



## **Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Best Practices Conference**

**College of the Holy Cross, Hogan Campus Center  
1 College Street, Worcester, MA 01610**

**March 1, 2018**

**9:00 am - 3:30 pm  
Registration 8:00 am - 9:00 am**

### **Agenda**

**8:00 to 9:00 – Registration and Buffet Breakfast – Suite A**

**9:00 to 10:30 – Open Plenary Session – Suite B/C**

**9:00 to 9:15 - Welcoming Remarks** – Diane Hurley, Department of Career Services, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and Toni Wolf, Commissioner, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

**9:15 to 9:30 – Disability and Career Centers 2018** - Core strategies for meeting the needs of customers with disabilities, the impact of WIOA, and overview of the Massachusetts Disability Employment Initiative (DEI). Presenter: David Hoff, Institute for Community Inclusion

**9:30 to 10:30 – DEI: Stories of Success** – Panel presentation featuring perspectives of the career centers, customers, employers, and community partners. Presenters: Taciana Saab, Triangle, Inc.; Colleen Moran, Spaulding Rehabilitation Network; Marianne Mastrangelo, Academy for Health Care Training; Kelli Collomb, Malden Public Schools; Kevin Schlegel, Customer.

**10:30 to 10:45 – Break**

**10:45 to 12:00 – Breakout Sessions**

***Workshop 1: Successful Implementation of WIOA Section 188 to Ensure Customer Success - Room 406-07*** Overview of Section 188 of WIOA to ensure full access of people with disabilities to workforce development services; examples from a MA Career Center regarding their implementation. Presenters: Miranda Kennedy, National Disability Institute; Jamie Robinson, National Disability Institute; Cherie Fisher, North Central MA Workforce Investment Board.

***Workshop 2: Business Engagement for Successful Employment of Customers with Disabilities - Room 408-09*** Inclusive business service outreach; the value proposition for business to include workers with disabilities as members of their workforce. Presenters: Bonnie Rivers, Work Without Limits; Brenda Kirouac, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston.

***Workshop 3: Developing Effective Regional Partnerships - Room 402*** Developing effective partnerships to meet the needs of job seekers with disabilities as well as to build overall system capacity. Presenters: David Hoff, Institute for Community Inclusion; Phyllis Gedeon, Future Works; Sara Loizeaux, National Disability Institute.

**12:00 to 1:00 – Lunch & Networking – Suite B/C**

**1:00 to 2:15 – Workshops**

***Workshop 4: Successfully Serving Youth with Disabilities – Room 406-07*** Integrating the needs of youth with disabilities and enhancing career pathways for young people through cross-agency partnerships and other strategies. Presenters: Sacha Stadhard, MA EOLWD, Department of Career Services; Jennifer Applebaum, Commonwealth Corporation; Kathy Petkauskos, Work Without Limits; Frances Bernier, CareerPoint; Heather Donovan, Career Center of Lowell.

***Workshop 5: Universal Design and Disability Etiquette – Room 408-09*** Core principles of universal design and practical strategies for applying them within workforce development including key disability etiquette guidelines. Presenters: David Hoff, Institute for Community Inclusion; Bonnie Rivers, Work Without Limits.

***Workshop 6: Successfully Utilizing Ticket to Work for Ongoing Success – Room 402*** Leveraging Social Security's Ticket to Work program to enable customers to achieve employment success supported by Ticket revenue. Presenters: Rick Kugler, Institute for Community Inclusion; Richard Berrena, Future Works; Nancy Gagnon, Career Center of Lowell; Peter Travisano, Work Without Limits.

**2:15 to 2:30 – Break**

**2:30 to 3:30 – Closing Plenary Session – Suite B/C**

**2:30-3:15 - Keynote Speaker, Richard S. Laferriere, CVS Health** – Disability-specific employer-driven training initiatives that result in successful employment outcomes and ROI for the company.

**3:15 – 3:30 – Q&A, Wrap-Up & Evaluations**