



Business Resource Network

Julie Briggs
Executive Director



Mission

- ▶ Provide businesses with education, awareness and resources to promote the successful hiring of people with disabilities.



Description

- ▶ The **Sioux Falls Business Resource Network (SFBRN)** is a nonprofit corporation promoting the hiring of people with disabilities
- ▶ **SFBRN** works to enhance and improve the employment climate in the Sioux Falls area by promoting the advantages of hiring persons with disabilities, by educating employers and the public, and by fostering an environment that will assist businesses in improving production and efficiency
- ▶ **SFBRN** was designed to:
 - *Provide educational opportunities* regarding the employment of persons with disabilities
 - *Create a greater awareness* of the benefits of hiring persons with disabilities within the community
 - *Act as a resource* for both prospective employees and employers regarding employment opportunities and worksite modifications



BRN Bridge

"Opening doors of opportunity for people with disabilities within the workforce"

- Employers
- Public Awareness



- Job Seekers
With Disabilities
- Service Providers



Connections: Partnering Opportunities

- ▶ Meet monthly with approximately 6 individual businesses
- ▶ Attend monthly SE SHRM meetings
- ▶ Present information to community groups and organizations
- ▶ Act as liaison between employers and employees
- ▶ Assist area schools
- ▶ Attend bi-monthly provider meetings



Connections: Partnering Opportunities

- ▶ Partner with other businesses and organizations to sponsor, or participate in, events and projects
 - Disability Mentoring Day
 - Disability Friendly Sticker Program
 - Transition Week – Rehabilitation Center for the Blind
 - NDEAM event
 - STWTETW
 - Education Presentations



Connections: Awareness

- ▶ Gather information regarding employer needs
 - 2013 Survey
- ▶ Promote the organization through the media
- ▶ Participate in awareness activities
- ▶ Promote the organization through social media
- ▶ Promote the organization through BRN website (<http://www.sfbrn.org>)



Connections: Awareness

- ▶ Participant as a member of boards and committees
 - Disability Awareness Commission
 - Alliance for Full Participation
 - Parent Connection Transition Committee
 - NDEAM Review Committee
 - Sioux Falls School District Interagency Council
 - Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired Board of Directors
 - Project SEARCH Business Advisory Council
 - ADA Celebration Committee
 - Sioux Falls School District Special Education Advisory Board and Interagency Council
 - State ADA Network
 - Sanford Down Syndrome Clinic



Connections: Resources

- ▶ Provide education and information regarding accommodations
- ▶ Provide education and information regarding the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities
- ▶ Provide interview skill training
- ▶ Provide on-site consultation to businesses and organizations



Highlights / Successes

- ▶ NDEAM: 48 of the 70 attendees were employers
- ▶ SHRM: member and presenter
- ▶ Sanford Health Partnership: sponsor of the NDEAM conference; invited speaker at HR department meetings
- ▶ Disability Mentoring Day: 2 of the 8 participants were placed in jobs
- ▶ Website: 70% increase in traffic
- ▶ Collaboration: businesses and agencies
- ▶ State Plan: met and exceeded goals and expectations



BRN Board

- ▶ Meets monthly
- ▶ Has established committees
 - Executive/Finance Committee
 - Marketing and Media
 - Program/Events/Education



Board Members

- ▶ Dawn Backer, Manager of the SD Rehabilitation Center for the Blind (SDRC)
- ▶ Julie Benz, Assistant Vice President of Ortho/Neuro/Rehab, Avera McKennan
- ▶ Pat Lund, Director of Human Resources at Grand Falls Casino Resort, LLC
- ▶ Colleen Moran, Assistant City Attorney/ ADA Coordinator/Human Relations Manager for the City of Sioux Falls.
- ▶ Scott Nelson, Co-Owner and CEO of EtechGlobal, LLC.
- ▶ Terry Rist, Senior Commercial Credit Analyst, Home Federal Bank
- ▶ Cindy Stewart, District Supervisor of DRS
- ▶ Dawn Bly Uthe, HR Recruiting Manager – Capital One
- ▶ Joy Christensen, Owner of Cyber Climb
- ▶ Dan Goodwin, retired Executive Director of East Dakota Educational Cooperative and consultant
- ▶ Jennifer Erickson, co-owner Camille's Sidewalk Cafe

Questions? Comments?

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