



“The Americans with Disabilities Act represents civil rights for people with disabilities. However, it doesn't legislate attitudes! Business representatives talking with peers about positive experiences will change attitudes.”

*-LaDrene E. Coyne
Founder of the Washington State Business Leadership Network - 1999*



**"Bridge from
Military to Civilian
Workforce"**

WSBLN Event
August 2006



**CURTIS KIRKLAND
- PAINTING -
“Land your future
for a brighter success”**



“I realized from participating in the National Youth Service Day, that as a person with a disability, I am capable of becoming a leader of the community just like any other person.” -WSBLN Event April 2002

WHY WE DO THIS

- **FACT:** Nearly 620,000 working-age adults with disabilities live in Washington State.
- **FACT:** A recent Harris Poll found that only 29% of people with disabilities in this age group work, despite that seven in ten of those unemployed want to work.

The Washington State Business Leadership Network

The Washington State Business Leadership Network (WSBLN) is an extension of the nation-wide Business Leadership Network (USBLN) established in 1994 by the former President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (PCEPD), now coordinated through the Department of Labor's Office on Disability Employment Policy.

OUR MISSION

To educate and support businesses to hire, retain, and improve customer services for people with disabilities.

OUR VISION

To strengthen our region such that all businesses recognize the benefits of hiring, retaining and marketing to people with disabilities.

SPONSOR BENEFITS

As a local organization within a national association, the WSBLN has the ability to connect employers to employers locally and across the country. Leadership meetings, working committees, and an annual conference provide ample opportunities for sharing experiences, strategizing solutions, and engaging in a national dialogue of bringing people with disabilities into the mainstream of American life through employment. All sponsors commit to sharing their expertise and experience, promoting the successful programs and promising practices, and educating one another about the bottom line benefits of marketing products and services to this consumer base.



WSBLN CHAPTER

Currently there are 43 BLN's in 35 states and 2 affiliates in Canada. In 2000, 1,676 employers participated in BLN activities resulting in a higher number of individuals with disabilities employed in the competitive labor market. On a national level, BLN employer participation increased by 316% between 1999 and 2000. Today, there are more than 2000 employers participating.

Whether you're a small business or part of a multi-national corporation, sponsorship in the WSBLN will provide you with solutions and insights your company needs to maintain a competitive edge. You will learn from the best practices, successes and experiences of other network sponsors.

BECOME A SPONSOR

Annual Sponsorship of the WSBLN entitles your company to the benefits of the WSBLN through December 31st of the current year. Initial sponsorship fees are determined by the date of sponsorship.

Companies that have sponsored the BLN recognize that it makes good business sense to expand opportunities for people with disabilities.

If this talent pool presents an untapped opportunity, consider the potential for your business. Studies show that employing these workers will:

- Add a skilled variety of talent to your workforce with a higher rate of retention.
- Expand marketing strategies, improve products, services, and attract a multibillion dollar consumer base.

As public awareness grows, consumers are giving their loyalty to companies that commit to hiring and serving people with disabilities.

- **FACT:** That's at least 308,140 people in our state who can and want to work, yet they're one of the most overlooked segments of our workforce.
- **FACT:** Nationwide, 54 million Americans with disabilities comprise the largest minority in the country.