

WEEKLY FOCUS

Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans
with Disabilities

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

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The mission of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency is to ensure individuals with disabilities achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes through integrated services, partnerships and innovation.

Successful Columbus Job Fair Lays Foundation for Success

The positive feedback and results from last week's DisAbility Job Fair in Columbus continue to accumulate and impress. The event at the Aladdin Shrine Temple last week, the first in a series of events across the state, was a great success with more than 30 employers on site and over 200 hundred job seekers in attendance. As a result, we have already begun to see job placements being made at companies such as T.J. Maxx, Cintas, and Red Roof Inn.

For many, the event was the first opportunity to attend a job fair and not only apply for jobs, but gain important experience in interviewing, networking and relationship building. This brought on the typical mix of anxiety and excitement that comes with starting a job search.



Job Seeker, Forrest Sargent and Counselor, Jay Burns networking at the 2014 DisAbility Job Fair.

"It is my first time and I'm kind of nervous but I'm happy I'm here, I'm really happy I am here," noted Forrest Sargent on Thursday, August 21. "It is really good to see all of these companies here"

It was a great opportunity for job seekers to have so many companies come together in one place and provide a unique experience to connect with a broad range of companies and explore a variety of jobs.



Job Seeker, Richard Stevenson and Counselor, Pamela Schneider.

"I found it really enjoyable because I met with so many different companies here that can help me find a job," said Richard Stevenson. "I wasn't nervous because I like talking to people. And that is the kind of job I am looking for, talking to people; T.J. Maxx because I love clothes, selling clothes, and Aramark, which is hospitality, dealing with food. So I think all of these will help me."

The employers were pleased with the quality of applicants and the attendance at the event. It gave them exclusive access to job applicants who can meet their workforce needs. Holly Antos, a Workforce Diversity Consultant with American Electric Power (AEP), who also serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the Ohio Business Leadership Network (OHBLN), was impressed on Thursday:

"We are hopeful several of the candidates will apply or have applied for some of the openings we have. It was so great to be at a job fair where we needed the four of us to manage the traffic at the table," said Antos. "It was really well done."

The fair included representatives from the following companies:

Atrium Centers LLC
Deaf Services Center
Germain of Columbus
Aramark
Pitney Bowes
OhioHealth
Ohio Department of Commerce
LabCorp
Lowe's
American Electric Power (AEP)
Red Roof Inn
Columbus Zoo
Fifth Third Bank
UPS
Verizon Wireless
GE Lighting
Columbus Veterans Affairs (VA)
Chillicothe Veterans Affairs (VA)
PC-ER
Cardinal Health
Marshall's
HomeGoods
T.J. Maxx
Cintas
Fed Ex Ground
Proctor and Gamble (P&G)
Hilton Columbus at Easton
Manpower
Time Warner Cable (TWC)
Mobile Instrument
ContactUS



Matthew Burger was extended an offer and accepted a position at the Red Roof Inn!

Matthew Burger, who recently graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Applied Sciences, is a great example of the opportunity the job fair presented. Burger took advantage of the job fair to network with employers on new opportunities and job openings:

"I've interviewed with seven different companies ranging from AEP to the Columbus Zoo," said Burger on Thursday. "I'm hoping to secure a job in the next week or so, but right now I'm still looking to keep my options open."

And Burger was successful, securing a job with Red Roof Inn this week!

Thank you to all of the employers and job seekers who participated on Thursday. Also, congratulations and thanks again to all the staff whose hard work and positive attitude made the DisAbility Job Fair such a success. It will serve as a great foundation for not only future job fairs and events, but for the careers of the individuals who were able to attend.

DDD Hosts Social Security Administration Congressional Briefing

Every year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) holds a briefing for various Congressional Offices throughout Ohio, typically dividing the meetings between the Northern and Southern halves of the state.

The Division of Disability Determination (DDD) was honored to host the event for the Southern district on Tuesday, August 26. In attendance, were representatives from the following Congressional offices: Representatives Bob Gibbs, Jim Jordan, Joyce Beatty, Steve Chabot, Steve Stivers, and Brad Wenstrup and Senator Rob Portman.

Additionally, numerous SSA District Office Managers attended. Informative presentations were made by Rick Lenoir, SSA Deputy Assistant Regional Commissioner, Michael Reynolds, SSA Area Director for Southern Ohio, Brad Reynolds, DDD Communication Liaison, and Paul Yerian, Hearing Office Chief Administrative Law Judge. The SSA Public Affairs Specialists, Theresa Busher and Sue Denny, also provided information regarding "My Social Security" and the electronic services that are available through SSA. The meeting was well received and the attendees expressed appreciation for the information provided to them. Following the briefing several of the participants and guests took part in a tour of the DDS building.

CCC Kicks Off

On September 3, the State of Ohio will kick off the 2014 Combined Charitable Campaign (CCC) in the lobby of the Rhodes State Office Tower at noon. Archie Griffin, president of The Ohio State University Alumni Association, is the 2014 honorary chair of the campaign. He will be joined by Robert Blair, campaign co-chair and director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services; Kim Kessler, director of public sector campaigns at the campaign coordinating organization; and Rocky Jolly, campaign co-chair and Ohio Civil

Service Employees Association (OCSEA) representative from the Ohio State School for the Blind.

The CCC is an annual initiative encouraging State of Ohio employees to consider donating to one or more of nearly 2,000 charitable organizations at the local, regional and international levels.

This is the first year that ePledge, the campaign's new online giving portal, is available to employees of all state agencies. ePledge is an electronic option for employees who wish to make their pledge by payroll deduction.

To learn more about the campaign and watch a video featuring a message from Governor John R. Kasich, please visit ohio.gov/ohioccc. The website also includes the 2014 Campaign Resource Guide, which lists and gives brief descriptions of the charitable federations participating in the campaign.

OOD will officially kickoff CCC on September 9. Stay tuned for more details.

Commissioner Blake Haxton Competes in Para-Rowing World Championship Final



Blake Haxton para-rowing at the World Championships in Amsterdam.

OOD Commissioner Blake Haxton competed this week in the Para-Rowing World Championships in Amsterdam. In his first time in international competition, Haxton was able to accomplish his goal of making the finals by placing second in the qualifying heats on Tuesday.

In the finals on Thursday, Haxton missed medaling by just a second, coming in fourth. Defending world champion, Erik Horrie of Australia won with a time of 4:50.68. Great Britain's Tom Aggar was second at 4:53.41, and Russia's Alexey Chuvashov was third at 4:58.96. Haxton, who has been rowing just a little over two months, was fourth at 4:59.97.

Commissioner Haxton spoke about the rowing experience ([website Row2K](http://www.row2k.com)):

"It's never easy to take fourth, especially a close fourth, but those three guys I give them all the credit in the world," Haxton said. "They're clearly the best three guys in this event in the world. It's really just a privilege to be in that race and to get to be competitive in it. It's really what you dream about, you just really want to have a chance going into the finish, and I had a chance and they were just a little bit better today. They absolutely got my best, and theirs is just a little bit better, so again real big privilege to race with those guys, huge congratulations to them. I guess we'll go home and just try to come back just that little bit better next year."

Congratulations to Commissioner Haxton on an outstanding showing in Amsterdam!

For more information or questions on stories in this publication, please call the Office of Communications at 614.438.1476.

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