

2-5-16

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Interim Employment First Coordinator

Re: Employment First: Video: “How Employment Supports Work”

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

[Like Us](#) on Facebook!

A [new video](#) produced by the DHS Employment First team shows some of the strategies used by Eugene-based nonprofit employment agency Alternative Work Concepts (AWC) to help people with significant disabilities keep and maintain community jobs. The video is at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gb8s_f5nEO8

[AWC](#) has been in supported employment services in Oregon since the 1980s. The nonprofit only works with individuals who experience a significant physical as well as a cognitive disability.

In the video, Jacque Gerdes, assistant executive director of AWC, explains some of the agency’s techniques, including job carving and job customization, that can help individuals with very significant disabilities obtain community jobs.

We hope this video is helpful in explaining strategies that can be used by job developers and job coaches, particularly with individuals who may have multiple support needs.

Thank you all for your continued involvement, support, and advocacy for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon. If you have comments or other questions, please email them to

employment.first@state.or.us.