



Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

## Careers and Business Relations News Brief

January 21, 2024



CSAVR Careers and Business Relations News Briefs is a regular series covering The National Employment Team (NET) activities, business relations initiatives, media stories, business research initiatives, webinars, reports, conferences, and employment activities of interest to the membership.

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## **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **1. National Updates**

- a. CSAVR Spring Conference
- b. CSAVR Fall Conference

### **2. NET Updates**

- a. NET and Deaf Professional Network (DPN) Host Session with Sodexo
- b. NET SharePoint Training
- c. NET Surveys
- d. Microsoft Ability Summit 2024
- e. disABLEDperson 2024 Scholarship Applications are Open
- f. Windmills Train the Trainer Session – January 2024
- g. ACCESS Board Training Videos
- h. Tacoma, WA – Tax Credit to Increase the Hiring of People with Disabilities and Green Jobs

### **3. Articles and Events of Interest**

- a. Careers and the disABLED – Features NET partner at Pfizer
- b. Forbes Article – Disability Inclusive Companies are More Profitable
- c. New America: If Money Talks, What Does Subminimum Wage Say?
- d. Teen Vogue Interview with Alaqua Cox, an Indigenous Deaf Actress

## **NATIONAL UPDATES**

CSAVR 2024 Spring Conference

April 6 - April 10, 2024

Bethesda, MD

CSAVR staff are currently working on the conference topics and sessions based on the feedback from membership and the Executive Committee. Additional details and the call for proposals will be out in the near future.

**CSAVR 2024 Fall Conference** will be held in Seattle starting with the pre-conference sessions the weekend of October 19th, 2024. The conference will be Monday, October 21st through Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> followed by the NCSAB Conference. Updates on the conference, including the agenda and link to the hotel, will be posted on the CSAVR Webpage under Events:

<https://www.csavr.org/events> [[csavr.org](https://www.csavr.org)]

## **NET UPDATES**

**NET and Deaf Professional Network (DPN) session with Sodexo: January 22, 2024.** The NET and the DPN are co-hosting an information session with Sodexo. Sodexo is interested in increasing the representation of individuals who are Deaf, HH, D-B and late deafened in their talent pipeline. This session will include internship opportunities. Sodexo has a range of internships in a variety of areas which include management, accounting, HR, finance, operations, management, dieticians/nutritionists, and IT.

The NET and DPN are collaborating with Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) and have also invited university career center staff from: CSUN, Gallaudet and NTID as well as the Director/Liaison in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) at the U.S. Department of Education that provides federal funding to these specialized programs.

**SharePoint – NET Training Session.** The CSAVR-NET hosted a training session to introduce the NET SharePoint site. Participants learned how it is organized, how to share information and set up their own account. Thank you to Kevin Red who has been collaborating with us to set up the site and for conducting the training on the organization and technical aspects of the NET SharePoint site. This site will enable NET points of contact and VR Training Center Directors to share information across programs and between states.

**NET Surveys.** The Careers and Business Relations Committee and the NET are collaborating with the Operations and Personnel Committee and the TAC-QE Learning Communities to gather information on the structure and personnel supporting business relations within the VR agencies across the country. Summaries will be shared with both CSAVR members and NET representatives.

**Microsoft Ability Summit 2024 .** Our partners at Microsoft will be hosting their 2024 Ability Summit on March 7<sup>th</sup>. NET members and the Training Center Directors have been invited to attend. To learn more and register for the event use this link: <https://abilitysummit.event.microsoft.com/abilitysummit.event.microsoft.com>

**disABLEDperson 2024 National Scholarship for College Students with Disabilities.** disABLEDperson, Inc. announce our Spring 2024 National Scholarship Competition for College Students with Disabilities! This competition begins on January 2, 2024, and ends on March 15, 2024, for

the award of \$2,000.00. Details at [www.disABLEDperson.com](http://www.disABLEDperson.com)  
[\[disabledperson.com\]](http://disabledperson.com)

**Windmills Train the Trainer Session.** Several NET members, VR staff, business and community partners are currently participating in the virtual Windmills Train the Trainer series. Since the inception of this program, we have jointly supported close to 1,000 trainees in the virtual training. Trainees are invited to participate in a community of practice and support each other as they use Windmills as part of the disability awareness training with business and other partners. Thank you for your support!

**U.S. ACCESS Board Releases Training Videos.** Our partners at the U.S. ACCESS Board have released a series of videos explaining the work and resources offered by the agency: <https://www.youtube.com/@u.s.accessboard7394>  
[\[youtube.com\]](https://www.youtube.com/@u.s.accessboard7394)

Tacoma City Council Approves New Tax Credits to Spur Employment for Individuals with Disabilities and Green Jobs. Thank you to the NET point of Contact for the Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) for sharing the following information:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WATACOMA/bulletins/380e39e?reqfrom>

### **ARTICLES AND EVENTS OF INTEREST**

**Careers and the disABLED.** Christy Aurigemma, a NET partner at Pfizer, is featured on the cover of the 2023 issue of Careers & the disABLED. Chrisy is a Chemist with a hearing loss who is now leading the Senior Manager of Diversity Staffing. She attended the 2023 NET Summit and Pfizer is currently setting up their account and will be joining the Talent Acquisition Portal. Here is the link to the publication: [bt.e-ditionsbyfry.com](http://bt.e-ditionsbyfry.com) [\[bt.e-ditionsbyfry.com\]](http://bt.e-ditionsbyfry.com).

[Forbes Article – Disability Inclusive Companies are More Profitable \[forbes.com\]](http://forbes.com)

[New America: If Money Talks, What Does Subminimum Wage Say? \[newamerica.org\]](http://newamerica.org)

[Teen Vogue Interview with Alaqua Cox, an Indigenous Deaf Actress \[teenvogue.com\]](http://teenvogue.com)

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Kathy or Inger.