

In this Issue: **Federal Employment Webinar, Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work & More**

WHAT'S NEW

Section 501 Webinar Archived

An archived version of EARN's highly attended February webinar, "Federal Government as a Model Employer: Understanding Changes to Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act," is now available for anyone unable to participate live. Topics addressed include the importance of self-identification in achieving the set representation goals established by recent updates to Section 501 as well as how the new rule impacts the federal job application process, reasonable accommodation procedures and provision of personal assistance services in the workplace. [Access the webinar archive.](#)

Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work Online Dialogue

Employers in a range of industries are invited to contribute to a national online dialogue taking place now through March 18 on occupational health best practices and care coordination strategies states can adopt to improve employment outcomes for injured workers. The basis for this virtual discussion is Washington State's "Centers of Occupational Health and Education" model, which has proven to improve stay-at-work and return-to-work outcomes for injured workers and reduce disability by training providers and coordinating care. [Learn more about the national online dialogue.](#)

Inclusive Talent Acquisition Course

The most current iteration of "Introduction to Inclusive Talent Acquisition," a free online course co-developed by Perkins School for the Blind and Harvard Extension School, is taking place now through May 18. This self-paced course educates hiring managers and recruiters on how to identify barriers to employment; recruit, interview and onboard candidates of diverse backgrounds and abilities; and improve workplace accessibility to support candidates with disabilities. All employers interested in fostering a disability inclusive company culture are encouraged to enroll. [Learn more about the course.](#)

Time for a TechCheck

A productive workplace is a technology-accessible workplace, one where all employees, including people with disabilities, can access the tools they need to maximize their performance on the job. To help employers understand how to create such an environment, the Partnership on Employment and Accessible Technology recently added new features to its *TechCheck* tool. This powerful but simple online resource helps employers of all sizes, both public and private, assess their technology accessibility practices, providing a benchmark from which to improve and strategies for doing so. [Access TechCheck.](#)

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ASKEARN.ORG SPOTLIGHT



Family and Medical Leave Act

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) covers private-sector employers with 50 or more employees in 20 or more workweeks in the current or preceding calendar year, providing eligible employees of these covered employers up to 12 workweeks of unpaid, job-protected leave in a 12-month period for specified family and medical reasons, among them the employee's own serious health condition. This page of the AskEARN.org website provides more information about how the FMLA applies in such situations. [Visit the FMLA webpage.](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 21, 2017, 2:00 p.m. ET

Twitter Chat: Opening the Doors for Neurodiverse Employees

Today, many employers are discovering the skills people with autism and other neurological conditions offer, especially in certain industries. This Twitter chat, hosted by the Partnership on Employment and Accessible Technology and Autistic Self Advocacy Network, will explore strategies for recruiting and ensuring workplace success for such individuals. Join using #PEATTalks. [Learn more about the Twitter chat.](#)

March 22, 2017, 2:00 p.m. ET

Webinar: Mental Health Conditions in the Workplace

Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center, this webinar will explore new Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) guidance related to mental health conditions in the workplace. The main presenter will be EEOC Senior Attorney Advisor Aaron Konopasky, who will both explain the guidance and take live questions from participants. [Register for the webinar.](#)

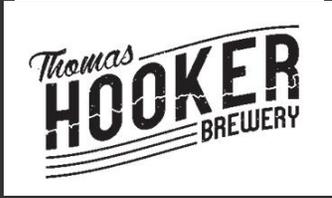
April 12, 2017

Workshop: Maximizing ERGs and Mentoring Programs to Create a Disability Inclusive Workplace

Hosted by EARN, this workshop will explore how employee resource groups (ERGs) and mentoring play an important role in fostering a workplace welcoming of qualified people with disabilities. It is being offered to New York City-area employers attending an employment fair hosted by the National Business & Disability Council at the Viscardi Center in Albertson, New York. [Learn more about the event and workshop](#)

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EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



Thomas Hooker Brewery

At the Thomas Hooker Brewing Company – a craft beer brewery in Bloomfield, Connecticut – employees with disabilities are an integral and productive part of the workforce. The company credits much of its success on the diversity and inclusion front to community partnerships, which are a proven strategy for building a pipeline of talented job candidates with disabilities. [Learn more about the company's efforts.](#)

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The Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion (EARN) is a resource for employers seeking to recruit, hire, retain and advance qualified employees with disabilities. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy under a cooperative agreement with The Viscardi Center. For more information, visit AskEARN.org

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