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Winter Sports Opportunities

No mountain too high

When the Lights Go Out

Do you have a plan?

Aging and Disability

Resources for personal help

EMPOWERMENT RISES IN PHOENIX

Resource center is
national model



Implementation Guidelines

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has issued policy guidance to states and outlying areas for the implementation of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) invest-

the One-Stops, the work-force system will play a vital role in America's economic recovery by assisting workers who are facing unprecedented challenges to retool their skills and re-establish themselves in viable career paths."

The training and employment guidance letter

employment needs, and spur future economic growth to advance shared prosperity for all Americans.

More information on DOL's implementation of ARRA is available at www.dol.eta.gov and www.dol.gov/Recovery. Questions regarding Recovery Act funding? E-

exclusively representing artists with disabilities in a for-profit entity. She is breaking new ground in the art, licensing, giftware, and manufacturing industries at large, and within the disability community of artists who want to earn a living instead of being dependents.

Oberlander's company, Art of Possibility Studios, locates and develops art and artists. In addition to sourcing talent, she personally negotiates licensing agreements with socially conscious, cause-oriented manufacturers seeking to feature Art of Possibility Studios' beautiful and meaningful imagery on their products.

After a successful career as a writer and editor, Oberlander left publishing around the turn of the millenium when her vision started to fail and employment prospects concurrently diminished. Severe myopia, a lack of color and depth perception, and cone dystrophy conspired to rob her of her sight. By her fortieth birthday, she was blind. She picked up a paint brush for the first time.

Although her artwork met with great success, her professional opportunities were limited by mobility challenges. She faced a stream of obstacles in the logistics of getting her original work in front of patrons at exhibitions and in other common marketing venues. So her quest began.

Since launching Art of Possibility Studios in Janu-

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ments in core employment and training programs. This critical investment of more than \$3.5 billion in the nation's work-force system and network of One-Stop Career Centers is intended to help unemployed Americans upgrade their skills and get back to work.

"One-Stop Career Centers have a wide array of services and resources to help workers and youth who are unemployed or underemployed," says Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "Through

provides policy and direction regarding activities authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Wagner Peyser Act, as funded through ARRA. The letter also specifies how states can use funding under the Recovery Act to serve adults, dislocated workers, and youth and provide labor exchange services to all who need them. The work-force investment system will use Recovery Act funds to increase service levels, address immediate

mail them to eta.economicrecovery@dol.gov.

To find a local One-Stop Career Center or to access online resources to support job searches, career information, and information on education and training resources, visit www.careeronestop.org or call DOL's toll-free helpline, 877-348-0502 / 877-348-0501 (TTY).

Source: DOL press release*

Problem Solving Leads to Business

Like many people with disabilities, Ketra Oberlander found challenges to earning a living via her talent. A painter who lost her sight when she was in her late 30s, she subsequently founded what is reportedly the world's only artwork-licensing brand

*DOL press releases are accessible on the Internet at www.dol.gov. The information in this news release will be made available in alternate format (large print, Braille, audio tape, or disc) from the COAST office upon request. Specify which news release when placing your request at 202-693-7828 / 202-693-7755 (TTY).



Ketra Oberlander's company, Art of Possibility Studios, marketed its first licensed product—a set of four bookmarks by various artists—in January 2009.

ary 2008, Oberlander has brought four other artists with disabilities into the fold. Now overseeing the agency, she hopes consumers of her licensed products will not only appreciate their beauty at face value but also take a moment to realize the magnitude of the purchase.

"I solve a problem," she says, "for consumers who want to adorn their lives and the lives of others with

meaningful goods that truly help create a better world."

Contributor: Anne Goldberg, Kern Communications.

Database of Candidates with Disabilities

DOL has made available to employers nationwide a free database of 1,921 job candidates with disabilities seeking employment in a wide variety of fields. Federal employers can tap into this ongoing recruitment resource online, and private-sector, other government, and nonprofit employers can request unlimited searches by calling a toll-free telephone number.

The Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities, co-sponsored by the Labor Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), compiled the database by sending recruiters to college campuses across the country to interview eligible undergraduate and post-graduate students, as well as recent graduates.

"Historically, people with disabilities consistently have experienced difficulties finding employment regardless of the economic climate," says Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "Providing an internship or first job to someone with a disability can give a real jump-start in launching a successful

career. The Workforce Recruitment Program offers top talent while giving college students and recent graduates the opportunity to gain invaluable work experience."

In using the database, an employer sets the criteria for each candidate search by specifying location, college/university, degree program, position type, and length of appointment. Job seekers represent many high-demand fields of study, including accounting, administration, business, communications, computers, criminal justice,

Department's Employer Assistance and Recruiting Network at 866-327-6669 to access the database.

Since 1995, the Workforce Recruitment Program has assisted employers in identifying job candidates with disabilities who meet their recruitment needs.

ODEP is leading a twenty-first-century federal response to the historic underemployment of people with disabilities. In collaboration with other government agencies, public and private employers, and additional

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— Hilda L. Solis, Secretary of Labor

education, engineering, human resources/equal employment opportunity, healthcare, law, the social sciences, and the sciences.

Hiring officials at federal agencies can access the Workforce Recruitment Program database and conduct independent searches on the Internet by obtaining a password at WRPgov/www.dol.gov/cgi-bin/leave-dol.asp?exiturl=/www.wrp.gov/&exitTitle=/www.wrp.gov&fedpage=yes. Employers in the private sector, state and local government agencies, and nonprofit organizations should contact the Labor

stakeholders, ODEP facilitates the development and implementation of innovative policies and practices necessary to achieve a fully inclusive workplace. ODEP's work primarily falls into three categories: (1) employers and the workplace, (2) work-force systems, and (3) employment-related supports, which include education and training, healthcare, reliable transportation, affordable housing, and assistive technology.

For more information, visit www.dol.gov/odep.

Source: DOL press release* ■