

HOT TOPICS



NEW COORDINATORS ON-BOARD IN MOBERLY & MACON New Personnel Hired to Lead Program Operations in Macon and Moberly Locations Set to Begin August 2012

LOQW, Inc. is pleased to announce the hire of two new Employment Consultants here in Northeast Missouri; both come to LOQW with a diverse set of skills and strong connections to the local communities.

Shelley Lewis has been with LOQW since March 2012 coordinating the YES Program (Youth Exploration for Success) for the organization this summer and has recently accepted this new role in our Macon location. Shelley will oversee all employment and community services in the Macon area. Shelley will begin her new duties on August 6, 2012.

LOQW is also pleased to welcome Emily Imbler to the organization. Emily joins us in Moberly with a strong background in employment and workforce development. She will begin August 1, 2012 leading the startup of services in Moberly and Randolph County.

STUDY EXAMINES HUMAN RESOURCE PRACTICES

RELATED TO HIRING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Employing People with Disabilities: Practices and Policies Related to Recruiting and Hiring Employees with Disabilities



The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) has released the first in a series of three studies conducted in collaboration with, and commissioned by, the Cornell University ILR School Employment and Disability Institute. The [first report](#) looks at practices and policies related to recruiting and hiring individuals with disabilities based on findings from a survey of SHRM's membership. 60% of respondents worked for U.S. based companies; the rest worked at multinational companies.

Nearly two-thirds (61%) of organizations include people with disabilities explicitly in their diversity and inclusion plans and 58% indicate training HR staff and supervisors on effectively interviewing people with disabilities. Nearly one-half (45%) of organizations found that training HR staff and supervisors on interviewing people with disabilities to be very effective in the recruitment or hiring of people with disabilities.

Learning Opportunities/ Quality Works, Inc.

(LOQW) is a leader in providing community skills training, employment services, and service coordination in Northeast Missouri.

The Mission...

***Support, Advocacy, &
Connection to Resources***

The Leadership...

***Connie Ketsenburg,
Board President
Wendy Hays,
Executive Director***

With offices located in Monroe City, Hannibal, Shelbina, Macon, and Kirksville; LOQW is well positioned to meet the needs of customers throughout Northeast Missouri. LOQW serves individuals, families, job seekers, and employers in Marion, Monroe, Ralls, Pike, Shelby, Macon, Adair, Lewis, Clark, Knox, Scotland, Schuyler, Putnam, Sullivan, and Randolph Counties.





A MORE INCLUSIVE AMERICA: WE CAN'T WAIT
from (Work in Progress), the Official Blog of the U.S. Department of Labor, by Kathy Martinez

Next week—July 26 to be exact—marks 22 years since the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) was signed into law. Like other pieces of civil rights legislation, this landmark law works to ensure a more inclusive America. Its passage paved the way for millions of Americans to more fully participate in all aspects of community life.

I am one of those millions of people. I was born blind. My sister Peggy was also born blind. We were the middle of six children, and as of yet there is no diagnosis for our blindness.

When Peggy and I were growing up, there was no ADA, and we didn't know much about the emerging disability rights movement. We were too busy just being kids. But, fortunately, we had parents who understood the importance of inclusion and fought for our rights even before the law backed them up. To start, they advocated for me, and later Peggy, to attend our local public school. This allowed us to be part of, rather than separate from, our community. My parents couldn't wait for change, so they made it happen.

Today, the ADA enshrines in law what my parents—and many others—already knew: the ideal of equal opportunity holds no water unless it truly includes all people, including people with disabilities.

That said, more than two decades after the ADA was passed, much work remains to be done. And that's why I do what I do every day. I have the honor of leading [DOL's Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\)](#), which works to influence national policy and promote effective workplace practices that ensure today's workforce is inclusive of all people. [Read more at \(Work in Progress\)](#).

Kathy Martinez is the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy.



ODEP AND AIDD JOIN FORCES
U.S. DOL's Office of Disability Employment Policy & the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Join Forces to Promote Employment

Kathleen Martinez, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, and Sharon Lewis, Commissioner of the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), signed a memorandum of agreement on July 17, 2012. Together, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and AIDD, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living, will work to expand and promote integrated employment as the first employment option for individuals with significant, including intellectual and other developmental, disabilities.

The partnership between the two federal agencies will further their coordination of resources and efforts so that the concept of "Employment First" is more broadly embraced.

[Read the USDOL press release.](#)

"We are very excited about working together with ODEP to improve employment outcomes. We believe that access to competitive integrated employment is integral to our efforts at the Administration for Community Living. Without a meaningful career path, people with disabilities cannot achieve the goals of independent living, full participation in community or economic self-sufficiency."
*Sharon Lewis, Commissioner
Administration on Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities*

Learning Opportunities/Quality Works, Inc.
201 North Locust Street, P. O. Box 254, Monroe City, Missouri 63456
Phone: 573-735-4282 | Fax: 573-735-2580
www.logw.com

