

USBLN® and ODEP Partner to Promote Employment of Qualified Job Seekers with Disabilities

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WASHINGTON, DC (March 14, 2011) - The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®), together with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), today announced a partnership aimed at further promotion of the recruitment and hiring of qualified individuals with disabilities. The **Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP)** database contains more than 2,200 pre-screened college and university students with disabilities who are looking for summer or full time jobs.

The 2011 Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities (WRP) is a recruitment and referral program that connects federal and private sector employers nationwide with highly motivated postsecondary students and recent graduates with disabilities who are eager to prove their abilities in the workplace through summer or regular full time positions. Co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and the U.S. Department of Defense with the participation of many other federal agencies and sub-agencies, the WRP has provided employment opportunities for over 5,500 students since 1995.

"We're truly excited about the opportunity to advance workplace diversity and inclusion. Workers with disabilities identified through the WRP are hired solely on their collective talents," summarized **Jill Houghton**, USBLN® Acting Executive Director.

Annually, trained WRP recruiters from federal agencies conduct personal interviews with interested students on college and university campuses across the country. Students represent all majors including math, science, engineering and law. Information from these student interviews is compiled in a searchable database that is available through this website to federal Human Resources Specialists, Equal Employment Opportunity Specialists, and other hiring officials in federal agencies. Employers in the private sector can access student resumes and students interested in private sector employment can take advantage of the WRP program through the National Employer Technical Assistance Center at www.askEARN.org or call toll-free 1-855-275-3276 or 855-Ask-EARN or complete the online request form at: http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/edi/earnworks_internship.cfm.

About the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®)

The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®) is the national disability organization that serves as the collective voice of over 60 Business Leadership Network affiliates across North America, representing over 5,000 employers. The USBLN® promotes the business imperative of the preparation and inclusion of people with disabilities in the

workplace, marketplace, and supply chain while supporting the development and expansion of its BLN affiliates. The USBLN® recognizes and supports best practices in hiring and advancing employees with disabilities, marketing to consumers with disabilities, and encourages contracting with vendors with disabilities through the development and certification of disability-owned businesses. www.usbln.org

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