

Transcript for Oliver Olivia Video

Oliver Olivia

My name is Oliver Olivia. I just turned 20 and graduated from high school. I am currently working part time as a receptionist and virtual assistant. I am hoping to join college soon, and I am hoping to take a bachelor of commerce in finance when I join college. During my free time, I like to cook. I like to try new recipes from YouTube.

I also like to swim. I like to chat with friends and play video games with them and other online games. And I also like to watch movies, which are documentaries, to be precise. Yeah.

Laura McDermott

All right, great. So can you talk more about the types of programs that would interest you and help reach your goals?

Oliver Olivia

First of all, I would be much interested in programs that promote spirituality that will help me grow more spiritually. I would also like programs that are peer support groups. I believe that I can benefit so much through peer support and help. I would also like more programs on talent enhancement, you know, to identify talent to help people grow.

Talent. Yeah, that is something I would be very much interested in. I am getting ready to join college soon and I would love to get help in applying for college and scholarships. And in case I need something like the student loans. I would also like to get guidance on how to go about it, when and where and whom I should talk to when I am going through the process.

Laura McDermott

So next, would you be able to talk about how connecting with other people with disabilities and other folks from similar racial and ethnic backgrounds as you can make a difference in your life? How does it feel to connect with people who are similar to you?

Oliver Olivia

I can say that it makes me feel good when I remember that I am not alone in this. There are people with whom I am sharing the journey with and that I am not just, you know, that one person who can be as portrayed in the community as, "Oh, that girl with a disability," or something, no? So I feel so much more confident when I know that I am not alone.

And it makes me love myself more. And it has helped me so much in terms of being confident with myself.

Laura McDermott

What advice or tips do you have for organizations who are trying to plan programs for out-of-school youth with disabilities from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds?

Oliver Olivia

First of all, I would advise them to make sure that these youths are aware about the existence of these resources, and this can be achieved by giving the information online or even posting fliers that can be posted online or even distributed in person. And also for the youth. Before leaving high school, they can be told about the existence of these resources and maybe given something like a flier that they can use later when they need these resources.

The next thing I would advise them is to identify the needs of these youths. Before creating the programs, they should make sure that these programs are trying to address the needs of the targeted persons, you know? I believe that is how the youths are going to benefit from the program once it is serving their needs and their wants, yeah.