

# Disability and Employment: Research, Policy, & Practice

Presented by

Institute on Disability/UCED



**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015

**Time:** 2:00pm–3:30pm ET

**Registration Fee:** Free (*pre-registration required*)

**Registration Deadline:** Friday, April 24, 12pm ET

## Description:

The persistently low employment rates among people with disabilities in the United States are accompanied by consistently high rates of participation in safety net programs. As funding for employment related services is limited, people with disabilities who wish to access employment services may face either delays in access or scarcity of available options. The lack of coordination between available employment services and safety net programs is an additional cause for concern.

In efforts to address issues surrounding persistently low employment rates among people with disabilities, the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy and Measurement (EPM-RRTC) at the Institute on Disability (IOD) is gathering compelling evidence-based information on the effectiveness of past employment promotion initiatives and efficient ways of measuring and monitoring employment outcomes as innovative policy options are tested and implemented. This webinar will focus on two current projects:

### **The Distribution of the Returns to Education for People with Early Onset Disabilities**

*Presented by: Andrew J. Houtenville, Ph.D.*

Families, individuals, and communities invest in education as a means of ensuring independence and self-sufficiency. This project investigates the economic returns to education of people with early onset disabilities, i.e., the increase in wages/salary associated with an additional year of education. Non-parametric regression techniques are used to estimate the distribution of returns to education. Initial findings suggest that the distribution for people with early onset physical disabilities is similar to the

distribution for people without disabilities, while the returns for people with early onset mental disabilities are fixed, regardless of the years of education. This technique may be used to evaluate the quality of education received by people with early onset disabilities.

### **Design of the National Employment Survey on the Status of Americans with Disabilities for the Kessler Foundation**

*Presented by: Vidya Sundar, Ph.D.*

The long-standing employment gap between people with and without disabilities is well-documented, especially with regard to job tenure, wage difference, and opportunities for career advancement. Yet very little is known about the experiences unique to people with disabilities. The Kessler Employment Survey will examine the unique experiences of people with disabilities and identify successful strategies used by current and former workers with disabilities. It is anticipated that findings from the survey will inform development of new programs and policies to support persons with disabilities to reach their employment goals. This presentation will highlight the overarching purpose, design, and sampling strategy used in the Kessler Employment Survey, conducted by UNH Institute on Disability in partnership with the UNH Survey Center.

### **Who Should Attend:**

Representatives from social, behavioral, and health research, policymakers, and anyone looking to enhance their understanding of the economic circumstances of people with disabilities are welcome to attend.



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**Technical Requirements:** This course is accessed from your computer or tablet via a high speed Internet connection and includes video and audio components. Please see event listing at [www.iod.unh.edu/events](http://www.iod.unh.edu/events) for more details.



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