





**SAVE
THE
DATE:**

Wisconsin Employment First Conference

More Than a Job: Harnessing the Power
of Person-Centered Thinking to Raise
Expectations and Drive Innovation

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Virtual Format from 8:30am to 3:30pm

Plenary Session

Control your own Destiny or Someone else Will: Keeping Employment Supports Person-Centered

“It’s Personal”: Nicole LeBlanc from the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems will identify policies and beliefs that can both help and hinder person-centered employment supports for people with disabilities. She will also describe how self-advocacy supports employment first goals. Building from Nicole’s presentation, Alixe Bonardi will share perspectives and resources to help self-advocates, families, and providers of supports use person-centered thinking, planning, and practices to improve employment outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Nicole LeBlanc is a Self Advocate Advisor with TASH on the AOD Disability Employment TA Center where she researches material on employment and self advocacy, recruits focus group members, and provides TA to AODI grantees. She is also the coordinator of the Person-Centered Advisory and Leadership Group (PAL-Group) at HSRI for the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS). Since 2011, Nicole has consulted for Self-

Advocates Becoming Empowered and the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network developing self-advocacy tools and curriculums, presenting webinars and video blogs on the topics of healthcare, what is Autism, presuming competence, self-managed services, voter access and employment of people with disabilities. She worked for 8+ years at Green Mountain Self-Advocates (GMSA) in Montpelier, VT as Advocacy Director supporting her peers with disabilities to feel comfortable talking to their elected officials about what they need.



Alixe Bonardi is an occupational therapist with over 25 years of experience working to improve supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She is a co-director of the National Center on Advancing Person Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) and leads the National Core Indicator’s work to bring participant voice and experience to monitor and improve state systems of HCBS for people with IDD. Ms. Bonardi supports state and provider systems to monitor and improve individualized quality of community-based supports, keeping the person’s interests, goals, and values at the center.