



ADVANCING
DISABILITY INCLUSION
& WORKFORCE
INNOVATION

Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

Careers and Business Relations News Brief

February 18, 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.

Announcements: President's Day February 19th is a federal holiday and CSAVR staff will be out of the office. Presidents' Day, officially George Washington's Birthday, is a Federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the third Monday of February.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. National Updates

- a. CSAVR Spring Conference
- b. Call for Papers
- c. CSAVR Fall Conference 2024
- d. RSA Commissioner Allen's Message to the Field

2. NET Updates

- a. NET Summit 2024

- b. Wells Fargo Announces Chief Accessibility Officer
- c. Federal Internship Opportunities
- d. EEO Status of Workers with Disabilities in the Federal Sector
- e. Microsoft Scholarship
- f. Obama-Chesky Scholarship for Public Service

3. Articles and Features of Interest

- a. Super Bowl - Google's Ad Features Audio Description and Assistive Technology
- b. Disability Scoop: Congress Strengthening Healthcare Protections for PWD
- c. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): Using AI to support people with disabilities in the labor market.
- d. What Can Deaf Philosophy Teach the World and How Will it Change It?

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. The agenda and updates are posted at: <https://www.csavr.org/events>
[\[csavr.org\]](https://www.csavr.org)

Call for proposals CSAVR Spring Conference: CSAVR

is seeking innovative, high-quality proposals leading to competitive integrated employment outcomes for the CSAVR Spring 2024 Conference.

CSAVR's theme this year is **Policy, Practice, and Performance –**

Partners for Tomorrow and Innovation for the Future. There will be

six (6) general sessions and up to sixteen (16) concurrent sessions at the in-person conference. **Proposals are due by midnight EST,**

Friday, February 23, 2024. If you are interested, please submit your proposal [here \[docs.google.com\]](https://docs.google.com).

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 23rd 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]

RSA Commissioner Allen’s Message to the Field: The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) is pleased to publish [Commissioner Danté Allen’s Vision and Priorities Statement \(DCL-24-02\)](#) [rsa.ed.gov] that outlines how RSA will continue to advance competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities under the Commissioner’s leadership.

We encourage you to share [DCL-24-02](#) [rsa.ed.gov] with your staff.

NET UPDATES

NET Summit 2024: The Wells Fargo corporate team confirmed their availability to “host” the 2024 NET Summit. It will be held in Charlotte, NC on Tuesday, September 17 and Wednesday, September 18

Wells Fargo –Chief Accessibility Officer (CAO): Wells Fargo announced that Andrew Holbrook has been selected as their first CAO.

Federal Internship Opportunities: Pathways Program - Federal agencies are recruiting for internship positions through their program called Pathways. The NET is sharing the opportunities, including recent announcements from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of State. More information can be found here: <https://www.usajobs.gov/help/working-in-government/unique-hiring-paths/students/> [usajobs.gov]

The EEO Status of Workers with Disabilities in the Federal Sector - Executive Summary: Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (The Rehabilitation Act), prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities (PWD) in the Federal sector. In addition, it mandates that federal agencies integrate affirmative action program plans as part of ongoing agency personnel management programs, with the goal of hiring, placement, and advancement of PWD.

As a part of its regulatory obligations, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) issued a final rule on January 17, 2017,

titled *Affirmative Action for Individuals with Disabilities in the Federal Government*, "...to clarify the obligation that the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 imposes on federal agencies, as employers, that are over and above the obligation not to discriminate on the basis of disability" (82 FR 654). This final rule went into effect on March 6, 2017, making fiscal year (FY) 2018 the first complete fiscal year in which this rule was effective.

This report a) Identifies current trends for workers with disabilities in the Federal sector; and b) Creates a baseline for measuring the effects of the new final rule. Specifically, the EEOC studied the Federal sector participation rates of PWD and persons with targeted disabilities (PWTD), the Federal sector employment stages of PWD and PWTD, and the ways that federal agencies are improving accessibility for PWD. Below are the principal findings and recommendations.

<https://www.eeoc.gov/federal-sector/reports/eo-status-workers-disabilities-federal-sector> [eeoc.gov]

[Microsoft Scholarship \[microsoft.com\]](#) seeks to empower students with disabilities to achieve more through access to education leading to a career in technology.

Obama-Chesky Scholarship for Public Service: Applications just opened for the 2024-2026 Voyager Scholarship, The Obama-Chesky Scholarship for Public Service, and we need your help to spread the word! Created by the Obamas and Brian Chesky, the Co-Founder and CEO of Airbnb, this scholarship program provides rising juniors in college who are planning to pursue careers in public service with financial aid, meaningful travel experiences, and a network of mentors and leaders to support them throughout their careers.

[You can read more about the program here, \[click.email.obama.org\]](#)

but there is no better way to tell you about the Voyager Scholarship than to introduce you to a few of our incredible recipients.

Read on for a taste of some of the incredible "Summer Voyages" our recipients planned and executed this past summer, then please, **forward this email to any rising college juniors in your life who may benefit from this program.**

ARTICLES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

Super Bowl - Google's Ad Features Audio Description and Assistive Technology: The Super Bowl featured an ad that demonstrates audio description from the perspective of the user with a vision loss. The ad was directed by Adam Morse, believed to be the first person with blindness to direct a Super Bowl Ad. The links below include the ad, an article on people and technology and an article featuring the Director.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=o4a92FmcWMM&fbclid=IwAR2pNuCWGLW5y5w4AjUsASf5WzzJGMuQIU7h34EY-QsajT9FGCzh2d3SAIq>
[m.youtube.com]

<https://www.inc.com/jason-aten/googles-super-bowl-ad-was-a-poignant-reminder-that-people-are-most-important-part-of-technology.html>
[inc.com]

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/tonifitzgerald/2024/02/09/super-bowl-2024-how-a-blind-director-used-pixel-8s-ai-to-direct-googles-game-day-ad/>
[forbes.com]

Congress Weighs Strengthening Health Care Protections for People with Disabilities - Disability Scoop [disabilityscoop.com]

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD):
[Using AI to support people with disability in the labor market](#) [oecd-ilibrary.org]

[What Can Deaf Philosophy Teach the World and How Will it Change It?](#)
[truthout.org]

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

This is an unmonitored email account. Please direct any questions to: info@csavr.org