



National Trends in Disability Employment Lunch & Learn Series

Season 10, Episode 5 nTIDE –

Disability and Work: A Nonprofit CEO's Viewpoint

May 2, 2025 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET | Free | Online | [Register](#)

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Welcome to the National Trends in Disability Employment (or nTIDE) Lunch & Learn series. On the first Friday of every month, corresponding with the Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs report, we will be offering a live broadcast via Zoom Webinar to share the results of the latest nTIDE findings. In addition, we will provide news and updates from the field of Disability Employment, as well as host an invited panelist who will discuss current disability-related findings and events.

AGENDA

| Time | Item |
|-------------|--|
| 12:00 PM ET | Introduction & Welcome Debra Brucker, University of New Hampshire |
| 12:05 PM | Overview of National Trends in Disability Employment (nTIDE) Jobs Report Release John O'Neill, Kessler Foundation The Numbers Debra Brucker, University of New Hampshire |
| 12:15 PM | Announcements from the field of Disability Employment: Denise Rozell, AUCD |
| 12:30 PM | Guest Presenter Katherine (Katy) Neas, The Arc |
| 12:45 PM | Question and Answer for Attendees |

All webinars will be recorded and closed captioned and will be added to our website archives along with full transcripts following the broadcast.

Brought to you by the UNH Institute on Disability and the Employment Policy and Measurement Rehabilitation and Research Training Center, funded by the Kessler Foundation.

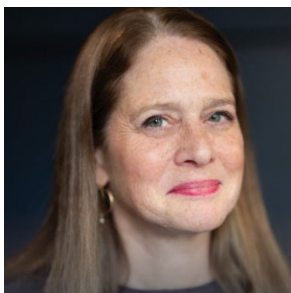
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PRESENTERS



Katherine (Katy) Neas is the CEO of The Arc of the United States, the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. She leads The Arc's Washington, DC-based national office and network of nearly 600 state and local chapters, which provide direct support and advocacy to more than a million people with IDD across the United States.

Katy has a deep commitment to advancing the rights and opportunities of people with disabilities, exemplified by her 35-year career spanning government, nonprofit, and association sectors. She is well known as an ally and thought leader by government officials and legislators, nonprofit providers, selfadvocates, parents, and executive staff across the country. She began her career as Legislative Assistant to Senator Tom Harkin and the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy, where she worked on the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). She then served as the Associate Director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, where she promoted research, education, and service initiatives to improve the lives of people with IDD and their families.

Katy spent 23 years at Easterseals, a national nonprofit that provides direct services to children and adults with disabilities and their families. She held various leadership roles, including Senior Vice President of Government Relations, where she advocated for federal and state policies and programs that benefit people with disabilities and managed the Easterseals Office of Public Affairs. She has extensive policy experience in early education, special education, employment and systems transformation for children and youth with disabilities and their families.



Debra Brucker, PhD, is a Research Associate Professor at the Institute on Disability at UNH. She studies the economic, health and social well-being of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable populations. She has over 25 years of applied policy research experience and has held social and health policy research positions at academic institutions, research organizations, and state government agencies. She currently serves as 1) Principal Investigator (PI) on a two-year US Department of Agriculture funded project to develop improved measurement of food security for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; 2) Co-PI on a five-year National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) grant that is exploring how Long COVID has impacted living and working for people with disabilities; 3) PI of a University of Michigan Retirement and Disability Research Consortium one-year grant

that is examining how to improve access to Social Security disability and retirement benefits for rural persons; and, 4) Co-PI on five-year NIDILRR grant that trains the next generation of disability employment policy researchers. Dr. Brucker is an elected member of the National Academy of Social Insurance.

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John O'Neill, PhD, is the director of employment and disability research at Kessler Foundation and has over 28 years of experience in vocational rehabilitation as a rehabilitation counselor educator, disability employment researcher, and advisor to state vocational rehabilitation agencies. Dr. O'Neill has been a PI or co-PI on six NIDILRR funded, five-year research and training centers focusing on TBI and community integration, disability statistics, disability employment service system, and how individual and contextual factors relate to employment outcomes among people with disabilities.



Denise M. Rozell, JD, is the Director of Policy Innovation at the AUCD. Prior to joining AUCD, she spent fifteen years as Assistant Vice President for State Government Relations with Easter Seals. Denise was the primary resource to Easter Seals 75 affiliates in building capacity to increase awareness of and support for Easter Seals in state government. Prior to that, Denise was the Executive Director of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, an international membership organization for professionals serving individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Denise holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Occidental College in Los Angeles and a juris doctorate from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California in Berkeley.

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