

PROGRAM

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

AUGUST 2-3, 2017 | HYATT REGENCY • BETHESDA, MARYLAND

Meeting Employer Demand in a Job-Driven Economy: Diversity, Inclusion, and VR's Evolving Role



Hosted by the Job-Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center (JD-VRTAC) and Vocational Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Demand-Side Strategies (Demand-Side RRTC)



The JD-VRTAC and Demand-Side VR-RRTC have partnered to host this National Conference. The JD-VRTAC is funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) within the US Department of Education under grant #H264A140002. The Vocational Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Demand-Side Strategies (Demand-Side RRTC) is funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Grant # H133B120002. The JD-VRTAC and the Demand-RRTC are national centers housed at the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The centers are part of ExploreVR, the data hub for a group of vocational rehabilitation research projects at ICI.

Explore VR
Informing Research, Policy, and Practice



WELCOME

Greetings!

Welcome to our conference: *Meeting Employer Demand in a Job-Driven Economy: Diversity, Inclusion, and VR's Evolving Role*. I'm looking forward to the two days we'll be spending together.

During the conference, we'll highlight the achievements of two national centers housed at the Institute for Community Inclusion: the Job-Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center (JD-VRTAC), and the Demand-Side Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (Demand-Side RRTC). We'll also look at successful job-driven research and practices from a variety of state VR and partner agencies in the field.

The ICI and our partners are dedicated to advancing the full inclusion of people with disabilities in their communities. As such, the JD-VRTAC and Demand-Side RRTC are key players in our mission. Over the next two days, you'll be learning more about what these two projects do, and how they fit in with your work in this field.

Thank you for joining us at this conference. I look forward to meeting you, and chatting about how we can work together to help shape the future of VR.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom'.

Tom Sannicandro
Director, Institute for Community Inclusion
University of Massachusetts Boston



#ExploreVR

Let's continue our conversation about business and client needs in VR!

Share interesting information, new ideas, and helpful hints you learn on social media. Don't forget to include #ExploreVR with your tweets, photos and posts. And remember to follow

@ICInclusion
Facebook.com/



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Schedule At-A-Glance	3
Conference Schedule Day 1	4
Conference Schedule Day 2	7
Presenters	6
Floor Map of Hyatt Regency	8



9:00–9:20am

Welcome Regency Ballroom

9:20–10:20am

Opening Panel - How VR meets the needs of business and clients Regency Ballroom

SESSION 1: BUSINESS AS A CUSTOMER

10:25–11:05am

Research, Policy, and Practice..... Regency Ballroom

11:15am–12:00pm

Business Engagement at the National, State, and Local Levels..... Regency Ballroom

12:00–1:15pm

Lunch (on your own)

1:15–2:05pm

Breakout Sessions: Labor Market Information, Sector Strategies, and Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRPs)

How can VR use LMI in to engage business? Susquehanna/Severn

Sector Strategies.....Diploma/Ambassador

CRPs and Business Engagement Potomac/Patuyent

2:15–3:00pm

Business Panel - Business perspective on working relationships with VR..... Regency Ballroom

3:05–3:50pm

Work-based Learning Experiences—Starbucks in Maryland..... Regency Ballroom

4:00–5:00pm

Poster Session Regency Ballroom

LMI and the Demand Side RRTC Projects: Dashboards, Surveys, Interviews, and Sample Analysis

Apprenticeships

Internships and Business Partnerships

Customized Training Programs and Partnerships

The Progressive Employment Model Learning Collaborative

Career Pathways Projects

Assistive Technology Strategies with Business and Work-Based Learning

8:45–9:00am

Welcome Regency Ballroom

SESSION 2: ADVANCING HUMAN CAPITAL

9:00–9:35am

Job-Driven Training..... Regency Ballroom

9:40–10:25am

Demand-Side Research Findings on Business Relations..... Regency Ballroom

SESSION 3: YOUTH AND EARLY CAREER

10:40–11:20am

Business Engagement Strategies for Working with Youth..... Regency Ballroom

11:25am–12:15pm

Breakout Room Roundtables on Work-Based Learning for Youth

Roundtable 1: Youth-focused ApprenticeshipsDiploma/Ambassador

Roundtable 2: Youth-focused Internships..... Susquehanna/Severn

Roundtable 3: Youth-focused Customized Training Programs Potomac/Patuyent

9:00–9:20am

WELCOME REGENCY BALLROOM
Tom Sannicandro, Julisa Cully, and Cecilia Gandolfo, JD-VRTAC

9:20–10:20am

OPENING PANEL: HOW VR MEETS THE NEEDS OF BUSINESS AND CLIENTS..... REGENCY BALLROOM

Moderator: *DeBrittany Mitchell, JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC*

- *Dr. Susan Foley, Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI)*
- *Mark Schultz, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation*
- *Daniel Frye, New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired*
- *Emily Malsch, United States Business Leadership Network (USBLN)*

SESSION 1: BUSINESS AS A CUSTOMER

10:25–11:05am

GENERAL SESSION PANEL: RESEARCH, POLICY, AND PRACTICE..... REGENCY BALLROOM

Moderator: *Dr. Dana Jefferson, JD-VRTAC*

- **Research:** *Dr. Susan Foley, JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC*
- **Policy:** *Mary Wright, Jobs for the Future*
- **Practice:** *Kathy West-Evans, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) National Employment Team (NET), JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC*

11:05–11:15am BREAK

11:15am–12:00pm

GENERAL SESSION PANEL: BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT AT THE NATIONAL, STATE, & LOCAL LEVELS..... REGENCY BALLROOM

Moderator: *Linda Mock, JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC*

- *Jeanne Miller, JD-VRTAC: Business engagement practices in the field*
- *Yvonne Wright, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation: State-level business engagement and partnerships*
- *John Marchioro, Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services: Regional business engagement and partnerships*
- *Morgan Rincon, Oregon Commission for the Blind: Engaging businesses statewide while ensuring blind and visually impaired individuals find competitive, integrated employment*

12:00–1:15pm LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

1:15–2:05pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, SECTOR STRATEGIES, AND COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROVIDERS (CRPS)

BREAKOUT ROOM: HOW CAN VR USE LMI TO ENGAGE BUSINESS? SUSQUEHANNA/SEVERN

Moderator: *Paula Pottenger, JD-VRTAC*

- *Amanda Gerson, New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired: Labor Market Information Training and Implementation*
- *Michael Quinn & Milton Moats, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services; Susan Foley, Demand-Side RRTC; May-Lorie Saint Laurent, JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC: The Creation, Implementation, and Challenges of Rolling Out an LMI Dashboard in Alabama and Preliminary Perspectives of Users*

BREAKOUT ROOM: SECTOR STRATEGIES..... DIPLOMAT/AMBASSADOR

Moderator: *Russ Thelin, JD-VRTAC*

- *Kartik Trivedi, JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC; Mark Schultz & Janet Drudik, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation: "On the Origin of Species": Evolution of Middle Skills Training by Natural Selection*
- *Steve Marshall, South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department: How South Carolina VR uses sector strategies to serve the dual customer*
- *Jennifer Scilacci, Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation: How Colorado VR uses sector strategies to serve the dual customer*

BREAKOUT ROOM: CRPS AND BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT POTOMAC/PATUYENT

Moderator: Laurie Ford, JD-VRTAC

- **Betsy Hopkins, Maine Division of Vocational Rehabilitation:**
How Maine DVR partners with CRPs to engage business
- **Shannon Myers: Iowa Department for the Blind:**
How Iowa Dept. for the Blind partners with CRPs to engage business

2:15–3:00pm

GENERAL SESSION PANEL: BUSINESS PANEL - BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE ON WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH VR REGENCY BALLROOM

Moderator: Kathy West-Evans, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) National Employment Team (NET), JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC

- **Kathy Burris, Workforce Initiatives Manager, Focus Group Lead - Abilities and Abundance, CVSHealth**
- **TBD**

3:05–3:50pm

GENERAL SESSION PANEL: WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES – STARBUCKS IN MARYLAND..... REGENCY BALLROOM

Moderator: Neil McNeil, JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC

- **Jim Evans, Jessica Hawes, Jonathan Barad, Khristopher Bailey - Maryland DORS**
- **Melanie Hood-Wilson, Community College of Baltimore County**
- **Aaron Thompson & Denise Jameson, Starbucks**

3:50–4:00pm BREAK

4:00–5:00pm

POSTER SESSION REGENCY BALLROOM

LMI and the Demand Side RRTC Projects: Dashboards, Surveys, Interviews, and Sample Analysis

- *Interactive demonstration of the ADRS LMI Dashboard* | **Michael Quinn and Milton Moats, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services**
- *Key survey findings from the Business Relations Survey* | **May-Lorie Saint Laurent, JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC**
- *Qualitative Interviews of VR counselors using LMI in Alabama* | **Melissa Alford, Demand-Side RRTC**
- *LMI Catalog: Using LMI in VR* | **Kartik Trivedi & May-Lorie Saint Laurent, JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC**
- *LMI & the JD-VRTAC: Integrating LMI into VR Practice at the Connecticut Bureau of Education & Services for the Blind* | **Jonathan Richmond, Connecticut Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind**

Apprenticeships

- *Apprenticeship programs with Arkansas VR* | **Jonathan Bibb, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services**
- *Apprenticeship Programs and Disability* | **Tom Hooper, Jobs for the Future, JD-VRTAC**

Internships and Business Partnerships

- *Internships and VR Business Partnerships* | **Mary Ofiato & Joey Buizon, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind**
- *USBLN Mentoring Program* | **Keri Gray, USBLN**
- *Pennsylvania's Training Program with Starbucks* | **Ralph Roach, Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation**

Customized Training Programs and Partnerships

- *Customized Training Partnerships with Business and the technical college system* | **Steve Marshall, South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department**
- *Customized Training Partnerships with Deltech* | **Ashley Kavanagh, Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**
- *Partnership Training Programs with VR* | **Melanie Hood-Wilson, Community College of Baltimore County**
- *Customized Training Partnerships with Business* | **Jim Evans, Maryland Department of Rehabilitation Services**
- *Middle Skills Training Program in Healthcare* | **Kartik Trivedi, JD-VRTAC & Demand Side RRTC**

The Progressive Employment Model Learning Collaborative

- *Progressive Employment Research Findings (Progressive Employment vs. Business as usual):* **Susan Foley & Dennis Moore, Demand-Side RRTC**
- *Progressive Employment Video Series:* **DeBrittany Mitchell, JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC**
- **Hugh Bradshaw, Vermont Vocational Rehabilitation**
- **Libby Stone-Sterling, Maine Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**
- **Morgan Rincon, Oregon Commission for the Blind**
- **Mark Shultz, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation**

Career Pathways

- *Advanced Manufacturing Supplement Career Pathways*
Tish Harris, Virginia Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- *UpSkill/Backfill Model Career Pathways Project*
Janet Drudik, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation
- *Job-Driven Career Lattices Project*
Ashley Kavanagh, Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Assistive Technology Strategies with Business and Work-Based Learning

- **Mary Otiato & Joey Buizon, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind**
- **Amanda Gerson, New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired**
- **Jason Clary, Oregon Commission for the Blind**
- **Kevin Markel, Texas Workforce Commission - Blind Services Division**

5:00pm

ADJOURN

PRESENTERS

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Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation

8:45–9:00am

WELCOME REGENCY BALLROOM

Julisa Cully and Cecilia Gandolfo, JD-VRTAC

SESSION 2: ADVANCING HUMAN CAPITAL

9:00–9:35am

GENERAL SESSION PANEL: JOB-DRIVEN TRAINING REGENCY BALLROOM

Moderator: *Cecilia Gandolfo, JD-VRTAC*

- *VR: Training from the VR Perspective*
Joe Marrone, JD-VRTAC
- *Business: Training from the Vendor & Business Perspective*
John Ficca, Hands on Education Services
Lori Nairne, HR Director at Grand Hyatt Washington

9:40–10:25am

GENERAL SESSION PANEL: DEMAND-SIDE RESEARCH FINDINGS ON BUSINESS RELATIONS REGENCY BALLROOM

Moderator: *Kartik Trivedi, JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC*

- *Vermont Progressive Employment: Model Replication and Evaluation:*
Dennis Moore, Demand-Side RRTC; Hugh Bradshaw, Vermont Vocational Rehabilitation
- *VR and Business Relations: National Survey*
Kathy West Evans, May-Lorie Saint Laurent, and Melissa Alford, Demand-Side RRTC
Linda Mock, JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC

10:25–10:40am BREAK

SESSION 3: YOUTH AND EARLY CAREER

10:40–11:20am

GENERAL SESSION PANEL: BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR WORKING WITH YOUTH REGENCY BALLROOM

Moderator: *Joe Marrone, JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC*

- *Progressive Employment and Work-Based Learning with Jobs for Maine's Graduates:*
Betsy Hopkins and Libby Stone-Sterling, Maine Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- *Engaging business to Hire Minors:*
Ralph Roach, Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

11:25am–12:15pm

BREAKOUT ROOM ROUNDTABLES ON WORK-BASED LEARNING FOR YOUTH

ROUNDTABLE 1: YOUTH-FOCUSED APPRENTICESHIPS DIPLOMAT/AMBASSADOR

Facilitator: *Jeanne Miller, JD-VRTAC*

- *Steve Marshall, South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department*
- *Kim Osmani, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services*

ROUNDTABLE 2: YOUTH-FOCUSED INTERNSHIPS SUSQUEHANNA/SEVERN

Facilitator: *Vito DeSantis, JD-VRTAC & Demand-Side RRTC*

- *Joey Buizon & Mary Otiato, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind*

ROUNDTABLE 3: YOUTH-FOCUSED CUSTOMIZED TRAINING PROGRAMS POTOMAC/PATUYENT

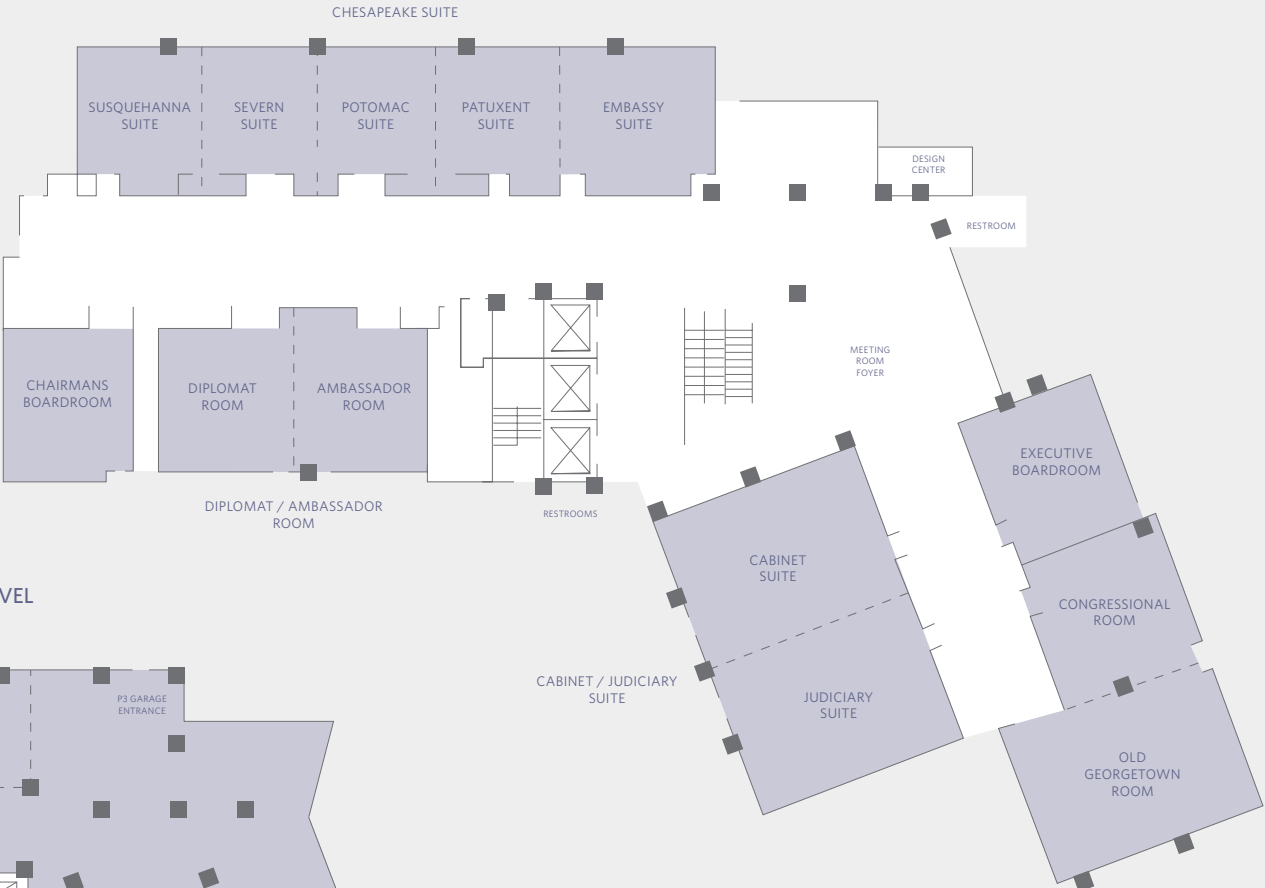
Facilitator: *Mary Ann Bedick, JD-VRTAC*

- *Jocelyn Langrehr & Ashley Kavanagh, Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation*

12:20–12:40pm

FINAL REMARKS AND ADJOURN REGENCY BALLROOM

CONFERENCE LEVEL



BALLROOM LEVEL

