

# Employment First Partners

Building Awareness and Opportunity –  
Community by Community



EMPLOYMENT FIRST CONFERENCE

MAY 15, 2019



# Legislation has passed but there is still much work to do!

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- ❖ Build awareness in communities and with businesses
- ❖ Provide opportunities for people with disabilities to explore interests and build skills in the community
- ❖ Support families to see possibilities and help address their concerns
- ❖ Support schools to follow best practices for transition services for youth as they prepare to leave school and enter adulthood
  - 1 paid job while in high school = 2x as likely to have a paid job after high school
  - 2 paid jobs while in high school = 5x as likely to have a paid job after high school
- ❖ Ensure state agencies working together to align efforts to increase competitive integrated employment

# Employment First Partners

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- ❖ Community groups, schools, and organizations that engage their local communities to increase integrated employment opportunities.
- ❖ EF Partners receive small grants from the WI BPDD to support their efforts.
- ❖ Present to service clubs and business groups, organize community conversations, hold legislative events and town hall meetings, and educate people with disabilities and their families about having community jobs.
- ❖ Support **Employment First Ambassadors** – people with disabilities working in the community and interested in spreading the word about the importance of employment – to present and share their employment stories
- ❖ [Request for Applications](https://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/employment-first/) is now open!!!! <https://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/employment-first/>

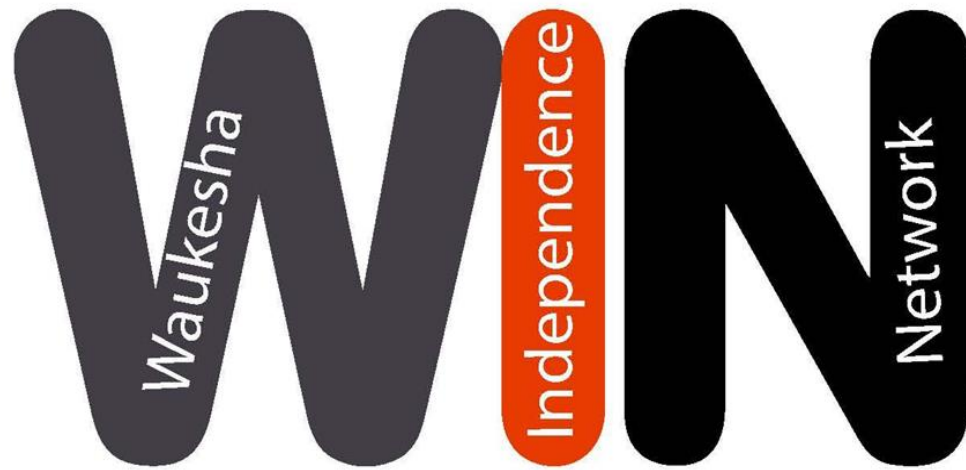
# Employment First BPDD Presentation

Franklin Public Schools

As a result of student and family presentations, more individuals were connected to DVR, The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Independence First and Employment.

I am Victoria Jensen, Transition Coordinator for Franklin Public Schools. If you have any further questions about setting up these parent and student presentations and community conversations, you may contact me at:

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Supporting Employment for All

Established in 2012

# Waukesha Independence Network

- ▶ History of WIN
  - ▶ Established in 2012
  - ▶ Part of the Waukesha Transition Advisory Council (TAC)
- ▶ Who are we:
  - ▶ Business professionals promoting workforce diversity through employment.
- ▶ What is WIN focus:
  - ▶ Educate Family and job seekers
  - ▶ Educate Employers
  - ▶ Increase Employment options in Waukesha County
  - ▶ Developing EmploymentFirst Ambassadors





**Spark!**

[www.SparkMiddletonWI.com](http://www.SparkMiddletonWI.com)

## SPARK

- \*Parent Group aimed to support parents that have a child with an IEP or 504 Plan in the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District
- \*Offer Educational meeting (primarily on transition) as well as social opportunities
- \*Works with the School District to Increase Family Engagement and build strong working partnerships with the district
- \*Getting parents together to share experiences has been the most beneficial aspect of SPARK. Parents learn best from hearing other parents experiences!!**

# Integrated Employment Initiative

Have a council of business leaders in the community or through the Chamber of Commerce that focus on making it common practice to employ people with disabilities including

- \*Training materials for employers

- \*More networking opportunities

- \*Reverse job fairs where the students showcase themselves

- \*Have a business panel share their positive experience to other employers

# Thank You!!

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<https://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/employment-projects/>