



# National Trends in Disability Employment Lunch & Learn Series

**August 18, 2023**

**12 PM to 1 PM EST**

## nTIDE Deeper Dive

### *Employment Trends for Disability Type*

Live webinar hosted via Zoom Webinar

[Register](#)

- 12:00 PM:** Welcome and Purpose of this Deeper Dive
- 12:05 PM:** Updated numbers pertaining to today's area of focus
- 12:20 PM:** Guest Speaker: Russell Stein, Gallaudet Innovation and Entrepreneurship (GIEI)
- 12:35 PM:** Open discussion and questions for all

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**Presenters:**

Andrew Houtenville, Institute on Disability/UNH  
John O'Neill Kessler Foundation  
Elaine Katz, Kessler Foundation  
Russell Stein, Gallaudet Innovation and Entrepreneurship

All webinars will be recorded and closed captioned and will be added to our website archives along with full transcripts following the live broadcast.

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with the webinar series and other news from the field.

*Brought to you by the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability and the Employment Policy and Measurement Rehabilitation and Research Training Center, funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDLRR), grant no. 90RT537.*

[www.researchondisability.org/ntide](http://www.researchondisability.org/ntide)

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## Presenter Bios:



A go-getter entrepreneur, **Russ Stein** can appreciate the diverse range of experience one has as a business owner. With the trajectory of successes of the eight businesses over the past 15 years, he'd leverage his first-hand knowledge in finances, operations, marketing, customer service, and business growth experience in his subsequent ventures.

Raised in a Deaf family in New York, Russ grew up learning a series of micro lessons from his father, a watch repair business owner. The experience sparked Russ to pursue his B.A. Degree in Business Management at Gallaudet University. After working under Relay America and then the Communication Service for the Deaf, he noticed the employment gap in the Deaf community. Proactively, Russ co-founded Hapa & Stein, LLC to provide business tip videos capturing the attention of the social media audience. Shortly after, he co-founded Mozzarella with his wife Melody Stein with a vision of cross-training for sustainability in deaf employment.

During eight years in operations, Russ noticed how his colleagues shifted from working for a corporation to becoming self-taught entrepreneurs. Yet, again, access to entrepreneurial information was little to non-existent to the deaf community. Undeterred, Russ co-founded an international consulting business, [Yantern](#), an entrepreneur consulting business, providing consultation and an array of business topics that are free or charged per view of videos for Deaf small businesses and future entrepreneurs. With Yantern successfully off the ground, Russ co-founded two other companies.

As the current interim Director of [Gallaudet Innovation and Entrepreneurship Institute](#), Russ oversees innovative strategic planning, including Student and Alumni Bison Tank Competitions, 10 Fellows, collaborating with Small Business Administration, and other entrepreneurship projects with fellow and future entrepreneurs.

Russ is also known for his astute business visions and bold moves; he received the Top Gun Award in 1997 from GC Service, the prestigious 2016 Amos Kendall Award from Gallaudet University and the 2019 Bay Area Disability Changemakers award and the Circle of Excellence Award in 2002 from Communication Services for the Deaf.



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**Andrew Houtenville, PhD**, is a Professor of Economics and Research Director of the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Houtenville is extensively involved in disability statistics and employment policy research. He has published widely in the areas of disability statistics and the economic status of people with disabilities. He is the Principal Investigator on the NIDILRR-funded Employment Policy and Measurement Rehabilitation and Research Training Center. Dr. Houtenville received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of New Hampshire in 1997 and was a National Institute on Aging Post-Doctoral Fellow at Syracuse University in 1998/1999.



**John O'Neill, PhD** is the director of employment and disability research at Kessler Foundation and has over 28 years of experience in vocational rehabilitation as a rehabilitation counselor educator, disability employment researcher, and advisor to state vocational rehabilitation agencies. Dr. O'Neill has been a PI or co-PI on six NIDILRR funded, five-year research and training centers focusing on TBI and community integration, disability statistics, disability employment service system, and how individual and contextual factors relate to employment outcomes among people with disabilities.



**Elaine E. Katz, MS, CCC-SLP** is Senior Vice President of Grants and Communications at Kessler Foundation. Elaine Katz oversees the Foundation's comprehensive grantmaking program and its communications department. During her tenure, the Foundation has awarded more than \$49 million in grant support for national and community-based employment programs. For more than 25 years, Elaine has worked with non-profit organizations in the areas of board development, fundraising, marketing, and business development. Elaine often speaks about innovative practices for employing people with disabilities, authors/co-authors articles and papers on related topics, and is a member of several aligned organizations.

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