

DISABILITY MENTORING DAY

Wednesday, October 19, 2011



WHAT IS DISABILITY MENTORING DAY?

- A large-scale national effort designed to **promote career development for students and job seekers with disabilities** (the mentees) through hands-on career exploration, on-site job shadowing, internship and/or employment opportunities, and matching of mentee/mentor relationships;
- DMD is observed each year on the third Wednesday of October to coincide with National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF DISABILITY MENTORING DAY?

- To **increase internship and employment opportunities** for people with disabilities;
- To **dispel employers' fears** about hiring people with disabilities;
- To **promote disability** as a central part of diversity recruitment for a more inclusive workforce;
- To **serve as a launching point** for year round efforts to foster more career oriented mentoring opportunities.

WHAT HAPPENS ON DISABILITY MENTORING DAY?

- One-on-One Job Shadowing;
- Group Visits/Information Tours to Worksites;
- Career Fair/Other Job Training Activities.

HOW DO MENTEES BENEFIT FROM DISABILITY MENTORING DAY?

- **Explore** possible career paths;
- **Demonstrate** your skills to potential employers;
- **Develop** lasting mentor relationship;
- **Gain** greater confidence in your own employability;
- **Target** career skills improvement;
- **Understand** the vital connection between work and school.

HOW DO EMPLOYERS BENEFIT FROM DISABILITY MENTORING DAY?

- An opportunity to **recruit** interns;
- **Gain** access to a pool of potential future employees;
- **Learn** more about the experience of disability;
- **Develop** lasting relationships with disability community leaders;

- **Demonstrate** leadership in their communities; and
- **Attract** positive media attention.

DMD PROGRAM IMPACT 2010

Through our network of approximately **300 organizations** that include the private sector, non profits, government offices and educational organizations, we were able to create **250 matches** that included students at the high school and college levels along with job seekers with disabilities. The program's popularity increased to such a degree that we were able to work closely with our mentors to schedule matches on different days in order to allow our mentees to experience multiple mentoring experiences.

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