



US Business Leadership Network Announces Breakout Sessions for Annual Conference & Career Fair on October 5-8, 2008

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WASHINGTON, DC (June 23, 2008) – The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®) today announced its breakout sessions and speakers for its 2008 conference. The Annual Conference & Career Fair, “**Expanding Inclusion: The Business Strategy**” is the preeminent national event for business, community leaders and BLN chapters that have an interest in hiring, retention and marketing to people with disabilities.

The 2008 conference includes Concurrent Educational Sessions on --

- **Diversity, Disability & Corporate Culture** – Learn how to change corporate culture by expanding diversity and including disability in the workforce.
- **Hidden Disabilities and the Workplace** – What’s a hidden disability? Learn how to work with employees with “hidden” disabilities to harness their full potential.
- **Tapping into Talent- Veterans, Older Workers and More** – These sessions will assist employers in providing returning veterans the opportunity to reenter the workforce and retain our aging workforce that experiences disability and desire to remain in the workforce.
- **Emerging Practices & Technology** – Learn from your peers on emerging practices & technology for engaging employers, creating opportunities and enhancing productivity.
- **Youth Employment Development** – Learn how to proactively recruit and retain students in internships, mentoring programs and career opportunities.
- **JAN SuperTrack** – Job Accommodation Network (JAN) SuperTrack will include trainings designed to effectively increase participants' practical knowledge and skills regarding reasonable accommodation solutions and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). JAN is the nation’s premiere resource for building your inclusive workplace!

The line-up of the 24 breakout sessions and speakers include:

Breakout Session: Diversity, Disability & Corporate Culture

- ***Is Your Firm Ready to Succeed*** with **Nadine Vogel**, President, Springboard Consulting, LLC and **Brett Eisenberg**, Director of Disability Services, AIG.
- ***Building Capacity from the Inside Out: Engaging Insiders to Enhance Disability Inclusiveness*** with **Antonio Ruiz**, Ph.D., Project Director, DBTAC NE Cornell University and **Hannah Rudstam**, Ph.D., Senior Extension Faculty, Cornell University.
- ***Exploring the Bottom Line when Employing Workers with Disabilities*** with **Brigida Hernandez**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, DePaul University and **Karen McCulloh**, Executive Director, disabilityworks.
- ***Changing Disability Perspective: Valued Commodity vs. Token Gesture*** with **Shayn R. Anderson**, MS, Chief Operating Officer, Diversity Inclusion.

Breakout Session: Youth Employment

- *Expanding Opportunities, Relationships, Relevancy and Resources Through Partnerships* with **Jay T. Engeln**, Consultant, National Association of Secondary School Principals.
- *“Beating All Odds” – Journey to Real Community Employment* with **Cynthia Owens**, Specialist, Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities and **Andy Owens**, Self-Advocate.
- *Students with Disabilities: Quality Candidates at Your Fingertips* with **Alan D. Muir**, Executive Director, Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities (COSD) and **Sarah Helm**, The University of Tennessee.
- *Disability Mentoring Day* with **David E. Hale**, Program Manager, American Association of Persons with Disabilities (AAPD).

Breakout Session: Hidden Disabilities & the Workplace

- *On the Job with Hearing Loss* with **Rebecca Morris**, President, Beyond Hearing Aids, Inc.
- *The Ugly Truth about the Hidden DisAbility* with **Steven Tamburro**, Co-Chair, Rhode Island Business Leadership Network.
- *A Study on Job Accommodation: Hidden Disabilities* with **Tracie Saab**, Lead Consultant, Job Accommodation Network (JAN) and **Kendra M. Duckworth**, Lead Consultant, Job Accommodation Network (JAN).
- *How Not To Become A Psycho-Ceramic (Cracked Pot) While Hiring, Accommodating, And Managing Employees With Psychiatric Disorders* with **Don Brandon**, Director, Disability Business Technical Assistance Center – Northwest and **Laurie Ford**, Director, Community Rehabilitation Programs at CCER.

Breakout Session: Tapping into Talent - Veterans, Older Workers and More

- *Veterans with Disabilities – An Untapped Workforce* with **Debra Ruh**, Founder & President, TecAccess.
- *Attract, retain and successfully manage the emerging workforce* with **Sheila Fesko**, Ph.D., Program Manager, National Center on Workforce and Disability-University of Massachusetts.
- *America’s Heroes at Work: Tips on Employing Veterans with TBI-PTSD* with **Charles J. Sabatier, Jr.**, J.D., Senior Policy Advisor, US Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy
- *Bridging the gap: Best practices in accessible call centers* with **Lynne Brown**, Business Development Specialist, IBM Human Ability and Accessibility Center.

Breakout Session: Emerging Practices & Technology

- *The line between innovation and accommodation is blurring* with **Michael Fiore**, MBA, Program Manager, The Sierra Group.
- *Creating a Real TRIFECTA!!!! Build a winning team!* with **Howard Green**, Business Liaison, Virginia Commonwealth University Rehabilitation Research & Training Center.
- *When employees use WIN, businesses WIN!* with **Molly Sullivan**, Program Analyst, Oregon Department of Human Services Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
- *AAPD’s Disability Benchmarking System_{sm}: Measuring Disability Investment Impact* with **Robin L Shaffert**, Esq., American Association of Persons with Disabilities (AAPD).

Breakout Session: JAN Supertrack

- ***aHarmony: Facilitating Communication Connections Through Workplace Accommodation*** with **Tracie Saab**, Lead Consultant, Job Accommodation Network (JAN).
- ***Practical Approach to Accommodating Employees with Psychiatric Impairments*** with **Kendra Duckworth**, Lead Consultant, Job Accommodation Network (JAN).
- ***You're in Final Jeopardy with Motor Impairments*** with **Beth Loy**, Ph.D., Principle Consultant, Job Accommodation Network (JAN) and **Linda Carter Batiste**, Ph.D., Principle Consultant, Job Accommodation Network (JAN) and **Don Brandon**, Director, Disability Business Technical Assistance Center Northwest.
- ***ADA Process: Hold on Tight*** with **Linda Carter Batiste**, Ph.D., Principle Consultant, Job Accommodation Network (JAN) and **Beth Loy**, Ph.D., Principle Consultant, Job Accommodation Network (JAN).

To learn more about the USBLN® Annual Conference & Career Fair, please go to <http://www.newworkforceconference.org>. The conference program and agenda will be posted online on July 15, 2008.

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