

Integrated Employment Standing Committee

Report of Activities and Projects

The goal of Integrated Employment is to develop and increase opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities to attain non-segregated employment, earning competitive wages and benefits.

The following is an update of the Integrated Employment Standing Committee's current projects and partnerships:

- 1. *Self-Employment Leads to Freedom (SELF) Project.*** The Evaluation Committee has met and has requested clarification and additional information from the vendor. The Committee will reconvene and make a determination.
- 2. *State Employment Leadership Network (SELN)*** in partnership with DES Division of Developmental Disabilities, the Arizona network has been formed and is now strategizing to maximize resources, develop effective employment systems, use data to guide program management, and share resources for systems change.
- 3. *Untapped Arizona*** in partnership with Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), this project takes activities to a new level by establishing a non-profit organization consisting of employers who are either currently employing persons with disabilities or by involving employers who are interested in diversifying their workplaces and increasing the hiring of persons with disabilities.
- 4. *Work Incentive Information Network (WINN) Project*** in partnership with Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), this project will train and uniformly support service professionals (benefits Specialists, employment services providers) engaging with developmentally disabled persons seeking to work but uncertain as to how income will affect eligibility for public benefits. **WINN** will close the gap (outreach, information and referral services) that are lacking in drawing in persons with developmental disabilities to resources that assist in helping to find employment.

DB101 statewide training will begin September 24 on how to use the **DB101** tool to encourage and support individuals with disabilities to consider work and to plan for work and the transition to self-sufficiency; and how to incorporate **DB101** into everyday business practices. Michael will attend the training.
- 5. *Project SEARCH – Maricopa County*** in partnership with the Sonoran UCEDD, the project is seeking a 3 year renewal for a job training site at Medtronic, based in Tempe. Project SEARCH will place recent high school graduates with developmental disabilities into the program to provide internships to explore interests and develop job skills. Upon completion of the internship, participants will seek part or full-time employment within the Tempe, Arizona Medtronic campus.
- 6. *Employment Video Project*** in partnership with Arizona Department of Corrections, one video has been completed; two are in production; and a fourth is being considered with a focus on Arizona's Rehabilitation Services Administration their programs and services with an emphasis on self-employment.
- 7.** The Committee will meet soon to discuss future projects such as researching incentives for businesses to hire individuals with developmental disabilities; researching employment best practices; and partnering with agencies and organizations to identify employment projects and strategies.