

# SPECTRUM INNOVATES PATHWAY:

PREPARING AUTISTIC STUDENTS TO ENTER HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS IN  
**A d v a n c e d T e c h n o l o g i c a l F i e l d s**  
@ VAUGHN COLLEGE

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Children born in the US continue to be diagnosed with **AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER**.

500,000+

Individuals with **ASD** will age into adulthood over the next **10 YEARS**.

90%

Of **Autistics** are currently **unemployed** or **underemployed**. According to Autism **S p e a k s**

\$461 Billion

ASD-related **medical, non-medical and productivity** losses for **2025**. Researchers noted that this estimate could reach **\$1 TRILLION** by **2025** if **ASD prevalence** continues to increase **a s i t h a s**.

## OVERVIEW

**Spectrum Innovates Pathway:** Preparing Autistic Students to Enter Higher Education and Careers in Advanced Technological Fields is a project whose mission is to maximize the potential of **autistic** individuals through programs and initiatives.

Partnered with **Vaughn College**, our **Spectrum Innovates Pathway Program (SIPP)** incorporates the most advanced approaches to learning to create a revolutionary 12-month experiential education program that addresses the challenge of transition for autistics; making the move from high school to college or the workforce.

PI

**ELEANORE  
BEDNARSH**

TIMEFRAME

**AUGUST  
2020 - 2023**

AWARD AMOUNT

**\$600,000 - NSF / ADVANCED  
TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION  
\$200,000/YEAR FOR 3 YEARS**

Designed as a **bridge year** to college or employment, **SIPP** is for those on spectrum whose passions include *aviation, aerospace, engineering* and related fields. **SIPP** extends its groundbreaking educational approach to collegiate academics with a blended delivery of *experiential, classroom* and *virtual* instruction.

## OBJECTIVES

Our objectives are simple, to provide a **strength based** *immersive, integrated, interdisciplinary* curriculum responsive to the autistic learner and based upon industry standards for competency based certification. To further this, we plan to also construct a **competency-based student assessment and evaluation system**.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Our **Spectrum Innovates Pathway Program (SIPP)** curriculum will integrate *academic, social-emotional, executive function* and *life skills*, over **12 MONTHS** with a **6-WEEK** orientation, **2** academic semesters and a **6-WEEK** residency during which students live on campus and execute their final project. We will also create industry based projects and *simulations* for the **Innovation Hub** that facilitate the *internalization* of skills and concepts.



In COLLABORATION with  
**SPECTRUM INNOVATES INC &  
VAUGHN COLLEGE**



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