

APSE Take Your Legislator to Work Day



Background: As part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), National APSE and our APSE State Chapters will be conducting a state-led *Take Your Legislator to Work Day* campaign. The objective of this campaign is to raise awareness about the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities and the belief that employment and careers should be the expected and preferred outcomes of all publicly funded services for individuals with disabilities, i.e. Employment First. Essentially, we want to show our state legislators “Real Jobs with Real Wages!”

The goal of *Take Your Legislator to Work Day* is to ask employees with disabilities to invite their legislator(s) to visit their workplace to show first-hand the power of community-integrated employment for people with disabilities. The *Take Your Legislator to Work Day* provides a powerful opportunity to showcase the skills and talents of people with disabilities in the workplace. We believe by bringing legislators into workplaces and demonstrating first-hand the impact employees with disabilities have on the workplace will do more to educate them on the power of integrated employment than simply reading fact sheets.

The *Take Your Legislator to Work Day* is simple! Although visits may be different, we encourage all participants to do the following:

- Provide a 30-45 minute tour of their workplace highlighting where the employee works and the job duties they perform,
- Introduce the legislator to the employee’s co-workers and employer, and
- Discuss their experience working in a job in the community.

People with disabilities who are interested in participating in *Take Your Legislator to Work Day* campaign should follow the steps detailed within the APSE toolkit. APSE’s Take Your Legislator to Work Day Campaign Toolkit is available at: <http://www.apse.org/policy/positions.cfm>

Additionally, APSE will be coordinating with the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, the Missouri Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Missouri APSE Chapter and the Pennsylvania APSE chapter to provide a series of webinars in August to help prepare those interested.

About APSE

APSE, the *Association for Persons Supporting EmploymentFirst*, is the only national organization with an *exclusive focus* on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities. APSE is a 3,000+ growing national non-profit membership organization, founded in 1988. Our members include individuals with disabilities, families, disability professionals, and businesses.

For further information:

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