

## **DISABILITY INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT POLICY REHABILITATION RESEARCH & TRAINING CENTER (DIEP RRTC)**

NIDILRR GRANT #90RTEM0006-01-00

PETER BLANCK, PH.D., J.D.  
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR



A National Disability Employment  
Awareness Month (NDEAM)  
Virtual Event  
Employment Innovation:  
Improving Work for People with  
Disabilities,  
**October 28, 2020**  
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

## DIEP RRTC

DIEP RRTC is supported by a grant to the Burton Blatt Institute (“BBI”) at Syracuse University from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) for the Rehabilitation Research & Training on Employment Policy: Center for Disability-Inclusive Employment Policy Research Grant #90RTEM0006-01-00.

The views provided herein do not necessarily reflect the official policies of NIDILRR nor imply endorsement by the Federal Government.

## INTRODUCTION

- COVID-19 unprecedented health, social, and economic challenges for youth and working-age adults across the spectrum of disabilities.
- DIEP RRTC body of study for retrospective, present-day, and prospective view to increase employment and economic security for people with disabilities nationwide across market sectors.
  - Intersectional
  - Fluidity and circumstance
  - Rigorous basic and applied study, real-time practical relevance
  - Driven and led by disability community

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## INTRODUCTION (CONT.)

With 5-year funding (Sept. 1, 2020 - Aug.31, 2025) from NIDILRR, DIEP RRTC conducts scientifically rigorous set of randomized control trial and quasi-experimental studies across employment lifecycle:

1. enhancing employment re-engagement,
2. enhancing employment, and
3. enhancing job quality and retention.

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## SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS

- Anchored at BBI, DIEP RRTC brings nationally recognized researchers at Syracuse, Harvard, and Rutgers Universities
  - Peter Blanck, BBI Syracuse, University Professor & Chairman BBI
  - Nicole Maestas, Harvard, Associate Professor Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School; Research Associate National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), directs NBER's Retirement and Disability Research Center
  - Doug Kruse, Rutgers, Distinguished Professor, Associate Director, Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing, Director, Program for Disability Research
- Research team complemented by 10 national associations, extensive reach to target audiences for knowledge translation and dissemination, to ensure research as applied relevant to policy and practice.

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## SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS (CONT.)

<b>KT Partners</b>	<b>Target Audiences</b>
1. Disability:IN	Employers
2. National Governors Association	State policy leaders
3. Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR)	State VR professionals
4. American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)	People with disabilities
5. Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU)	Independent Living directors
6. National Disability Institute (NDI)	Community nonprofits
7. ABLE National Resource Center	ABLE account holders
8. Center on Women and Work	Women and families
9. Association to Promoted Supported Employment (APSE)	Employment service providers
10. ADA National KT Center	Ten Regional ADA Centers

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## CORE STUDIES

- Project 1.** Understanding the Recent Rise in Employment among People with Disabilities (pre COVID-19)
- Project 2.** SSDI Return to Work Improvement Through Financial & Benefits Counseling
- Project 3.** Unemployment Insurance Income Support as Facilitator of Return-to-Work
- Project 4.** Expanding Employee Status: Gig Workers as Employees or Contractors and impact on individuals with disabilities

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## CORE STUDIES (CONT.)

- Project 5A.** Disability-Owned Business Enterprises and Supply Chain Diversity: Underutilized Policy Lever to Increasing Disability Employment
- Project 5B.** Apprenticeship: A Path to Sustainable Skilled Careers
- Project 6.** Paid Sick and Family Medical Leave: Policy Implications for People with Disabilities
- Project 7.** Expanding Employee Wages: Impact of minimum and sub-minimum wages
- Project 8.** Telework: Work from home as rising, universal accommodation

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## EXPECTED OUTCOMES (ILLUSTRATIVE)

- Evidence-based options for employment-related **policy development**;
- Increased strategies to support **job seekers** with disabilities;
- Evidence-based practices enhance **worker retention, quality of work** experience;
- New evidence-based strategies improve **employment, job retention and employment reengagement**;
- Access new knowledge explore **alternative paths to employment and career advancement**;
- Data and evidence support existing and **next-generation employment policy and program and applied rigorous research**;
- **Next-generation disability policy framework** advance employment and economic self-sufficiency for working-age adults with disabilities.

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## TARGET AUDIENCES KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION AND USE

- Individuals with disabilities and their families and supporters;
- policy makers (federal, state, local);
- VR and workforce development professionals;
- Businesses (all sectors and sizes) and HR professionals;
- Employment service providers,
- Researchers, and,
- Students.

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## KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION METHODS

- Website (online, accessible, usable, resource center),
- Working papers and reports,
- Employment policy briefs and newsletters,
- Academic articles and presentations,
- Webinars and continuing education series,
- Communities of practice,
- Virtual academies, and
- Fifth year State of Science Conference.

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THANK YOU!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://bbi.syr.edu>

- Peter Blanck, Principal Investigator: [pblanck@syr.edu](mailto:pblanck@syr.edu)
- Nicole Maestas, Co-Principal Investigator: [Maestas@hcp.med.harvard.edu](mailto:Maestas@hcp.med.harvard.edu)
- Doug Kruse, Co-Principal Investigator: [dkruse@smlr.rutgers.edu](mailto:dkruse@smlr.rutgers.edu)
- Michael Morris, KT & Utilization Director: [mmorris@syr.edu](mailto:mmorris@syr.edu)
- Meera Adya, Senior Researcher: [madya@syr.edu](mailto:madya@syr.edu)

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