

RISE e-Learning Community Summary

Beyond Limits: Personal Journeys Towards Employment Success

Summary

From January through June 2024, the Washington Initiative for Supported Employment (Wise) facilitated the *Beyond Limits: Personal Journeys Towards Employment Success* Results and Innovation in Systems Excellence (RISE) peer e-learning community for the Administration on Disabilities (AoD) Disability Employment Technical Assistance Center (DETAC). This series offered a platform for self-advocates to share their employment journeys, providing valuable insights to AoD grantees around unique challenges they faced, lessons they learned, and accomplishments they achieved while navigating systemic barriers. Participants heard first-hand stories of what individuals with disabilities have experienced on their employment journeys, gained insights into how to deliver quality services that work for the people they support, and identified ways to encourage employment advancement and opportunities for self-advocacy.

Session Recording Links

- **Session 1:** [Pursuing a Music Career While Working Three Part-Time Jobs](#) (Alexander Hubbard, “Fantasy A”)
- **Session 2:** [Developing a Job Through Community Connections, Curiosity, and Advocacy](#) (Chuy Campasano)
- **Session 3:** [Reflections From a Rabble Rouser Turned State Government Employee for Over 35 Years](#) (Jeff Grace)
- **Session 4:** [A Life of Advocacy Leading to Employment](#) (Vickie Horschel)
- **Session 5:** [Finding the Place Where You Contribute: Developing the Path to Self-Employment](#) (Steven Mannard)
- **Session 6:** [Bursting from Graduation and Into Pursuing Acting, Music, and Art](#) (Alexandria Cordova)

Action Steps Participants are Taking to Advance Employment and Self-Advocacy

- Continue seeking out self-advocates’ employment stories to understand challenges, lessons learned, and accomplishments to provide relatable insights for people with lived experience and other stakeholders.
- Create tailored support strategies for individuals with disabilities to ensure person-centered service delivery, including pursuing and implementing customized employment.
- Pursue opportunities and funding to continue implementing customized employment.

Related Resources



[Clark County: Supported Employment Stories Video Series](#)

[Hire Ability Spokane: Employment Stories Video Series](#)

[Wise Webinars](#)