Disability Mentoring Day

Experience Mentoring Day

- Career Exploration
- Job Shadowing
- Business Tours
- Technical School and College Tours
- Job Readiness Mini Workshops
- Panel Discussions
- Career Fairs

Promoting an Inclusive Workplace

What is Disability Mentoring Day?

DMD is designed to promote career development for students and job seekers with disabilities (mentees) through hands-on career exploration, job shadowing and mentee/mentor relationships.

- Local committees can be creative and plan activities that best suit their own community.
- Activities vary and may include one or more of the following:
  - opening breakfast or lunch for mentors and mentees to get to know each other followed by a half or full day of job shadowing
  - tours of local businesses with employers describing entry level positions, tours of local technical schools and/or colleges
  - job readiness mini-workshops, panel discussions of employees with disabilities and career fairs
  - employer mini-workshops on disability etiquette, job accommodations and other topics of interest

The Goals of DMD

- Dispel employers' myths and fears about hiring people with disabilities
- Promote disability as a central component of diversity recruitment for a more inclusive workplace
- Enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities
- Increase confidence of students and job seekers with disabilities

Benefits of DMD for Employers

DMD provides employers with opportunities to:

- Gain access to a pool of new, emerging talent
- Find resources for hiring people with disabilities (check out KansasEmployAbility.com, one of this year's Kansas DMD sponsors)
- Develop lasting relationships with disability community leaders
- Demonstrate exposure through media coverage of the event
- Demonstrate leadership in their community

Who can be a Mentee?

A high school student, a student involved in higher education or a job seeker with any disability can participate in this program. This would include students or job seekers with learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities or mental health disabilities.

Benefits of DMD for Mentees

DMD provides mentees with opportunities to:

- Learn firsthand about job opportunities
- Understand the vital connections between school and work
- Explore possible career paths
- Target career skills for improvement
- Gain greater confidence in their employability
- Demonstrate skills to potential employers
- Work closely with someone in their desired career field

Thank You to our Partners and Sponsors:

National Partner

American Association of People with Disabilities

Kansas Partners

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC)
Kansas Working Healthy
Kansas Rehabilitation Services
Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy
Centers for Independent Living
Community Mental Health Centers
Community Developmental Disability Organizations
Kansas Schools - Secondary & Post Secondary
Kansas Employers and Businesses

Impact of DMD in Kansas

DMD has involved more than 950 students and job seekers as well as 260 businesses across Kansas. Participants have experienced job shadowing, career and job fairs, toured local businesses, technical schools and colleges, listened to panel discussions and participated in mini-workshops on resumé building and interviewing.

Local coordinators report many positive effects of DMD:

- Students decide to continue their education beyond high school.
- Mentees have been offered a job or internship after DMD participation.
- Mentees have a broader understanding of employment and career possibilities.

DMD information and resources

Kansas – kcdcinfo.ks.gov/disability-mentoring-day
National – AAPD.com
Go to "What we do/Workplace & Employment/DMD"