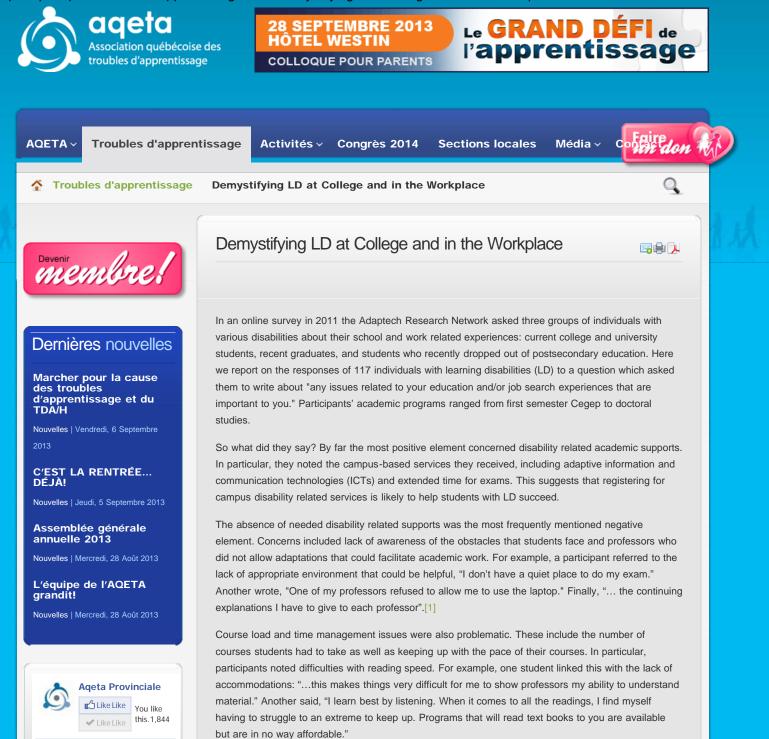
http://ageta.gc.ca/troubles-dapprentissages/455-demystifying-ld-at-college-and-in-the-workplace.html



Ageta Provinciale Demystifying LD at College and in the Workplace http://t.co/cdBlkzyclo 23 hours ago Demystifying LD at College

Moreover, like their peers, participants with LD also juggled coursework, paid employment, and other responsibilities. While this is a reality of postsecondary student life, for students with LD jobs added extra pressure since many read more slowly and since professors were often not aware of or responsive to their needs.

Job-related concerns were also frequently mentioned, "Job search is very difficult because of my lack of experience due to devoting all of my time to school work." Two participants summarized their jobrelated concerns as follows: "Interviewers' ignorance" and "When we have an invisible disability and start talking about it, we can feel people becoming stiff. Then there is nothing we can do." Participants suggested that sensitization of professors, employers, and program' coordinators could help.

Although most respondents were students, they were aware that the obstacles they face as students may pose problems in the job market as well. The labor market needs to be sensitized and prepared for the diversity of future workers. In the 1970s wheelchair ramps were added to many workplaces. In the 1990s ICTs facilitated telecommuting and helped workers with visual impairments and LD access printed materials. The next challenge is to understand the diversity of work styles, time management, and organizational styles. In particular, professors and employers need to understand "true diversity" in learning skills and work. That what is important is that people learn the skills needed to carry out the required tasks. How they learn it, whether by reading a book or by listening to a recording, and how they demonstrate what they have learned should not be a barrier to their success.

In spite of the difficulties they encounter, students with LD are succeeding in colleges and universities. Our findings show that they get good grades and that they graduate at the same rate as nondisabled students, although they often take an extra semester to do so. After graduation, they get jobs.

Is college worthwhile for a person with an LD? For sure. Can students with LD succeed in academe? Yes. Will it always be easy? No. Is it worthwhile? Absolutely!

Par Maria Barile, Catherine Fichten, Mary Jorgensen, Mai Nhu Nguyen

[1]Free translation of French citations.

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