

NEWS RELEASE

For Statewide Distribution



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Iowans with Disabilities a Good Investment for Businesses and Employers

Des Moines, IA – Iowa Workforce Development, part of the Employer Disability Resource Network (EDRN), encourages Iowa employers to recruit and retain qualified workers with disabilities as one strategy to counter the effects of an aging and shrinking workforce. Persons with disabilities represent the single largest minority group needing employment in today's market.

"We are proud to be a partner of EDRN," said Elisabeth Buck, director of Iowa Workforce Development. "With so many qualified Iowans with disabilities, we encourage Iowa's employers to tap into this underutilized pool of talent."

Nationally, there are an estimated 50 million Americans with some level of disability representing 18% of the population. Most people with disabilities want to work and two out of three people with disabilities who are unemployed say they would prefer to be working.

In addition, national studies show that individuals with disabilities have equal or higher job performance ratings, have higher retention rates and have lower absentee rates than employees without disabilities. The safety record of both employees with disabilities compared to employees without disabilities is identical.

If you would like more information, visit www.EDRNetwork.org or call (800) 562-4692.

EDRN is a collaborative group of state, federal and private partners working together to identify, develop and mobilize resources, supports and services that add value to Iowa businesses hiring persons with disabilities. Iowa Workforce Development works in collaboration with Iowa Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Iowa Department for the Blind, Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Division of Persons with Disabilities and the Iowa Governor's Council on Developmental Disability.

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An Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities.
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