

*"If everyone could have the same outlook on life and the genuine love for family and friends like Dakota, the world would be so much better."*

*- Ryan McMillan*

With so many changes in Iowa, it's nice to still hear stories of amazing individuals who have been successful in their employment journey. This particular story comes from Southeast Iowa.

Dakota Hamilton started working at Walgreens in Ft. Madison when he was in high school, part of his work experience. After graduating in 2012, he became an employee of Walgreens. This means Dakota needed no Prevocational training, no job development and no job coaching. As a stock clerk, Dakota is responsible for shelving items, helping customers, loading the cart to put merchandise out for the day. "I like helping customers the most," he says. "I also shop here, so I know where everything is when customers ask for help." Dakota receives a tremendous amount of support from Walgreens managers and coworkers. That is why his story is so unique. Dakota doesn't receive job coaching service but all the support he needs is built into the team at Walgreens.



One of the reason Dakota has been so successful is his boss Ryan. Ryan is not only Dakota's boss but also his biggest advocate. The two of them attend local sporting events and golf every week together with a group of guys. They are both devoted Iowa Hawkeye and St Louis Cardinals fans. This success story is a perfect example of Employment First and how it played a role in the outcome of Dakota's success.

*Because of Ryan and the team at Walgreens, Dakota is a confident, independent and hard worker that loves his job!*