



National Trends in Disability Employment Lunch & Learn Series

Season 10, Episode 12 nTIDE –

Real Work, Real Pay: Advancing Employment First Together

December 5, 2025 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET | Free | Online | [Register](#)

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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
12:00 PM ET	Introduction & Welcome 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 The Numbers Hyun Ju Kim, University of New Hampshire
12:15 PM	Announcements from the field of Disability Employment: Lillie Heigl, AUCD
12:30 PM	Guest Presenter Julie Christensen, APSE
12:45 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.

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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 and financial security for vulnerable populations by race/ethnicity, gender, and immigrant status. 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) on poverty during economic shocks comparing the Great Recession and the COVID pandemic recession. She intends to expand her research to investigate the food security among participants of SSI and Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), barriers and facilitators of using Achieving Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts among SSI recipients, and ethnic 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.



Lillie Heigl, Esq., MPA, is a former New York State Excelsior Public Service fellow, placed at the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities in Albany New York. She worked in program implementation for the agency's Employment & Meaningful Activities unit. She holds a J.D. and an MPA from Syracuse University College of Law and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, also having completed the Disability Law and Policy Program.

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