

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-050  
VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREDENTIALING OF SHEPHERDS COLLEGE TO  
ALLOW ACCESS TO PELL GRANTS AND FEDERAL WORK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

The Village Board for the Village of Caledonia, Racine County, WI do resolve as follows:

**WHEREAS**, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are an underserved group with unrealized potential due to the lack of suitable and effective training programs and meaningful opportunities to contribute to society.

**WHEREAS**, established in 2008, Shepherds College provides accredited occupational training for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a specifically designed learning environment.

**WHEREAS**, Shepherds College serves students with intellectual and developmental disabilities from Racine County, the State of Wisconsin, and across the United States (students from 36 states to date).

**WHEREAS**, Shepherds College graduates are gainfully employed at a rate of over 80%, four times the national average for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**WHEREAS**, the Shepherds College experience has empowered hundreds of graduates to live more fulfilling lives, which involve gainful employment, appropriate independent living, community involvement, participation in a faith community, and service to God and others.

**WHEREAS**, Shepherds College is becoming a more prominent member of Racine County, with partnerships and stakeholders throughout the county.

**WHEREAS**, as a specialized post-secondary school, Shepherds College cannot qualify as a Comprehensive Transition Program and thereby provide its students with intellectual and developmental disabilities access to Pell Grants and Federal Work Study opportunities.

**WHEREAS**, in 2011, Shepherds College was deemed eligible to participate in Federal Student Aid by meeting the requirements of securing state authorization and attaining accreditation through a U.S. Department of Education authorized accreditor.

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Education has now reversed their decision of 2011 and determined that Shepherds College and its students are no longer eligible to participate in Federal Student Aid.

**WHEREAS**, we commend the State of Wisconsin for allowing students of Shepherds College to utilize IRIS, Family Care, DVR funds for the purpose of postsecondary education at credentialed, specialized schools like Shepherds College, and encourage the continuation and expansion of such support;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Caledonia Village Board respectfully requests that U.S. Representative Bryan Steil and his fellow congressional representatives pursue the creation of a pathway for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities who attend Shepherds College and similarly credentialed specialized post-secondary schools and programs across the nation access to federal grant opportunities as a means of financial assistance for their continued education and the personal pursuit of their hopes and dreams of a meaningful and fulfilling life.

Adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, this 9 day of April, 2024.

**VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA**

By: Thomas Weatherston  
Thomas Weatherston  
Village President

Attest: Jennifer Olsen  
Jennifer Olsen  
Village Clerk