

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-08

**VILLAGE OF YORKVILLE
RACINE COUNTY, STATE OF WISCONSIN**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREDENTIALING OF SHEPHERDS COLLEGE
TO ALLOW ACCESS TO PELL GRANTS AND FEDERAL WORK STUDY
OPPORTUNITIES**

**THE VILLAGE BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF YORKVILLE, RACINE COUNTY,
STATE OF WISCONSIN, RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

WHEREAS, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are an underserved group with unrealized potential due to the lack of suitable and effective training programs and meaningful opportunities to contribute to society, and

WHEREAS, established in 2008, Shepherds College provides accredited occupational training for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a specifically designed learning environment, and

WHEREAS, Shepherds College serves students with intellectual and developmental disabilities from Racine County, the State of Wisconsin, and across the United States (students from 36 states to date), and

WHEREAS, Shepherds College graduates are gainfully employed at a rate of over 80%, four times the national average for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and

WHEREAS, the Shepherds College experience has empowered hundreds of graduates to live more fulfilling lives, which involve gainful employment, appropriate independent living, community involvement, participation in a faith community, and service to God and others, and

WHEREAS, Shepherds College is becoming a more prominent member of Racine County, with partnerships and stakeholders throughout the county, and

WHEREAS, as a specialized post-secondary school, Shepherds College cannot qualify as a Comprehensive Transition Program and thereby provide its students with intellectual and developmental disabilities access to Pell Grants and Federal Work Study opportunities, and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Shepherds College was deemed eligible to participate in Federal Student Aid by meeting the requirements of securing state authorization and attaining accreditation through a U.S. Department of Education authorized accreditor, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education has now reversed their decision of 2011 and determined that Shepherds College and its students are no longer eligible to participate in Federal Student Aid, and

WHEREAS, we commend the State of Wisconsin for allowing students of Shepherds College to utilize IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct), Family Care, and Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) funds for the purpose of postsecondary education at credentialed, specialized schools like Shepherds College, and encourage the continuation and expansion of such support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yorkville Village Board respectfully requests that U.S. Representative Bryan Steil and his fellow congressional representatives pursue the creation of a pathway for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities who attend Shepherds College and similarly credentialed specialized post-secondary schools and programs across the nation access to federal grant opportunities as a means of financial assistance for their continued education and the personal pursuit of their hopes and dreams of a meaningful and fulfilling life.

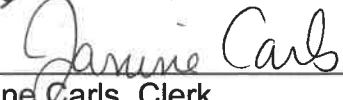
This Resolution was adopted by the Yorkville Village Board on April 8, 2024.

VILLAGE OF YORKVILLE

Ayes: 5

By: 
Douglas Nelson, President

Nays: 0

Attest: 
Janine Carls, Clerk

Abstentions: 0

Absences: 0