



# National Trends in Disability Employment Lunch & Learn Series

## Episode 4 nTIDE Update

April 5, 2024 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET | Free | Online | [Register](#)

Website: [researchondisability.org/ntide](https://researchondisability.org/ntide) | Contact: [karen.volle@unh.edu](mailto:karen.volle@unh.edu)

Welcome to the National Trends in Disability Employment (or nTIDE) Lunch & Learn series. On the first Friday of every month, corresponding with the Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs report, we will be offering a live broadcast via Zoom Webinar to share the results of the latest nTIDE findings. In addition, we will provide news and updates from the field of Disability Employment, as well as host an invited panelist who will discuss current disability related findings and events.

### AGENDA

Time	Item
<b>12:00 PM ET</b>	Introduction & Welcome Megan Henly, University of New Hampshire
<b>12:10 PM</b>	Overview of National Trends in Disability Employment (nTIDE) Jobs Report Release John O'Neill, Kessler Foundation  The Numbers Megan Henly & Hyun Ju Kim, University of New Hampshire
<b>12:15 PM</b>	Announcements from the field of Disability Employment: Liz Weintraub, AUCD
<b>12:30 PM</b>	Guest Presenter Carolyn LeBrane Tilton, Alexander Andreson, Disability Rights of Louisiana
<b>12:45 PM</b>	Question and Answer for Attendees

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

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## PRESENTERS



**Carolyn LeBrane Tilton**, MPH, MDiv, is a tireless advocate for public health and social justice causes. As the Program Manager of the FAIR (Financial Access Inclusion and Resources) Program at Disability Rights Louisiana, Carolyn leads the organization's efforts to empower formerly incarcerated individuals with disabilities through tailored financial coaching and comprehensive case management services. This support helps them achieve their employment and financial goals and offers hope beyond past struggles.

With a dynamic four-decade career across diverse employment sectors, Carolyn is known for her innovation, resourcefulness, and unwavering commitment to social impact. Before joining DRLA, she served justice-involved individuals in various roles. These roles included providing comprehensive support as a re-entry case manager, serving as a life coach for women recovering from substance use and abuse, and pioneering a mentoring program at Orleans Parish Prison. Her passion for the work is fueled by the strength and optimism of her son and biggest cheerleader, Marvin, who is currently 15 years into serving a life sentence in Alabama. From launching a support network, "Mothers like Me," to assuage some of the grief, stigma, and shame experienced by mothers with incarcerated children, to serving in her current position at DRLA, Carolyn's compassion and empathy for those ensnared in the carceral system has not only become her life's work but her heart's work. Her resilience as a five-year stroke survivor adds further depth to her dedication.

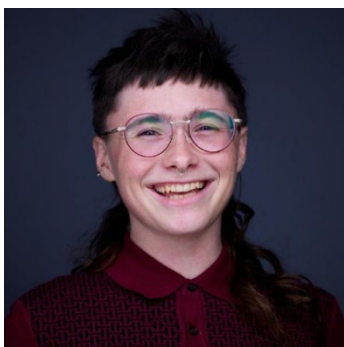
Notably, Carolyn holds the distinction of being the first African-American female to serve on the professional staff of House Legislative Services. She played a pivotal role throughout her ten-year tenure, significantly shaping health and welfare legislation in the state. At the culmination of her legislative career, she embarked on a new chapter at Tulane University where she was instrumental in advocating for policy changes, overseeing governmental relations, and spearheading public health initiatives that impacted community health outcomes.

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**Alexander Andreson** is a dedicated FAIR Case Manager at Disability Rights Louisiana, where he employs his comprehensive expertise to support formerly incarcerated individuals with disabilities in their reentry journey. Certified in Change Machine Financial Coaching, SAMHSA's SOAR process, and Mental Health First Aid, and proficient in Spanish, Alexander brings a diverse skill set to his role. His career began in the nonprofit sector six years ago, focusing on Transgender Advocacy as a Support Group Leader, Board VP, Co-Chair of the People of Color Empowerment Committee, and

Director of Finance, before transitioning to support individuals with disabilities—a shift driven by his desire to witness the direct impact of his work.

Over the past 8 months, Alexander has been an integral part of the FAIR program, addressing a wide range of barriers to reentry for his clients, including housing, transportation, job training, vocational rehabilitation, benefits counseling, and financial coaching. His approach is person-centered, tailoring support to the unique challenges presented by disability, race, gender, criminal history, and more. This holistic perspective ensures that each client receives the focused, multifaceted support they need to navigate their reentry successfully.

Alexander's commitment to the FAIR project and its clients is deeply personal, inspired by his grandfather's struggles with incarceration, reentry, and living with a disability. Witnessing his grandfather's challenges and resilience has fueled Alexander's passion for making a tangible difference in the lives of those facing similar obstacles.



**Megan Henly, PhD**, is a Research Assistant Professor at the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire. She is the Principal Investigator for the Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) on Employment, as well as for the NH Disability and Health Program. Megan has worked in survey production and analysis since 2000, including in academia, government, and the non-profit sectors. She holds a Ph.D. in sociology and an M.S. in survey methodology. At the Institute on Disability, her work examines how people with disabilities are doing with respect to employment, health, community participation, and overall well-being.

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**Hyun Ju Kim, PhD**, is a Project Director III at UNH's Institute on Disability (IOD) whose research interest includes quantitatively evaluating Social Security disability programs with a focus on economic mobility for vulnerable populations by race/ethnicity, gender, and immigrant status. Her current work includes life-course asset building and savings behavior of SSI recipients. When she joined IOD as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate in 2022, she analyzed the impact of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) due to disability on poverty during economic shocks comparing the Great Recession and the COVID pandemic recession. She intends to expand her research to investigate the physical food

security of individuals with disabilities and food security among participants of SSI and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as well as network effects among immigrant populations with disabilities in applying for SSDI/SSI. Prior to joining IOD, Dr. Kim worked at the World Bank as a consultant and conducted research on structural profiles of informality in the labor markets of the Middle East and North African region.



**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.

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**Liz Weintraub** is the host of "Tuesdays with Liz: Disability Policy for All," as well as AUCD's Senior Advocacy Specialist. "Tuesdays with Liz: Disability Policy for All" is a YouTube video series highlighting current issues and hot topics in disability policy. Past guests of "Tuesdays with Liz" include U.S. Senators, AUCD's President Elect, and key members of the disability community. Liz has extensive experience practicing leadership in self advocacy and has held many board and advisory positions at state and national organizations, including the Council on Quality & Leadership (CQL) and the Maryland Development Disabilities Council.

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