National Trends in Disability Employment
Lunch & Learn Series

November 1, 2019       Season 4, Episode 11       12 PM to 1 PM EST

Live webinar hosted via Zoom Webinar

**Register**

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<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:05 PM</td>
<td>Overview of National Trends in Disability Employment (nTIDE) Jobs Report Release  &lt;br&gt;Andrew Houtenville, UNH Institute on Disability, Elaine Katz, Kessler Foundation</td>
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<td>12:15 PM</td>
<td>Announcements from the field of Disability Employment, Interviewee from the Field  &lt;br&gt;Denise M. Rozell, Director of Policy Innovation, AUCD</td>
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<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Guest Presentation:  &lt;br&gt;Adria De Simone, Spinal Cord Injury Program, Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation</td>
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<td>12:45 PM</td>
<td>Open Question &amp; Answer period for attendees</td>
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* 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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_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 (NIDILRR)_

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

Meet Adria De Simone, MS, CRC, LAC, CWIC, SCI vocational resource facilitator at Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation. Adria is a key staff member in Kessler’s Resource Facilitation Program, a pilot study funded by the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation. The program aims to help individuals with SCI return to work or school after injury through a comprehensive system of targeted care and career counseling.

De Simone graduated from the University of Scranton with an undergraduate degree in Counseling and Human Services, then went on to earn a master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. She began working for Kessler Institute in 2016 as a Certified Rehabilitation Counseling Specialist in the Cognitive Rehabilitation Program. In 2018, De Simone took on her current role as Kessler’s SCI Vocational Resource Facilitator.

De Simone connects with individuals during their inpatient stay. First, she meets with the clinical team to discuss post-rehabilitation plans and potential obstacles to successful life in the community. Then, in a one-on-one counseling session, De Simone introduces the idea of returning to work. Working with the person with SCI, their family or caregiver, and the Kessler interdisciplinary team, De Simone develops a comprehensive network of medical, state, and community support services to help the person with SCI return to work when ready.

“I am in a unique position where I am able to learn about a person's employment goals, and gather the information from their clinical team necessary to quickly connect the patient to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services,” says De Simone, who functions as a liaison between that person and the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). “DVRS funds a variety of medical and vocation-related services, including counseling, to help people with disabilities find and maintain employment,” she explained. “Sometimes the idea of work for a patient is down the road. That’s why we aim to plant the seed early on in the inpatient setting. When the right time comes, we can then work together to water the seed and watch it grow. Connecting the person with SCI with a DVR counselor at this stage helps to establish some expectations, and when they’re ready, they are already linked to support services that will help them achieve their goals in the workplace and at home.”

Monthly nTIDE Presenters:

Andrew Houtenville, PhD is an Associate 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. He was also a Senior Research Associate at Cornell University and New Editions Consulting in McLean, Virginia.

Elaine Katz is Senior Vice President of Grants and Communications. Elaine Katz oversees Kessler Foundation’s comprehensive grant making program and its communications department. During her tenure, the Foundation has awarded more than $43.8 million in grant support for national and community-based employment programs. For more than 25 years, Katz has worked with non-profit organizations in the areas of board development, fundraising, marketing, and business development. Katz often speaks about innovative practices for employing people with disabilities, and is the author/co-author of articles and papers on related topics. She currently serves on the board of directors of JESPY House, New Jersey Association of People Supporting Employment First (NJAPSE), Essex/Newark Disabilities Issues Committee, and on the program committee of the Council of NJ Grantmakers. Elaine served as a member of the Human and Children Services Transition Advisory Committee for Governor-elect Phil Murphy. She is also an appointed member of Empower NYC Advisory Board, Workforce Matters National Steering Committee, ReelAbilities NY Advisory & Council, ReelAbilities 2019 Selection Committee and the NJ Veterans and Community Collaborative Network (VCCN).

Denise M. Rozell is the Director of Policy Innovation at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (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 the professionals serving individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Denise also was the Governmental Relations Representative for the American Foundation for the Blind and the Director of Public Policy for the National Association of Developmental Disabilities Councils, the membership organization representing the 55 state and territorial Developmental Disabilities Councils. 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.