**Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council Meeting**

**Division of Employer and Innovation Services - Business Relations Update**

**Embedded Talent Sourcing Coordinators**

**Giant Eagle:** From January – October 2019, OOD’s Talent Sourcing Coordinator (TSC) assigned to the partnership has assisted 80 Team Members to obtain employment at Giant Eagle and GetGo stores in Northeast Ohio, with 70 still employed. 21 Team Members have achieved six months of continuous employment. Of the Team Members hired in 2019, 48% are transition age. In addition, OOD has assisted 52 Team Members with disabilities to maintain employment by addressing accommodation or other support needs.

**OSU/OSU Wexner Medical Center:** From April – October 2019, OOD’s TSC assigned to The Ohio State University and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center has assisted 11 individuals to obtain employment: eight at OSUWMC and three at OSU. This brings the total since the beginning of the partnership (April 2017) to 55. The average wage for hires since April is $14.14/hr. and the average hours worked is 37.5.

**Ohio College 2 Careers**

To support internship and permanent placement opportunities for college students with disabilies, OOD hired two Career Development Specialists (CDSs) in October. The CDS will be a liaison between vocational rehabilitation staff and the college career services offices to facilitate connections with OOD’s network of Employer Partners. The CDSs are meeting with colleges and universities and their counterpart counselors on campuses.

**Vocational Apprentice Program**

OOD’s Vocational Apprentice program provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to gain work experience, exposure and access to state government employment through paid apprenticeships with state agencies. To date, OOD’s Business Relations Specialist has met with 26 state agencies to identify possible apprenticeship opportunities. Seven applications are currently pending. Interviews are pending with the Departments of Developmental Disabilities, Medicaid, Public Safety, and Rehabilitation and Correction; the Development Services Agency, and the Governor’s Office. Five offers have been made by the Departments of Administrative Services, Agriculture, and Medicaid; the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Office of Budget and Management, contingent on background checks. A vocational apprentice has been working as a graphic designer at the Department of Aging since June 2019.

**National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Job Fairs**

OOD hosted its five regional job fairs in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in October. Thank you to the OOD Council members who participated! Immediately preceding the job fair, employers participated in an interactive workshop about assistive technology with several devices on display. Below is a summary of the events.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Job Fair** | **Employers** | **Job Seekers** | **Providers** | **Job Developers** |
| Cincinnati | 55 | 256 | 20 | 60 |
| Columbus | 65 | 161 | 14 | 37 |
| Toledo | 29 | 114 | 10 | 33 |
| Canton/Akron | 31 | 92 | 21 | 39 |
| Cleveland | 39 | 159 | 13 | 30 |
| **Total** | **219\*** | **782** | **78** | **199** |

**\*Unique Employers: 172**