



USBLN[®] Partners with COSD to Further Advance Students with Disabilities in Employment

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WASHINGTON, DC (November 26, 2012) – The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN[®]) is pleased to announce a partnership with Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities (COSD) focused on the advancement of college students and recent graduates with disabilities in employment. The partnership will formalize collaborations undertaken by both organizations during the past several years and promote new joint initiatives that benefit business and industry that seek to include more students with disabilities in programs and activities affecting the workplace, marketplace, and supply chain. Together, COSD and the USBLN[®] can work with employers to identify innovative methods of recruiting and hiring college graduates with disabilities, including creation of internship opportunities or encouraging participation of employers in specialized mentorship, internship and recruiting programs that focus on college students with disabilities.

Alan Muir, COSD Executive Director and Co-Founder stated that, “Aside from identifying the best recruitment methods for assisting employers, COSD also focuses on improving, enhancing and making more competitive the supply and quality of candidates who are college students or recent graduates with disabilities for the employers who are seeking them.”

“The USBLN[®] believes the inclusion of students with disabilities in its projects is essential to assist business in preparing a workforce ready to take on tomorrow's challenges. The partnership between COSD supports our vision and together we can maximize COSD's experience and expertise in creating linkages between students, Disability Services and Career Services Offices at institutions of higher education, and employers to benefit a broader base of stakeholders,” says **Jill Houghton**, USBLN[®] Executive Director.

About Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities (COSD)

Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities (COSD) is a national professional association comprised of 700 colleges and universities and over 500 major national employers. COSD's ground breaking work in assisting higher education institutions to develop collaborative relationships between the Disability Services and Career Services Offices on their campuses began in 1999. The stronger link between these two offices contributes to the increased exposure of students with disabilities to career preparation activities, including opportunities for internships or other experiential learning that is vital to obtaining employment opportunities upon graduation. Over the years, COSD has created a number of exciting tools to assist in the outreach to professionals in higher education, at employers and college students and recent graduates with disabilities. These include the Career Gateway job posting and student resume database and the semi-annual FULL ACCESS Student Summit events. <http://www.cosdonline.org/>

About the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®)

The US Business Leadership Network® (USBLN®) is a national non-profit, non-partisan business to business network promoting workplaces, marketplaces, and supply chains where people with disabilities are included. The USBLN® serves as the collective voice of over 60 Business Leadership Network affiliates across the United States, representing over 5,000 businesses. Additionally, the USBLN® Disability Supplier Diversity Program® (DSDP) is the nation's leading third party certification program for disability-owned businesses, including service-disabled veterans. www.usbln.org

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