



## Illinois Inroads to Inclusion

By Lois Barnhart, Illinois Disability Outreach Coordinator

January 2011

### NW Region Inclusion Team Mission Statement :

**To promote and support full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of National and local community service organizations.**

In December 2010, Scott McFarland, Resources and Information, Serve Illinois Commission and Lois Barnhart, Disability Outreach, attended National Disability Inclusion Advanced Capacity Building Training in Biloxi, Mississippi. This training focused on how to develop outcome based strategic plans. During this training, staff had the opportunity to network with Inclusion champions across the country regarding ideas and projects being conducted in individual states and nationwide. This process generates vision and life to our efforts toward Inclusion.

The NW Region Inclusion Team completed our first anonymous Employment Survey for people with disabilities. The survey consists of 15 questions and should take just a few minutes. The survey was developed in conjunction with the Illinois Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities to get a more accurate picture as to experiences of people with disabilities while on their path to volunteerism or employment. It is hoped that it will assist the team in assessment and identification of roadblocks met and successes made by people with disabilities throughout the state. Results should enable us to better target areas that need the most improvement. **If you are interested in completing this survey, please click on the link provided.**

Please join AmeriCorps programs across the state on January 17, Martin Luther King Day, in the celebration of the life of a man whose focus was Inclusion and Volunteerism. To find an event near your go to [www.serve.illinois.gov](http://www.serve.illinois.gov) and click on [MLKDay.gov](http://MLKDay.gov).

The NW Region Inclusion Team has begun collating the Toolkit and hopes to have it completed by Spring 2011. A sub-committee is currently working on IEP packets and will be presenting to the team soon. After formulating these packets the proposal will be submitted to our UCED and Great Lakes ADA for input. Upon completion dialogue will ensue with ISBE in regard to the packets and dissemination during the IEP process.

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

### Illinois Disability Outreach

#### Contact Info:

Lois Barnhart  
500 Anchor Road  
Dixon IL 61021  
815-288-6691

#### LINKS OF INTEREST:

Inclusion:

NSIP (National Service Inclusion Project)

[www.serviceandinclusion.org](http://www.serviceandinclusion.org)

Volunteerism:

Opportunities in Illinois

[www.serve.illinois.gov](http://www.serve.illinois.gov)

AmeriCorps

[www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)

Self-Disclosure:

[www.zurinstitute.com/](http://www.zurinstitute.com/)



