

AbilityLinks Consortium Employment Expo  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

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## **Employment Expo Looks at Common Challenges of Diversity in the Workplace**

**Area business leaders, service providers and job seekers to meet and explore practical ways to foster awareness and inclusion of workers with disabilities.**

**Event:** AbilityLinks Consortium Employment Expo, “Partnerships to shape the future of a diverse workforce.” Hear from a dynamic slate of speakers including Scott A. Hoesman of Capital H Group, a leading national expert in diversity training and keynote speaker, Peter Berg, ADA Technical Assistance Coordinator, Great Lakes ADA & Accessible IT Center. Talking from personal experience, Berg will enlighten attendees on how the diversity of people can be mobilized for the benefit of everyone and how the Great Lakes ADA Center can serve as a resource for the community on federal laws like ADA and accessibility strategies including information technology. Hoesman and others will share business strategies to create a workforce that mirrors the community and helps give companies and job seekers a competitive edge. College of DuPage President Dr. Sunil Chand will deliver the opening remarks. As an added bonus to the full-day event, job seekers with disabilities will have a chance to attend a free career information seminar sponsored by Fox Valley PWI to meet, talk with and learn about job opportunities from representatives in each of six high demand industries: finance, health care, hospitality, transportation, warehousing and logistics, manufacturing and retail.

**When:** Friday, May 18, 2007

**Where:** College of DuPage Student Resource Center (SRC)  
Jack H. Turner Conference Center (SRC 2800)

**Who May Attend:** Registration, which is required, is open to any employer and service provider at a cost of \$35 and job seekers with disabilities for \$10. Registration can be completed by mail, fax or online. Forms are available online at [www.Abilitylinks.org](http://www.Abilitylinks.org) or by calling AbilityLinks at (630) 909-7445. Deadline is May 11, 2007. Space is limited.

**Exhibitors/Event Sponsors:** Companies, agencies and organizations must register for table space by May 11, 2007. Exhibit fee is \$35. Event sponsorship opportunities are available.

**Glen Ellyn, IL** – Thanks to a strong lineup of speakers and a discussion-oriented format, attendees to the upcoming AbilityLinks Consortium Employment Expo at the College of DuPage will have a chance to get beyond the clichés that often surround discussions of diversity in the workplace.

Featured presentations and breakout sessions will cover a range of topics for employers, service providers and job seekers with disabilities:

- Business discussions will focus on understanding what diversity means and its benefits to employers and their bottom line; best practices and challenges from recruitment to integration from accommodation to retention; added value in partnering with others as a way to respond to the demands of a diverse global market; and aids in recruiting from today's largest growing consumer niche that can also add value to business marketing strategies.
- Service providers will have an opportunity for networking with and information gathering from businesses to learn what employers expect out of their employees today and ways to rethink old practices for approaching businesses. In turn, these agencies and organizations will share with employers their role in helping businesses including what employers can expect from their agencies and organizations.
- Job seekers, along with service providers, will be able to maximize their learning experiences by attending a special free Career Information Seminar sponsored by Fox Valley Project with Industry, a business managed public/private venture that offers job placement services for persons with disabilities. Seminar will include a business panel discussion on six critical shortage industries followed by six 12-minute rotating breakout sessions with business representatives from each of these industries.

All attendees will be able to peruse exhibit area to collect information and materials and converse with exhibitors on diversity-related issues and program features.

By the end of the day, attendees will understand how people's differences and similarities can be mobilized for the benefit of the individual, the business and the organization.

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