

## U and Universal

The 2016 Presidential election is more than a year away but it is not too early to start thinking about voting. There will also be municipal elections on Nov 3, 2015. People with disabilities vote at a lesser rate than people without disabilities. Here are some facts about voting in NC:

\*A person cannot be denied the right to vote due to a disability

\*Support staff can go with the person served to vote, but cannot influence the person's choices.

\*Not all voting sites are totally accessible. You can be reassigned if needed to a more accessible site

\*there is curbside voting where a poll worker can come to the vehicle if the person cannot make it into the building

\*You can vote by "absentee ballot" if needed

\*You are allowed to vote after the polls close as long as you were in line at the time the polls close which is usually 7:30 pm in NC

\*There are approximately 3000 polling places in NC

\*In 2016, voters will be required to show ID

\*if there are questions about voting, information can be found by contacting your local board of elections or [www.disabilityrights.org](http://www.disabilityrights.org)

Universal now has a Day Program in Burlington!

- The Day Program officially started on June 22, 2015
- There are currently 11 people attending the day program and there are openings for more to attend
- The day program features a life skills kitchen, craft room, and tech room with computer learning.
- Attendees also go out into the community and learn additional life skills
- The name of the day program is: "Journey to Success"

Terry Bedford  
Assistant State Training Director  
Universal MH/DD/SAS  
[www.umhs.net](http://www.umhs.net)