENTICESHIP

Viticulture On-the-Job Training Program Helps Students To Grow Like Their Vines

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Students work in the vineyard picking grapes.

Nestled in the rolling hills of Southern California's wine region of Fallbrook is the home of D'Vine Path, a newly registered on-the-job training program. I founded D'Vine Path along with my husband Brent. Our team has worked to develop a program that helps individuals with autism learn the skills needed to become vineyard technicians, which can lead to better paying jobs. The students engage in viticulture and farming activities, and their work supports our winery business, as well as other local wineries in the area.

Students arrive with varying challenges and limitations, but this program allows every one of them to excel within their skill set. The program is designed to help individuals identify, develop and achieve their goals, while exploring opportunities to advance their

education, employment, life skills, health and well-being.

On day one of the program, many of the new students arrived lonely, disconnected, insecure and unable to look peers in the eyes. But after a year of hands-on training in the vineyard, field trips to business venues, ranch presentations and professional mock interviews the students grow. They are confident, proud of their work, stand up straighter and make eye contact.

For more information about this program please email: lenila@dvinepath.org.



An instructor shows a student how to tie the vine.