

## **Webcast 9- What Innovative Strategies are My Peers Implementing in Other American Job Centers to Serve People with Disabilities?**

### **First Slide:**

David: Good Morning Laura.

Laura: Good Morning David.

David: When I chat with folks from the field, a question I'm often asked is the following: "What Innovative Strategies are My Peers Implementing in Other American Job Centers to Serve People with Disabilities?". Do you have any suggestions?

### **Second Slide:**

Laura: Wow, the best examples are those we get from our peers in the field. I'm excited by this question David because I do have a great suggestion. Since 2010, the U.S. Department of Labor has awarded grants to 55 projects in 30 states through the Disability Employment Initiative, also simply known as DEI, to help build system capacity in the American Job Center. Specifically, each of the DEI projects are helping to drive improved coordination between the public workforce system and industry to help businesses meet their workforce needs by recruiting, hiring, and training individuals with disabilities.

David: Interesting. It's really an opportunity for states to receive seed money to be innovative and think out of the box in how they serve our customers.

Laura: It really is and we have been able to capture key learnings from the DEI and document that for the broader workforce system as I will share on our next slide.

### **Third Slide (TA Tool): [DEI Best Practices Highlights](#)**

Laura: On our DEI page, we are capturing DEI Best Practices, which are mini-brief summaries carried out by different states or local areas. Some examples include how Minnesota incorporated Youth Guideposts for Success into their statewide personal learning plan process, how the Georgia one-stop system strengthened its partnership with the VR system to maximize positive outcomes for both job seekers with disabilities and workforce programs, and how both Iowa and Connecticut implemented innovative career fairs. I could go on and on but better stop here and get another sip of coffee.

David: That page sounds like it has some good recipes for success. I need to click on this page to read more about these innovative practices.

**Fourth Slide:** [DEI Disability Resource Coordinators Seen & Heard Series](#)

Laura: It really does. But, you know David, behind every good program is a talented staff in carrying out the mission. And, this is probably one of the leading lessons of DEI to employ people with this specialized skill sets. For the DEI program, we have Disability Resource Coordinators also known as DRCs. They are where the rubber meets the road in the front lines. They work tirelessly to help make things seamless for our customers using the services of the American Job Center. We recently put a spotlight on this group through a newly released monthly series called “Seen & Heard”. During the first half of 2020, we will be featuring a one-page spotlight that gives us an opportunity to get to know DRCs as individuals, as professionals, and the systemic impact they have made through their work.

David: I’m glad you shared that Laura. It is true that behind every program, there is a talented and committed team. It’s really nice to put a face with the program to gain insights about these talented individuals doing important work across our country.

**Fifth Slide:**

Laura: This slide lists the resources referenced earlier. Please check them out when you have a moment today.

**Sixth Slide:**

David: And for those listening in, thanks for joining our coffee chat. On behalf of the Employment and Training Administration, we hope these resources help people with disabilities rise and shine in the labor market.