

4-6-18

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: [Employment First](#): Two free training and networking opportunities held in May

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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In 2017, Employment First awarded innovation grants to various agencies and groups around the state. Two grants went to Dirkse Counseling & Consulting to develop an employer engagement pilot in the Washington County area and to train professionals to teach self-advocacy skills to students and transition-age youth.



Bags given out to participants at the October 2017 Amplify event.

In October 2017, Dirkse Counseling & Consulting, along with Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce, Milt Wright & Associates, and DHS Employment First presented “Amplify!,” a free event designed to empower and encourage Oregon employers by helping them create a stronger workforce and community through improving disability inclusiveness in the workplace. Amplify! included

WINDMILLS – Changing The Perception of Ability – An interactive workshop; Oregon Diversity Challenge; Optional Disability Diversity Business Assessment & Training; a speech by keynote speaker Richard Pimental; and a breakfast and networking time.

Dirkse is now presenting two opportunities as part of its two grants.

A two-day free training, [Without Limits: Train-the-Trainer workshop](#), led by author Dr. Richard Pimentel and Milt Wright of Milt Wright & Associates, Inc., will be held May 7-8. Participants will learn about how to guide students and transition-aged youth with disabilities on how they can identify their strengths, abilities and goals. This is a self-advocacy program for students and youth with

disabilities. Educators and VR counselors are especially encouraged to attend. Registration is limited to 40 participants. Register at:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ef7hmx7z436cd130&llr=dvm8689ab>

On May 31, [Amplify! Rock Stars](#), a free event to celebrate the successes and progress made over the past six months around disability diversity in the workplace, will be held. Employers from the October event took the Oregon Employment First Disability Diversity Challenge and are making strides to include people with disabilities in their workforce. This event is a celebration of their accomplishments. There will be a workforce panel discussion, along with breakfast and networking time and success stories from employers and clients.

Amplify! Rock Stars is Thursday, May 31 from 8 to 10 a.m. Registration for the free event is required at: <https://amplifysuccess.org/amplify-event-details/>

The event is at the Embassy Suites, Washington Square, 9000 SW Washington Square Road, Tigard.

A video showcasing employers discussing disability inclusion from the October event is available online: <https://youtu.be/aCAcAEix0q8>

~ Acacia