



Celebrating Value and Talent

National Disability Employment Awareness Month



OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

#NDEAM
80th Anniversary
dol.gov/odep

NDEAM in Oregon

“Oregon reaffirms its commitment to expanding access to good jobs, career pathways, and economic opportunity for all, including people with disabilities.”

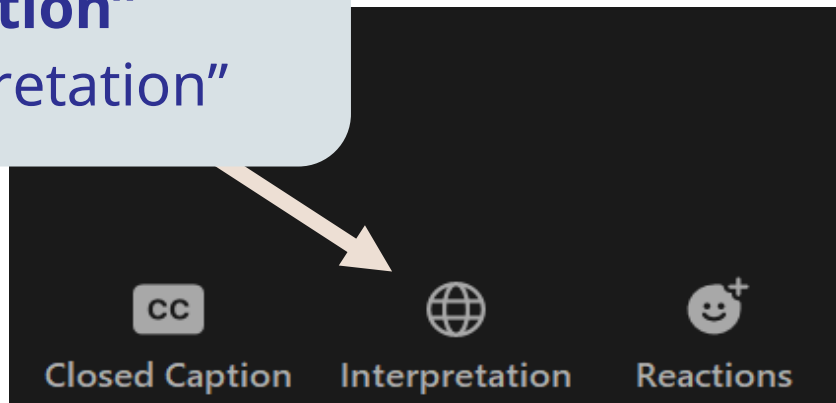
[Governor's proclamation](#)

Interpretación en español / Spanish interpretation

Oprima el botón marcado “Interpretation” (el globo) en la parte de abajo de la pantalla. Seleccione “Spanish”

Click the “Interpretation” (globe) button on the bottom of the screen. Select “Spanish.”

haga clic
“interpretation”
click “interpretation”



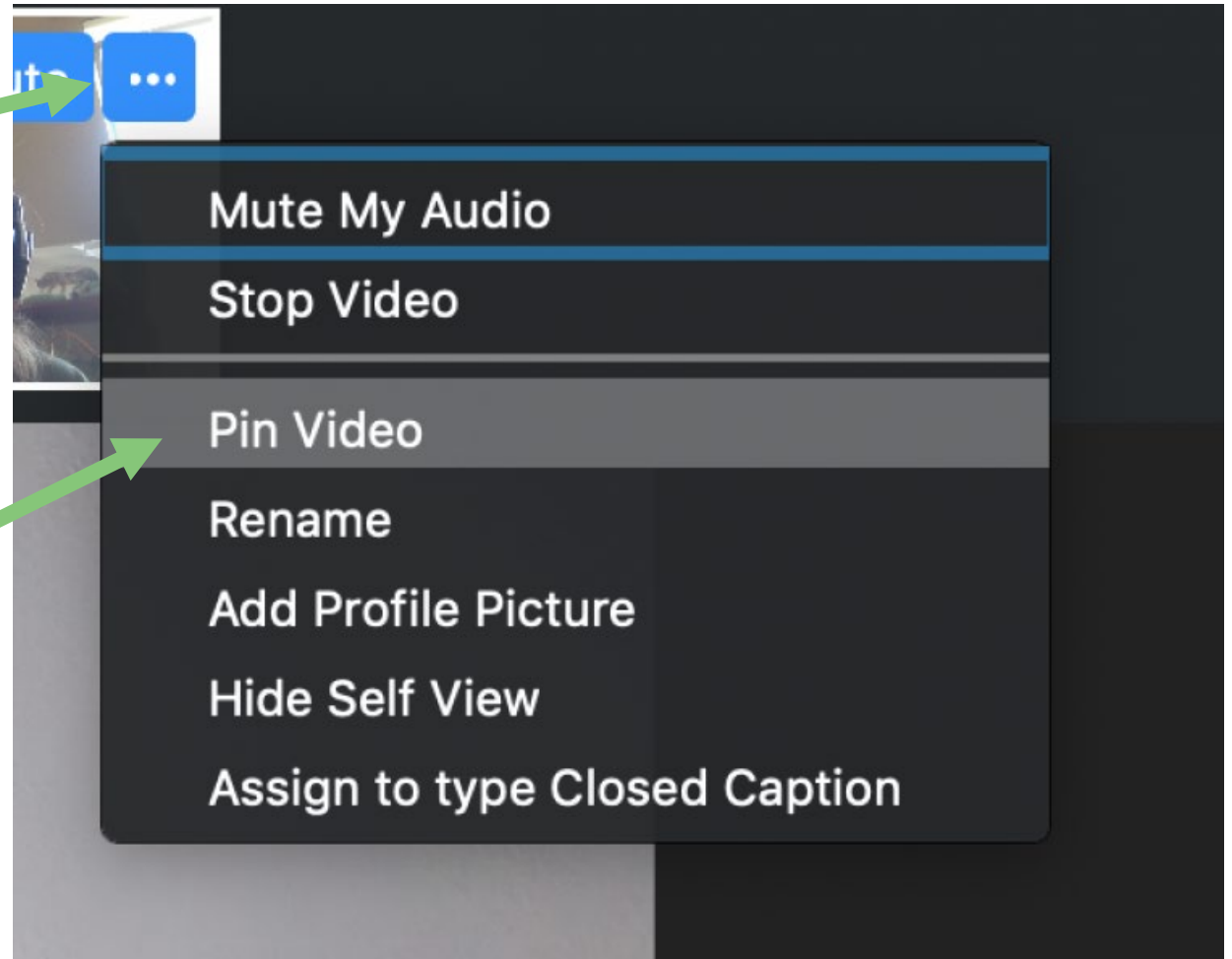
Clic “Spanish”
Click “Spanish”



Pinning Video: ASL Interpreter

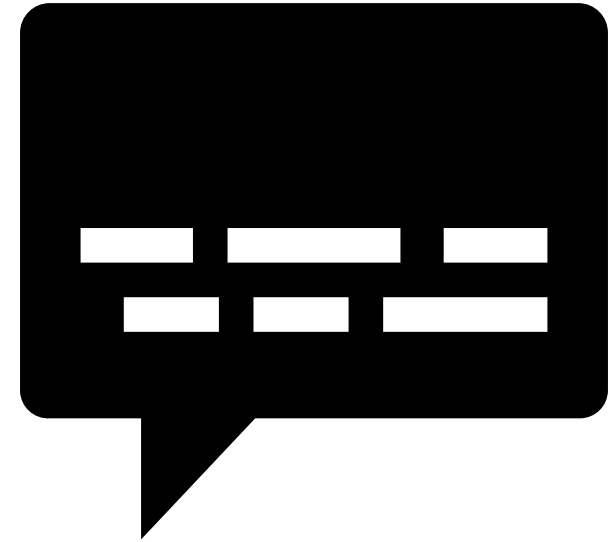
Click the three dots
on the interpreter's
picture

Click "Pin Video"



Accessing Captions

Click on the link in the chat to access the real-time caption livestream.



Virtual Meeting Etiquette

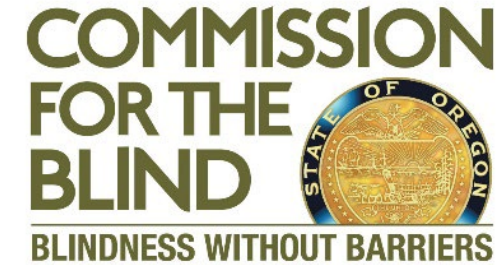
- **Check if your name is correct.**

Optional: add pronouns

- **Mute your microphone.**
- **Be present without distraction.**
- **Be respectful in the chat.**

Not a place to argue, call out, or hold side conversations

NDEAM Webinar Series is Presented By:



Today's event is hosted by Vocational Rehabilitation and Oregon Commission for the Blind, which support job seekers with disabilities and businesses with workforce needs.



National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

Beyond the Classroom: Celebrating Workplace Learning

Michelle Prudden, Youth Services Coordinator
Oregon Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation

Shauntel Stoughton, Business Relations Coordinator
Oregon Commission for the Blind

October 7, 2025

Pre-Employment Transition Services

Services for **students** with disabilities, ages 14 – 21.

Post-secondary Counseling

Self-advocacy

Job Exploration

Work-place Readiness

Work-based Learning Experiences

VR Work-Based Learning Experience

Providing students with knowledge and skills via real-world work opportunities.

Examples include:

- Job Shadows
- Paid/unpaid internships
- Paid work experiences
- Volunteering

OCB Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP)

- Prep week of classes targeting career readiness
- Five-week work experience
20-30 hours a week paid by OCB

Outcomes: students learn about independent living, self-advocacy, and professional development.



Benefits of Work-Based Learning Experiences

For students

- Develop workplace skills
- Explore career options
- Explore accommodations and assistive technology
- Professional resume and references
- Employer feedback

For businesses

- Develop a diverse candidate pipeline
- Strengthen recognition in the community
- Increase understanding of disabilities
- Improve morale among staff
- Increase workplace innovation
- Low-risk approach to hiring quality employees

What host businesses have to say:

“Working with students with disabilities, I was excited to find that a lot of students can take practical skill sets in life and everyday jobs, and once trained, they do the job just like anyone else.”

- **Deb, Elkton Community Education Center**

“...The Work-Based Learning Experience exceeded expectations...The most unexpected outcome was how little accommodation was needed once expectations were clear—and how much pride, quality, and calm they brought to our team and the students we serve.”

- **Ronda, Imani Institute of Cosmetology**

Student panelist from OCB: Emilee



Student panelists from VR



Alayna



Kayla



Nevaeh



Tanner

Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation

Students with disabilities

oregon.gov/odhs/vr-youth-services/Pages/default.aspx

Email: pre.ets@odhs.oregon.gov

Businesses

oregon.gov/odhs/vr/pages/business.aspx

Email: VR.EmploymentTeam@odhs.oregon.gov

VR Youth Services

Contact Us

College and Training Options

Opportunities and Resources

Resources for Partners

For Youth Services Partners

For Pre-ETS Contractors

More Info

Vocational Rehabilitation Home

Who qualifies and how to get services

The steps to get services are different depending on your age and if you are currently in school.

→ Students age 14 to 21

Who qualifies

You can get Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) if you meet the following requirements:

- You are in school, and
- You have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), or
- You receive services under a 504 Accommodation Plan, or
- You have a documented disability

How to get services

Fill out a request for services and email it to pre.ets@odhs.oregon.gov.

Request for services

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

Solicitud de servicios

Vocational Rehabilitation

Director's Messages

Contact Us

Find a VR Office

Complaints or Problems

Forms

For Clients

Get Services

Youth Services

Benefits Counseling

College and Training Options

Ticket to Work

Resources

Advisory Groups

VR Services to Businesses

Diversify your workforce with qualified employees

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a resource for Oregon businesses regarding disability in the workplace. We help businesses recruit, train, retain and promote employees with disabilities, all at no cost.

Our services

Upcoming events

Contact us

Myths and facts

Resources

Business Solutions flyer - English

Business Solutions flyer - Spanish

"Working with the Vocational Rehabilitation program was a great investment in our business. This program has continued to pay dividends by connecting our business with a great employee who has made a true impact."

Cameron Curtis, Owner, Curtis Homes

"We have worked with Oregon VR for placement and assisting in the training of at least three new employees. VR was very helpful and supporting of both our organization's needs and the new employees' needs."

Mattison Schilling, Employment Representative, Blount, Inc.

Oregon Commission for the Blind

Students with Disabilities

oregon.gov/blind/individual-programs/Pages/youth-transition.aspx

Email: transition@ocb.oregon.gov

Businesses

oregon.gov/blind/business-services/Pages/index.aspx

Email: business.relations@ocb.oregon.gov

The screenshot shows the website for the Oregon Commission for the Blind, specifically the Youth | Transition Services page. The header includes the Oregon state logo and navigation links: Home, About Us, Individual Programs, Business Enterprise Program, Provider Referral, Forms, Resources, Donations, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "Youth | Transition Services" and features a sidebar with links to Overview, Vocational Rehabilitation, Orientation and Career Center, Independent Living, Youth | Transition Services (highlighted), Summer Work Experience Program, Services Request Form, and Provider Referral Form. The main text area is titled "Who We Serve" and describes the services provided to students 14 and older who are legally blind or have a condition that will lead to blindness. It lists several services: Job exploration counseling, Work-based learning experiences, Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs, Workplace readiness training, and Instruction in self-advocacy. A photo of four young people is shown, and the SWEP (Summer Work Experience Program) logo is displayed at the bottom.

The screenshot shows the website for the Oregon Commission for the Blind, specifically the Business Services page. The header includes the Oregon state logo and navigation links: Home, About Us, Individual Programs, Business Enterprise Program, Provider Referral, Forms, Resources, Donations, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "Business Services" and features a sidebar with links to Overview, Partnerships (highlighted), Diversity Awareness, Success Stories, and Services Request Form. The main text area is titled "Become a Partner" and describes the services provided to businesses. It lists several services: The Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB) recognizes that businesses are essential partners for maximizing employment opportunities for Oregonians with vision loss, and provides information regarding economic issues related to particular industries, current hiring practices, and employment opportunities. Employers throughout Oregon also set the tone for best practices around diversity and inclusion in the workforce. OCB would like to recognize all of the businesses that have hired, promoted, and retained qualified employment candidates over the years. We could not do the important work we do for our clients each day without you! We are proud partners with the following organizations who promote diversity and provide educational, networking, and employment opportunities: TRI MET, worksource | OREGON, OFFICE of EQUITY and HUMAN RIGHTS, CITY OF PORTLAND, and Oregon Department of Human Services.

NDEAM Webinar Schedule

Oct. 14

Building financial futures: Work and save with Oregon ABLE and EPD

Oct. 21

Jobs without limits: Changing EPD to help people with disabilities

Oct. 28

Technology, artificial intelligence and employment

More information at bit.ly/OregonNDEAM