

In this Issue: **NDEAM Theme Released, Kentucky Task Force & More**

## WHAT'S NEW

### **America's Workforce: Empowering All**

This year's official National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) theme will be "America's Workforce: Empowering All," the U.S. Department of Labor announced this week. Observed each October, NDEAM is a nationwide campaign that celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities throughout America's history. "A workforce that empowers everyone is good for job seekers as well as job creators," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta in announcing the theme. [Read the press release](#) or [learn how your organization can observe NDEAM](#).

### **In Kentucky, "Work Matters"**

Last week, Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin, alongside other state and federal officials, including Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) Deputy Assistant Secretary Jennifer Sheehy, released the final report of his state's Work Matters Task Force. Established by Governor Bevin last summer, this task force identified concrete actions the state can take to address barriers to employment among five populations, including people with disabilities. To do this, the task force worked closely with ODEP's State Exchange on Employment and Disability and its state intermediary partners. [Read about the report release](#).

### **FEED Community of Practice**

To encourage collaboration among Federal Exchange on Employment and Disability (FEED) members, EARN has created a FEED Community of Practice (CoP) on the Office of Personnel Management's MAX.gov website. Through the CoP, members can view and download materials from past FEED meetings, find federally focused EARN resources, and share ideas about strategies for making the Federal Government a model employer of people with disabilities. To join the CoP, you must first register for MAX.gov. Registration is open to Federal employees and contractors with a federal email address. [Join the FEED CoP](#).

### **April Webinar Archived**

An archived version of EARN's April webinar, titled "Building the Pipeline: Successful Strategies for Recruiting and Hiring People with Disabilities," is now available for anyone unable to participate live. In this webinar, featured guests Mary Lynn MacKenzie, Senior Vice President, Talent Acquisition, Bank of America, and Laura Owens, President, TransCen, Inc., discussed and fielded questions about effective outreach and recruitment strategies that can help companies of all sizes recruit and hire qualified applicants with disabilities. [Access the archived webinar](#).

## ASKEARN.ORG SPOTLIGHT



### Older Workers

May is Older Americans Month, and this year's theme is "Engage at Any Age." For many older Americans, this means continuing to work past traditional retirement age. Some of these workers will develop disabilities as they age, or existing disabilities may become more significant. This page of AskEARN.org outlines a variety of strategies that employers can implement to retain their skills and talents – many of which are sound management practices that may benefit workers of all ages. [Visit the Older Workers webpage.](#)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**May 31, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET**

### **Twitter Chat: Making a Plan: Stay-at-Work and Return-to-Work Resources for Employers and Workers**

When injury or illness occurs, workers may face difficult choices, including whether to stay at or return to work. If they leave the labor force for a period, they may have understandable concerns about how working will impact disability benefits and services. If they stay at or return to their previous job, they – and their employers – may have questions about how to ensure a smooth process. In this Twitter chat, the Campaign for Disability Employment (CDE) will welcome experts from the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work Program and the Job Accommodation Network to explore both scenarios. To join in, use #CDEChat.

**June 21, 2:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET**

### **Virtual Talk: Facebook and the Accessible Workplace**

In this installment of the Partnership on Employment and Accessible Technology's (PEAT) monthly *PEAT Talks* series, Facebook's Director of Accessibility Jeff Weiland and Director of Global Public Policy Monica Desai will discuss why and how the company has made accessibility a priority and provide an overview of accessibility features on Facebook as well as its popular enterprise collaboration software, Workplace. [Learn more about the PEAT Talk.](#)

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## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



## PwC

*Professional services consulting PwC believes “attracting, retaining and developing talented, diverse professionals – including individuals with disabilities – is a business imperative to spur innovation, drive growth and sustain competitive advantage in the marketplace.” Learn more about the company’s commitment to disability inclusion, encapsulated in its “Ability Reveals Itself” initiative. [Visit the Ability Reveals Itself webpage.](#)*

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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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