



On October 4, 2019, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL), UVM's Center on Disability and Community Inclusion (CDCI), and Champlain Community Services (CCS) hosted a delegation from South Korea's Association of the Vocational Rehabilitation Facilities for the Disabled (KAVRD). Ms. Siyon Lee, Chief of KAVRD's Policy Department, along with eight of her facilities directors and policy experts, interviewed Bryan Dague of UVM, Betsy Choquette of DAIL's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Jennie Masterson of DAIL's Developmental Disabilities Services Division.

The international Zero Project Award given to Vermont several years ago for employment inclusion and integration prompted KAVRD's visit. South Korea has 18,205 persons with disabilities separated from the regular workforce working in 651 work facilities. The visit allowed the delegation to explore Vermont's integrated employment policies and services for workers with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The delegation learned how Vermont moved workers into regular jobs over the years by partnering with businesses to provide customized supports to the employer and their employee. The guests were eager to learn about the specific strategies that comprise supported employment and options within the progressive employment model. In the afternoon, Beth Sightler, CCS' Executive Director, presented their Way to Work supported employment program. She explained how the agency delivers employment services and job supports that promote individual success and authentic inclusion.