



February 5, 2014

Alphonso David, Dep. Secretary for Civil Rights
633 3rd Ave-38th Floor (NYC Office)
New York, NY 10017

Dear Governor Cuomo's team,

On behalf of the Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst (APSE), we would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with us and our colleagues last Friday. We are very excited to hear about your interest and willingness to partner to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities in your state!

We see this as an exciting opportunity to continue working with your office to support New York's commitment to thinking creatively for ways to expand opportunities for people with disabilities. APSE is the only national non-profit organization with an exclusive focus on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities. We have a very strong state chapter, New York State APSE (NY APSE) (<http://www.nysapse.org/>) and they are very interested in continuing which this dialogue. NY APSE members are leaders in the field of employment for people with disabilities and know many of the issues and barriers which impede the growth and implementation of integrated employment services.

Additionally, we wanted to provide you with some existing models that could be replicated throughout your state. Our NY APSE chapter would like to highlight three success stories demonstrating unique types of employment relationships:

- [Finding Talents and Cultivating Skills](#) – A Project Search Site ran by NY APSE Member at the Arc of Westchester.
- [Talent takes Flight](#) –Three individuals who were successfully transitioned from a site based employment to an integrated environment with the County government as a partner.
- [Enduring and Awarding Winning Partnership](#) –The result of networking with larger companies to develop long-term relationships and multiple employment opportunities.

APSE has also developed a [map of Employment First activity](#) and an [Employment First Resource List](#), which demonstrate the recent developments in other states.

Thank you for your dedication to improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities in New York State and we look forward to any future opportunities to work with your office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Owens', is positioned above the typed name.

Laura Owens, Ph.D.
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryley Newport', is positioned above the typed name.

Ryley Newport
Public Policy Associate

416 Hungerford Drive Suite 418 | Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 301.279.0060 | Fax: 301.279.0075
www.apse.org