CECY E-NEWS
The California Employment Consortium for Youth and Young Adults with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities

ANNOUNCEMENTS

California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities
On January 1, 2012, the Governor’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities was transferred from the Employment Development Department to the Department of Rehabilitation. Along with the transfer, the name was changed to the California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. The California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities is established in California statute to advance the employment of people with disabilities in the state. Members of the committee include people with disabilities, business leaders, state department directors, and representatives of workforce development providers. The vision is for this Committee to act as a great convener: a forum to collaborate on strategies to increase employment of people with disabilities, an opportunity to use our collective brainpower, and invitation to solicit input and feedback from the general public. If you would like to participate in the Committee’s efforts and receive meeting notices and other committee related information please send your contact information to CCDEP@dor.ca.gov.

ODEP Announces 2012 NDEAM Theme
The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment has announced the official theme for October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month: "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?" The theme promotes the benefits of a diverse workforce that includes workers with disabilities, who represent a highly skilled talent pool. Early announcement of the theme helps communities nationwide plan a series of announcements, events and meetings to begin in October, some of which will continue throughout the year. Such activities include proclamations, public awareness programs and job fairs that showcase the skills and talents of workers with disabilities.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson Announcing the new California Career Center
Web portal to help middle school and high school students explore their options and plan their next steps toward productive careers. “Studies show that helping students connect their schoolwork to their future in the workforce helps keep them on track and headed for success, Torlakson said. “The California Career Center Web portal gives students, parents, and teachers a one-stop shop to help demystify the process of moving from the classroom to careers. The portal, launched as part of Torlakson’s Career Readiness Campaign provides the state’s first central, comprehensive Web site of career and college resources for students.

ARTICLES AND BRIEFS

Rising Unemployment Rate for People with Disabilities
Income at Risk: Unemployment Rate for People With Disabilities Back on the Rise, Allsup Finds - Unemployment Rate for People With Disabilities Spikes in First Quarter; Social Security Disability Applications Up Slightly From Same Time 2011. The unemployment rate for people with disabilities climbed back above 14 percent during the first quarter of 2012 after dropping
significantly at the end of 2011, according to a study by Allsup, a nationwide provider of Social Security disability representation and Medicare plan selection services.

StateData: The National Report on Employment Services and Outcomes
Supporting people with all types of disabilities to participate in the labor market is a priority concern for federal and state policy makers. Despite this clear policy intent, there remains a significant gap in employment rates between people with and without disabilities. In 2010, individuals with disabilities ages 18 to 64 living in the community had an employment rate of 33.4 percent, compared with an employment rate of 72.8 percent for individuals without disabilities. Labor force statistics for November 2011 estimate that 18 percent of working-age adults (ages 16 and over) with disabilities are employed, compared with 64 percent of those without disabilities. The report includes an overview of national trends in employment for people with IDD, perspectives on innovative strategies that further the goal of integrated employment, and appendix of individual state profiles and a national profile.

Walgreens Expands Disability Employment Effort Nationwide
The nation’s largest drugstore chain is dramatically increasing its efforts to hire people with disabilities. Walgreens officials said they plan to implement a training program in every state by the end of 2013 that’s designed to help people with disabilities land jobs in the company’s retail stores.

CONFERENCES AND WEBINARS
A New Day 2012: Working Toward A Positive Future
Pasadena Hilton: September 18 & 19, 2012 in Pasadena, CA. CECY SPONSORED.
This year’s conference theme centers around collaboration and working together towards a positive future. New Day 2012 will provide a forum for sharing knowledge and expertise on the promising practices and innovations that make employment and housing a reality for persons with developmental disabilities.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSITION RESOURCES
Business Leadership Network
Employer-led group sponsored by the Department of Labor that promotes the hiring of qualified workers with disabilities. Participating employers hire and promote workers with disabilities, attend business forums on critical disability employment issues, conduct skills sessions for job seekers with disabilities, act as mentors for postsecondary students with disabilities, and provide internship and other employment opportunities.

Essential Skills to Getting a Job: What Young People with Disabilities Need to Know
This online manual provides young people with disabilities with the necessary social skills and work ethic principles to successfully land a job. The tips and essential skills include strong communication, problem-solving skills, the importance of networking, professionalism, enthusiasm, and more.

Improving Demand-Driven Services and Performance: Toolkit For Effective Front-line Services to Youth
Designed to enhance the quality of youth services, this Toolkit will be useful to all professionals assisting youth in developing the knowledge and skills to succeed in a demand-driven economy. The Toolkit consists of 1) a Manual, which provides information about preparing youth, particularly the neediest youth, to become increasingly more self-sufficient; and 2) the training tools, which deliver the content described in the Manual through the presentation of modules. Each module includes presentation slides, group exercises, and a training guide designed to guide trainers in the delivery of the content described in the Manual.

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