



# INSIGHTS December 2013

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## **Make Your Voice Heard! WA State Legislative Advocacy Days Kick Off January 22, 2014!**

December 17th, 2013

Come be part of the Legislative Advocacy Days for the developmental/intellectual disability community of Washington State.

Advocacy Days offer a way for you to learn about the legislative process in person.

Beginning with the Advocacy Day Briefing on January 22nd, the Arc of Washington State will be providing a "PASSPORT" to all advocates who attend Advocacy Days.

Your "Passport to 2014 Advocacy Days" is your ticket to becoming an involved advocate for issues on developmental disabilities. The Passport includes our vision for the trip, Tips for Travelers and a page for each Advocacy Day. The Arc will "stamp" your Passport on each Advocacy Day you attend. At the end of the legislative session there will be awesome prizes for various accomplishments by advocates. Attend as many Advocacy Days as you can. Get your legislators to sign off on your Passport. Make your voice heard! Click the following link for the full schedule and rallying instructions! [http://arcwa.org/index.php/takeaction/washingtonstate/advocacy\\_day](http://arcwa.org/index.php/takeaction/washingtonstate/advocacy_day)

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## **The 2014 Oregon Employment Learning Network (OELN) Core Supported Employment Training Series IS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION**

December 17th, 2013

OELN 2014 will focus on providing participants with core supported employment professional training. Four core training workshops will each be offered in different areas and times, and open to Oregonians throughout the state. Each training will consist of: a two-day face-to-face seminar, and a follow-up two-hour web meeting for participants to reconnect with the instructors, ask questions, and gain support as they apply workshop content out in the field. All workshops will also include an organizational leadership component tailored to executives and program managers to assist with organizational implementation of the training topics. OELN 2014 will end by administering the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Certified Employment Support Professional Exam (CESP) at the end of the program.

[Click here for the announcement and registration information](#) , or visit us at [www.employment-first.org](http://www.employment-first.org)

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## Provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) That Are Important for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

December 17th, 2013

Please click on the following link and read important information put out by the Arc of the United States... <http://www.thearc.org/page.aspx?pid=3044>

## King County WA's 24th Legislative Forum A Huge Success!

December 18th, 2013

From The Arc of King County: "The 24th Legislative Forum on November 25th was a huge success. More than 480 community members, 25 elected officials, and seven congressional and legislative staff joined us to make sure the community of people with developmental disabilities had their voices heard. The event was covered by TVW, Seattle Times, the Somali and Spanish TV channels. [Click here](#) to watch the video.

The highlight as always was the fantastic speakers who shared their stories to illustrate the importance of our community's demands. The event could not happen without all of you who made every

effort to join us there. Thank you from the King County Family Coalition staff at The Arc."

## Disability Scoop: Feds Report Boost In Disability Hiring

December 20th, 2013

The number of federal workers with disabilities is on the rise, with a new report finding that such employment has reached its highest level in more than three decades. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management said in a [report](#) released Thursday that the nation's largest employer added 16,653 new employees with disabilities during the 2012 fiscal year, bringing the total to nearly 220,000. That's more people with disabilities than have been employed by the government at any other time in the last 32 years, officials said. Click the following link to read more: <http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2013/12/20/feds-boost-disability-hiring/18985/>

## 2014 APSE Conference's Call for proposals IS OPEN! SUBMISSION Deadline: January 15, 2014

December 17th, 2013

APSE's 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held in Long Beach, California on July 1-3, 2014, with a pre-conference day on June 30. We are looking for conference presentations that are innovative and expand state-of-the-art practices to advance our field. The APSE conference focuses exclusively on integrated employment of individuals with disabilities and is the premier event for sharing knowledge, expertise and ideas on the latest and best innovations to make employment a reality for all. The National APSE Conference provides education and networking opportunities for individuals with disabilities, families, rehabilitation and employment professionals, transition teachers, employers,

policymakers, educators, and anyone interested in advancing Employment First! Click on the following link for submission details: <http://www.apse.org/conference/preconference.cfm>

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## ICI's Real People, Real Jobs Website—new Stories!

December 20th, 2013

[Real People, Real Jobs](#) is a website featuring employment success stories. The site highlights individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities working in paid jobs in their communities through the use of innovative front-line strategies. Their mission is to show what's possible for people with disabilities, their families, and front-line employment-support professionals. They're always adding new stories. This month, you can read about Eric and Francesca, who turned volunteer opportunities into paid positions. Read how Corey developed a business that met a need in his community, and how Anna and Jackson's complementary skills turned into a business partnership. You can also learn how a job developer's networking skills contributed to Zachary finding the ideal work opportunity in web design. Please visit it at: <http://www.realworkstories.org/>

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## The Annual Disability Statistics Compendium is Now Online

December 17th, 2013

The ***Annual Disability Statistics Compendium*** is a web-based tool that pools disability statistics published by various federal agencies together in one place. When working on legislative and other matters relating to persons with disabilities, the Compendium will make finding and using disability statistics easier. <http://www.disabilitycompendium.org/>

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