



Illinois Inroads to Inclusion

By Lois Barnhart, Illinois Disability Outreach Coordinator

April 2011

NW Region Inclusion Team

In April, 2011, Erin Gannon, National Service Inclusion Project, travelled from Boston MA to provide an exemplary day of Inclusion Training for representatives from all the Illinois AmeriCorps programs currently funded. Erin covered topics such as Person Centered language, Disclosure, Inclusive Recruitment Strategies, Essential versus Marginal Job functions, Accommodations and stories from personal experience. Erin was very well received by the AmeriCorps program staff and the expected outcome of increased efforts toward Inclusion are promising.

The NW Region Inclusion Team, in conjunction with the Illinois Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities, developed our first anonymous Employment Survey for people with disabilities. The survey was developed to get a more accurate picture as to experiences of people with disabilities while on their path to volunteerism or employment. The survey is accessible, consists of 17 questions and asks the responder to rate what accommodations are most important to them. The entire survey should take just a few minutes. It is hoped that the results will assist the team in better understanding of the experiences of people with disabilities while moving into volunteer or work settings. We hope to assess and identify roadblocks met and better understand how to remove barriers to employment or volunteerism. Results should enable us to better target areas that need the most improvement. This survey is posted on Illinois workNet and can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.illinoisworknet.com/VosSurvey/survey.aspx?surveyid=54>

In the first two weeks of posting, the survey has been completed by nearly 200 people. We look forward to more data in the months ahead and will provide feedback via this newsletter as to the results. Many thanks to Illinois workNet for their support and assistance in developing and posting this survey.

Look for a new issue of the Inroads to Inclusion in May.

Illinois Disability Outreach

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LINKS OF INTEREST:

Inclusion:

NSIP (National Service Inclusion Project)

www.serviceandinclusion.org

Volunteerism:

Opportunities in Illinois

www.serve.illinois.gov

AmeriCorps

www.americorps.org

Self-Disclosure:

www.zurinstitute.com/selfdisclosure.html

