



# National Trends in Disability Employment Lunch & Learn Series

## Season 10, Episode 10 nTIDE *Special Session:* *Real Work, Real Pay: Advancing Employment First Together*

October 3, 2025, 12:00 – 1:30 pm ET | Free | Online | [Register](#)

Website: [researchondisability.org/ntide](https://researchondisability.org/ntide) | Contact: amy.chamberlain@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.

*This is the final **Special Session** this year, offering a more in-depth discussion. October is National Disability Employment Month!*

### AGENDA

| Time        | Item  |
|-------------|---|
| 12:00 PM ET | Introduction & Welcome<br>Andrew Houtenville, University of New Hampshire   |
| 12:10 PM    | Overview of National Trends in Disability Employment (nTIDE) Jobs Report Release John O'Neill, Kessler Foundation<br>The Numbers<br>Andrew Houtenville, University of New Hampshire |
| 12:40 PM    | Announcements from the field of Disability Employment: Denise Rozell, AUCD  |
| 12:55 PM    | Guest Presenter<br>Julie Christensen, Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)  |
| 1:15 PM     | 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.*

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## PRESENTERS



Julie J. Christensen, LMSW, PhD, is the Executive Director at APSE – the Association of People Supporting Employment First. Julie has served as Director of Public Policy and Advocacy since January 2019. Prior to this, Julie served on APSE's National Board of Directors and co-chaired APSE's Public Policy Committee.

Julie's career has centered around improving quality of life outcomes for at-risk youth, including youth with intellectual and development disabilities, through promoting employment and access to leisure and recreation opportunities in inclusive settings. Prior to joining APSE, she served as the Director of Iowa's

University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at the University of Iowa, where she was also research faculty in the Carver College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. Julie's previous experience includes her role as the Director of Employment Programs at the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities at the University of Rochester (a New York UCEDD), where she served as the Principal Investigator and Project Director for the New York State Partnerships in Employment Systems Change project, Co-Director of the New York Employment First State Leadership Mentor Program, and as the New York State Coordinator for Project SEARCH.

Julie received her undergraduate degrees in advertising and music from Syracuse University, and a Masters in Social Work from Roberts Wesleyan College and her Ph.D. in Health Practice Research at the University of Rochester. She served as the Senior Disability Policy Fellow for the Harkin Institute at Drake University from 2019-2021.



**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 1999 & was a National Institute on Aging Post-Doctoral



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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.



**Denise M. Rozell, JD**, is the Director of Policy Innovation at the AUCD. Prior to joining AUCD, she spent fifteen years as Assistant Vice President for State Government Relations with Easter Seals. Denise was the primary resource to Easter Seals 75 affiliates in building capacity to increase awareness of and support for Easter Seals in state government. Prior to that, Denise was the Executive Director of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, an international membership organization for professionals serving individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Denise holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Occidental College in Los Angeles and a juris doctorate from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California in Berkeley.

*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.*