



Kentucky Business Leadership Network

"Working Together to Expand Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities"

KYBLN's DiversAbility News

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Director's Corner

Congratulations and thanks to the KYBLN Training Committee for developing successful and thought-provoking forums bi-monthly! Their next forum will be August 27 in Lexington.

The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health released a press statement on July 22, 2003 announcing the Commission's final report which includes the following statement: ".....that a majority of adults-even those with the most serious mental illness-want to work, but are held back by poor access to effective job supports, incentives to remain on disability status, and employment discrimination." For those of you who have attended any of our meetings or public forums, this is information that we have been sharing with Kentuckians for the past two years. This report is very timely and, I hope, will have a positive impact on the lives of thousands of American citizens who have mental illness and are anxious to live and work in their communities.

The work of the KYBLN is targeted toward increasing employment opportunities and acceptance in the workplace for job seekers/employees with disabilities. The attainment of this outcome is being addressed through public education, increased interactions with Kentuckians with a variety of disabilities, and an on-line job bank. We hope that our readers will join us and our extremely active Kentucky Employment Action Network (KEAN) and Business Leaders Board in helping to pave the way to a brighter future for an untapped American work force, people with disabilities.

Watch for details on our upcoming KYBLN Fall Conference, which will be at KYBLN Board Member Mike Curd's Holiday Inn North on Newtown Pike on October 8! Cheryl LaFleur, HR Director, UK Federal Credit Union and Carolyn Wheeler, University of Kentucky IHDI, are putting together an outstanding morning of information and good food. KYBLN Annual Conference details at <http://www.kybln.org/annual>

Claudia Ernharth – State Director, Kentucky Business Leadership Network

FEATURED JOB SEEKERS

Caregiver

Job seeker looking for full-time employment as a caregiver, particularly with the elderly or adults with disabilities. Candidate holds BA in Psychology and has full details on work history and skills. See resume titled 'Caregiver' at <http://jobs.kybln.org>

Graphic Design

Candidate seeks part-time flexible employment in order to meet financial obligations while attending college. Possess a broad range of skills, including excellent oral and written communication skills. Full work history and education and certifications listed. See resume titled 'Graphic Design - Entry Level' at <http://jobs.kybln.org>

NEWS

KYBLN Brown Bag Forum – Interviewing Potential Employees



This luncheon meeting features a discussion regarding working with individuals with disabilities in the context of interviewing. Save the date, August 27th 12 - 1:30. The location will be announced in early August. Those interested in this forum can register at the link below. There is no cost for KYBLN members. Non-members may attend their first forum free of charge. To register go to: <http://www.kybln.org/members/forums/index.htm>

Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao - National Disability Mentoring Day

Begun in 1999, National Disability Mentoring Day promotes career development for students and job seekers with disabilities through one-on-one job shadowing, group visits to public and private employers, and hands-on career exploration. It is held in October in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month. "National Disability Mentoring Day helps answer the President's challenge to build a more welcoming, and compassionate nation for all our citizens, which is the cornerstone of his New Freedom Initiative," Secretary Chao said. More at the link below.



http://www.usbln.com/news/gen_news_07222003.htm

Americans with Disabilities Act Celebrated

This July marks the 13th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). While it is not officially linked to the Social Security program, there is no doubt that many people who benefit from the ADA also receive Social Security disability benefits. Social Security has provided disability benefits to those who qualify since 1956. In fact, 12 cents out of every dollar you pay in Social Security tax go to the trust fund used to finance disability benefits. If you have a disability that renders you unable to work and you expect it to last a year or more or end in death, and if you have worked and paid Social Security taxes, you might qualify for benefits.

More at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/>

TECHNOLOGY

Education Online – A FREE statewide service via the KYBLN



Education online has become a vehicle for learning across the state. The KYBLN now hosts links to 40+ webcasts on disability related issues from presenters across the country. These webcasts are audio streams that can be listened to via a computer. They are also close captioned to accommodate those with hearing impairment. Some of the online trainings include topics such as: Studying the Employment of Persons with Disabilities, Disaster Preparation for People with

Disabilities, Broadband Internet and the ADA, etc.

Learn more at <http://www.kybln.org/members/audio-video/webcasts.htm>

Developing a mind-controlled wheelchair



LONDON, England -- Swiss and Spanish scientists are developing a mind-controlled wheelchair that could one day give severely paralyzed patients new independence. "Early trials using a robot indicate that with just two days' training it is as easy to control the robot with the human mind as it is manually," New Scientist magazine said on Wednesday.

See entire article at

<http://www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/ptech/07/24/wheelchair.mind.reut/index.html>

EDUCATION

International Analysis of Treatment of People with Disabilities

On Monday June 16, 2003, the Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples' International released a first-ever report that provided a comparative analysis of the living conditions and legal protections for people with disabilities in 52 countries around the world. More at:

<http://www.cirnetwork.org/info/press10.jsp>

Air Travelers with Disabilities

Available from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern Time, seven days a week. The Hotline serves two main purposes: (1) education and (2) assistance in resolving disability-related air travel problems on the spot for issues such as accepting service animals and electric wheelchairs on board flights and stowing folding wheelchairs in the cabin. 1-800-778-4838 (voice) or 1-800-455-9880 (TTY).

Ticket to Work

What is the Ticket to Work? The Ticket to Work Program is something new in Social Security Administration. The program offers SSA disability beneficiaries greater choice in obtaining the services they need to help them go to work and attain their employment goals. Get all your 'Ticket to Work' questions answered in a 'one-stop-shop' at http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/Ticket/ticket_info.html

The KYBLN Job Bank can be located at <http://jobs.kybln.org>

KYBLN's lead employer



To access past newsletters or sign up for future newsletters please see our newsletter archive at <http://www.kybln.org/news/newsletter/index.html>

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