

In this Issue: **Workforce Recruitment Program, Accommodation App and more!**

## WHAT'S NEW

### **Workforce Recruitment Program**

The 2018 Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) database is now available! Managed by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Defense's Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, the WRP is a recruitment and referral program that connects federal employers with highly qualified students and recent graduates with disabilities seeking internships or permanent jobs. The WRP is also available to private-sector employers seeking to diversify their workforce with people with disabilities, whether as short- or long-term hires. Learn more about the WRP for [federal](#) or [private](#) employers.

### **Mobile Accommodation Solution (MAS) App**

The Mobile Accommodation Solution (MAS) app – the iOS version of which is now available in the app store – is a first-of-its kind tool that helps employers and others manage workplace accommodation requests throughout the employment lifecycle. Using the app, employers can track the status of requests; access fillable forms; and store, print and export records that can be imported into enterprise information systems. The app was developed by West Virginia University's Center for Disability Inclusion in partnership with the Job Accommodation Network and IBM; funding came from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research. [Get the MAS app.](#)

### **Veterans Webinar**

EARN's most recent webinar, "Tapping the Talents of America's Heroes: Hiring and Retaining Disabled Veterans," is now archived for anyone who was unavailable to participate live. In this webinar, representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service, Disabled American Veterans and private industry discussed strategies employers of all sizes can use to recruit disabled veterans and facilitate their success once on board. The content is applicable to all employers, but may be particularly helpful to federal contractors seeking strategies for achieving their goals under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act and Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act. [Access the webinar.](#)

### **"Future of Work" Podcast Series**

The Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT) recently launched a free podcast series in collaboration with the human resources web portal Workology.com. Titled "The Future of Work," the series explores workplace technology trends in the context of accessibility and impact on the employment of people with disabilities. The first two episodes are now available. The first features Cisco's Pat Romzek, who speaks about inclusive hiring. The second features Inclusive Design Research Centre's Jutta Treviranus and focuses on machine learning and artificial intelligence in the workplace. [Access "The Future of Work" podcast series.](#)

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## ASKEARN.ORG SPOTLIGHT



### InclusionMentoring Primers

January is National Mentoring Month, an annual national campaign that raises awareness about the value of mentoring to young people both personally and professionally. While career mentoring can help foster employment success for any young person, it may be especially beneficial to young people with disabilities just starting out in the workforce. In this way, it also benefits their employers by boosting retention and workforce inclusion. To help employers implement workplace mentoring initiatives, the EARN website offers mentoring primers for both [federal agencies](#) and [private employers](#).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**January 10, 2018, 2:00 p.m. ET**

### **Webcast: PAS and the New Section 501 Affirmative Action Requirements**

In this webcast, the Job Accommodation Network and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission will explore Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act's new affirmative action requirements that go into effect in January 2018 regarding the provision of personal assistance services (PAS) for eligible federal employees. Presenters will also provide information about the elements of reasonable accommodation procedures for federal agencies. Time will be allotted for questions, which can be submitted ahead of time to [jan@askjan.org](mailto:jan@askjan.org). [Register for the January 10 webcast.](#)

**January 12, 2018**

### **Deadline: Disability Equality Index**

The deadline to register for the 2018 Disability Equality Index® (DEI) is fast approaching. Sponsored by the American Association of People with Disabilities and the U.S. Business Leadership Network, an EARN partner, this confidential benchmarking tool offers employers an opportunity to receive an objective rating on their disability inclusion policies and practices. Companies that score 80 percent or higher are named "DEI Best Places to Work." The deadline to register is January 12, 2018; registered companies will then receive access to the survey the week of January 22, 2018. [Learn more about the DEI.](#)

**January 17, 2018, 1:00 p.m. ET**

### **Twitter Chat: Inclusion@Work: Strategies for Building a Disability-Inclusive Culture**

Workplace disability inclusion is about more than hiring; it's about facilitating a disability-inclusive culture across an organization's employment lifecycle, from application to onboarding to advancement. In this Twitter chat, EARN will join the Campaign for Disability Employment to discuss "Inclusion@Work," EARN's employer policy framework outlining seven core components of a disability-inclusive workplace. Don't miss this opportunity to engage, learn and share how these components can and are being put into practice by businesses both large and small. Join using the hashtag #CDEInclusion.

## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



### **Bitty & Beau's**

*Fancy a cup of joe to get your day (and year) started? If you're in the Wilmington, NC area, you might want to stop into Bitty & Beau's. Established in 2016, the coffeehouse employs 40 people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, helping them gain on-the-job training and prepare them for future employment, whether at Bitty & Beau's or other places in the community. The establishment's founder and owner, Amy Wright, was recently honored for her work as an advocate for increased employment opportunities for people with disabilities. [Learn more about Bitty & Beau's.](#)*

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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](http://AskEARN.org)

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