**Careers and Business Relations News Brief**

**January 19, 2025**

National Employment Team (NET) Logo



CSAVR Careers and *Business Relations News Briefs* is a regular series covering The National Employment Team (NET) activities, business relations initiatives, media stories, business research initiatives, webinars, reports, conferences, and employment activities of interest to the membership.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Martin Luther King Day is Monday, January 20th and the CSAVR office will be closed.** Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a significant federal holiday in the United States, honoring the life and legacy of the civil rights leader who championed equality, justice, and nonviolent protest. The holiday is observed each year on the third Monday of January, and the commemoration is the only federal holiday that is “designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer and improve their communities,” it was first celebrated in 1986. This year it also falls on Inauguration Day.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

1. [**National Updates**](#NATIONAL)
   1. **Thank You to RSA Commissioner Dante’ Allen**
   2. **Florida Success Story**
   3. **LA Fires – Impact on People with Disabilities**
2. [**NET Updates**](#NET)
   1. **January nTIDE Report: Steady Increase in Hiring PWD**
   2. **Federal Job Fairs and Hiring Events**
   3. **Amazon Virtual Military Career Day**
3. [**Articles and Features of Interest**](#ART)
   1. **Movie “Unstoppable” on Prime Video**
   2. **Access Board: AI Series**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**NATIONAL UPDATES**

**Thank you to RSA Commissioner Dante’ Allen -** Commissioner Allen officially joined RSA in January of 2024 after an extensive confirmation process. As his term ends, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Commissioner Allen for his vision and dedication to the VR program, stakeholder engagement, sharing the story and his focus on careers in competitive, integrated employment settings.

**Florida Division of Blind Services Supports Dreamie Cookies -** Thank you to Robert Doyle, the Director of the Florida Division of Blind Services, for sharing this story and the link to the feature on Dreamie Cookies. Dreamie Cookies is a company owned and operated by CEO, Jack Pinnock who was supported by the Division of Blind Services in establishing his business and training other bakers who are blind or have a vision loss.

[Mr. Pinnock shared that, WFTV Channel 9 featured Dreamie Cookies in a special segment,](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fgasearch%3Fq%3Ddreamie%2520cookies%26source%3Dsh%2Fx%2Fgs%2Fm2%2F5%23fpstate%3Dive%26vld%3Dcid%3Ab4ad1bc2%2Cvid%3AkMTHabTZNv4%2Cst%3A0&data=05%7C02%7C%7C89f569000ef244dc4c9d08dd38a79a67%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638729014683060946%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pU%2FJwL4J2rrr4Os58u4fY8Gm2CJaJuz9%2BPTzoSDhSbk%3D&reserved=0) which aired multiple times throughout the holidays. The segment highlighted the work we do in training visually impaired individuals for careers in food services, and it was received with great enthusiasm, further elevating the visibility and recognition of our mission.

Congratulations to Mr. Pinnock and the Florida Division of Blind Services! [Read more here](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdreamiecookies.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7C89f569000ef244dc4c9d08dd38a79a67%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638729014683104512%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5LexaimffluDztDL79l4wIOWxFH%2BrJSDwCWALcn0Qs4%3D&reserved=0) and order your cookies.

**Fires in Los Angeles Impact People with Disabilities**. The fires in the Los Angeles area have been devastating to many people, including those with disabilities. People with disabilities are often impacted disproportionately in these situations, particularly those who may depend upon others for assistance due to mobility constraints or don’t have an accessible way to escape. Evacuation plans often don’t take these individuals into consideration. There have also been individuals who have lost equipment, devices and/or medications that support their independence. We have received inquiries about providing support and reached out to the LA disability community. It was recommended that if you want to make donations to benefit the disability community you can contact the Disability Community Resource Center which is the IL Center in LA: [www.dcrc.co](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dcrc.co%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7C89f569000ef244dc4c9d08dd38a79a67%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638729014683120966%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cim%2FRnEZk8kbCZ8TxaI31Dv5LLQyTxnx7ffLTnWCjzw%3D&reserved=0)

**NET UPDATES**

[**nTIDE January 2025 Jobs Report: Encouraging Signs in Disability Employment: A Slow but Positive Trajectory**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fkesslerfoundation.org%2Fpress-release%2Fntide-january-2025-jobs-report-encouraging-signs-disability-employment-slow-positive%23%3A~%3Atext%3DEast%2520Hanover%252C%2520NJ%2520%25E2%2580%2593%2520January%252010%2CNational%2520Trends%2520in%2520Disability%2520Employment&data=05%7C02%7C%7C89f569000ef244dc4c9d08dd38a79a67%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638729014683135243%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Y4MZkbuRqrMfMNzw57pPjNDBsUYhy%2FuHbFKqIZkTCtU%3D&reserved=0) **-** East Hanover, NJ – January 10, 2025 – The employment-to-population ratio for people with disabilities has remained stable over the past 15 months amid historically high levels, with recent data suggesting a modest but encouraging upward trend, according to today’s National Trends in Disability Employment monthly update (nTIDE) issued by Kessler Foundation and the University of New Hampshire’s Institute on Disability (UNH-IOD).

**Federal Job Fairs and Hiring Events -** Our Federal partners [shared this link to a list of their upcoming hiring/career events](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.usajobs.gov%2FNotification%2FEvents%2F%23HSBD4086&data=05%7C02%7C%7C89f569000ef244dc4c9d08dd38a79a67%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638729014683156054%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8G3uGDGotEeKUx8tRBOtuqmmiiHt2HTBMqQc2HoN%2FCg%3D&reserved=0). Some of the activities/events are in-person and some are offered virtually.

**Amazon – Virtual Military Career Day -** Amazon is excited to announce our upcoming Virtual Military Career Day, an event dedicated to supporting our veterans and military spouses in their professional endeavors. We cordially invite you to participate and share information about this important Amazon initiative.  This event is specifically designed for veterans, active duty military members transitioning to civilian life, and military spouses. It offers a unique platform to connect with Amazon recruiters and support teams who value their skills, experience, and dedication.

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PST

Platform: Virtual (Online)

[Registration Link](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2F49Um33O&data=05%7C02%7C%7C89f569000ef244dc4c9d08dd38a79a67%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638729014683176408%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Ad9XOug%2FpvegQZraIeJ1pLrWT4gSV1W9FclEdgtpSf4%3D&reserved=0)

We believe that veterans and military spouses bring invaluable skills, discipline, and diverse experiences to the workforce. Your participation in sharing event details not only supports these individuals but also benefits your organization by supporting into this exceptional talent pool.  We welcome you to use the attached resources to share on your social media channels.  To register, please visit the registration link provided above. If you have any questions or need additional information, don't hesitate to reach out to Darren Patterson, Regional Partnerships Manager.

The Virtual Military Career Day will feature:

* Online booths for employers
* Live chat sessions with candidates
* Informational webinars on military-to-civilian career transitions
* Resume review services

**disABLEDperson, Inc.  Spring 2025 National Scholarship for College Students with Disabilities -** Our partners at disABLEDpersons have opened their scholarship applications for college students. They will be accepting applications through March 15th. To apply, create a registration on their site[*www.disABLEDperson.com*](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.disabledperson.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7C89f569000ef244dc4c9d08dd38a79a67%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638729014683193866%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PFWOpqi2GhxSr5Zom7BhXK32zthnOtEkEBKtcXlxBV8%3D&reserved=0)and become a community member so click on[*"Sign up now"*](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.disabledperson.com%2Fregistration-step&data=05%7C02%7C%7C89f569000ef244dc4c9d08dd38a79a67%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638729014683208210%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=inoo4Vrl3z5JFh4b8%2BQwIVnaWFtOy2X11OZDl57Sj3s%3D&reserved=0)to do so*.* Details at[*www.disABLEDperson.com*](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.disabledperson.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7C89f569000ef244dc4c9d08dd38a79a67%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638729014683222362%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LYywQiBDqPVtg6PpCibuX9JA6Pf2ckZrmH0P0szLw2Q%3D&reserved=0)

**ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

**The film 'Unstoppable'** tells the remarkable true story of Anthony Robles, a champion wrestler born with one leg. [**'Unstoppable' wrestler's real-life story turned into Prime Video | king5.com**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.king5.com%2Farticle%2Fentertainment%2Ftelevision%2Fprograms%2Fevening%2Funstoppable-wrestler-prime-video-anthony-robles%2F281-3f58ee6f-b3b2-41b3-9e5d-780a0dc75e7a&data=05%7C02%7C%7C89f569000ef244dc4c9d08dd38a79a67%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638729014683236866%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NyBuAe2BEhJAmCBr9kqcJnq2QqOBqx30gOvwSig%2BEYk%3D&reserved=0)

**Access Board Webinar Series on AI**. As we all know, AI has become a topic of focus, including both the benefits related to access for people with disabilities as well as the cautions in creating tools that may discriminate against people with disabilities as well as other diversity groups. As I shared earlier, the Access Board collaborated with AAPD to gather information from the community. Our partner at the Access Board, Alison Levy, worked to pull together the findings and support the development of a webinar series which is very insightful. You can access the series here:  [AI Series Webinar](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Flive%2F6QJ5w3fVA8w&data=05%7C02%7C%7C89f569000ef244dc4c9d08dd38a79a67%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638729014683254923%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HSjXFvhsiGG5R14ZvXOzKLcsXz%2FKEpeKRJqFp4Jc5Ok%3D&reserved=0)

**If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Kathy.**

**This is an unmonitored email account. Please direct any questions to:** [**info@csavr.org**](mailto:info@csavr.org)