

# EMPLOYMENT FIRST: THE BRIDGE TO INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

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Opportunities Spanning  
Integrated Employment  
for People with  
Disabilities.

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## **2017 APSE National Conference**

Portland, Oregon

The City of Bridges

June 20-22, 2017

Pre-Conference: June 19, 2017

Students & Families for APSE: June 19, 2017

CESP Exam: June 19, 2017



# The APSE National Conference is the only national event focused solely on the advancement of Employment First.

The Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) National Conference brings together more than 1,000 community leaders, businesses, and individuals with disabilities from across the country and around the world to network and discuss state-of-the-art strategies to ensure equitable employment for all citizens with disabilities. You'll explore actionable ideas and state-of-the-art programming, as well as tools, solutions and technologies that you can take home that will empower you to impact change. Come ready to learn, network and do!

## Join us and take advantage of:

- Education and networking opportunities
- Onsite CESP™ Exam opportunities
- Pre-conference sessions followed by 2 1/2 days of more than 100 high-quality, interactive breakout sessions by national experts
- Dozens of exhibitors
- APSE National Conference Awards ceremony—pay tribute to the tireless leaders that have helped continue the progress of Employment First initiatives



**The APSE Conference is a fabulous way to connect with others in the field, gain lots of new information, pick up new ideas and leave inspired to better support people to find great jobs. It's always interesting to learn how things work in other states and to be able to bring those ideas home."**

**KATIE WOLF WHALEY, KY APSE**

## WORKFORCE GROWTH

# 34.7%

Nationally, 34.7 percent of people aged 16 to 64 years with a disability were employed in 2009 (census.gov).

# 19

At least 19 states have an official state policy, stating that employment in the community is the first and preferred service option for people with disabilities.

# 46 States

There are 46 states with some type of effort focused on Employment First.

- Persons with disabilities experience the highest rates of poverty of any other subcategory of Americans (28.2% in 2015)
- There are 52 million people with disabilities in the U.S.
- It is estimated that SSI annual payments will reach over \$1 trillion by 2018

*Fremont Bridge in  
Portland, Oregon*



**SURROUND YOURSELF IN SOLUTIONS.**



## WHAT DOES “EMPLOYMENT FIRST” MEAN?

Employment First means that employment in the general workforce should be the first and preferred option for individuals with disabilities receiving assistance from publicly funded systems. This translates into regular jobs like everyone else in society: in typical work settings, working side-by-side with people

without disabilities, earning regular wages and benefits and being part of the economic mainstream of our society. APSE supports Employment First to facilitate the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace and community.

## WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

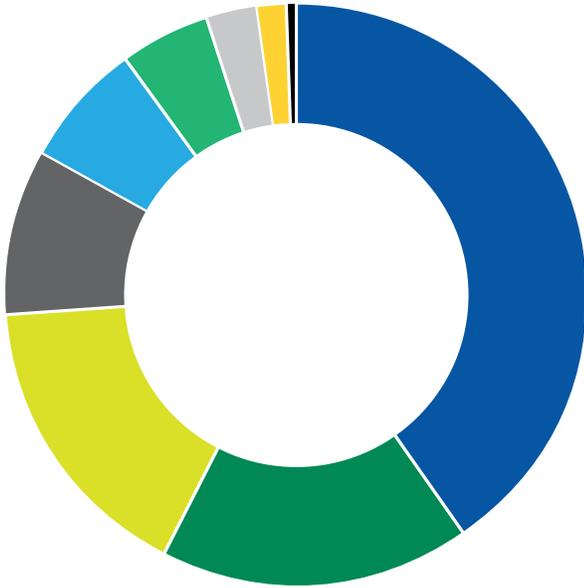
The APSE National Conference is the largest event for integrated employment. The event attracts

key influencers and stakeholders representing employers, communities, agencies and services. APSE members are the very people and organizations impacted by Employment First: citizens with disabilities and their families, universities, rehabilitation counselors, agency personnel and service providers.



**LEARN MORE AND REGISTER BY VISITING:**  
[APSE.org/2017-national-conference](http://APSE.org/2017-national-conference)

# WHO ATTENDS?



- 40% Employment Support Professional
- 17% Self-Advocate & Family Members
- 16% Development Disability Council & Mental Health State Agency Personnel & Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors
- 9% High School Transition Personnel
- 7% Disability Organization Advocacy Personnel
- 5% College/University Student & University Personnel
- 2.7% Federal Government and Veterans Affairs Personnel
- 1.5% Case Manager
- 0.5% Employer Non-Employment Agency

**Employers**—private, for profit, non-profit, small/med/large. What you'll learn: best practices for recruiting and retaining an integrated workforce, policies and legislation affecting corporate integrated employment programs, how to positively impact your bottom line and more.

**Employment agencies & service providers**—federal, state, for profit and non-profit disability employment services providers, local government advocates. What you'll learn: how dollars are allocated, impact of new regulations on funding, hot-off-the-press service delivery techniques to ensure you're providing quality employment supports.

**Transition personnel**—What you'll learn: how to best connect with your area employers to partner and offer quality work experiences for your students prior to graduation, effective IEP planning and execution to ensure successful employment for youth with

disabilities and sharing of best transition practices from across the United States.

**Disability service providers/groups**—vocational rehab, managed care, case managers. What you'll learn: how to transition to a supported employment business model, techniques to serve integrated employment opportunities, how to access funding and more

**Individuals and families.** What you'll learn: how to fund resource groups, advocacy opportunities, actions and community engagement; national, state and regional contacts and network opportunities; top inclusion issues/trends/examples and more. Presentations to include real-life stories of employment and supports that individuals with disabilities utilize to be fully included members of their communities.

**Educators/trainers and R&D university programs.** What you'll learn: the latest trends in integrated employment, how institutions provide preparedness training for a more broad-based integrated workforce, evidence-based case studies, white papers, research and more.

## EVENTS INFUSED WITH EMPOWERMENT.

This year's conference will feature a number of opportunities to gain valuable insights from leading industry experts as well as network with peers and colleagues. And back by popular demand—we will again be featuring APSE Karaoke, a do-not-miss event!

### Keynotes

APSE National Conference keynote speakers are nationally renowned experts on change, advocacy, employment and more. Past keynoters include Stephen Shedletzky, Head Engagement Officer with Start With Why; David Michael Mank, Ph.D., Director of the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community at Indiana University; and Kathy Martinez, Senior Vice President, Disability Market Segment & Strategy, Enterprise Marketing at Wells Fargo.



## Networking Opportunities

The APSE National Conference provides a variety of opportunities for you to expand your professional network and tap into the knowledge of others dedicated to creating an integrated workforce. In addition, we are bringing back our extended time between sessions and extended lunch break on Tuesday plus our luncheon on Wednesday.



## Exhibits

Find products, services and solutions from a wide range of exhibitors in areas including:

- Managed care health plans
- Financial planners
- Banking solutions
- Employment support professionals
- Technology (AV/media)
- Assisted technology products & services
- Transportation services
- Home modification services
- Diversity hiring best practices
- Family supports
- Transition and post-secondary services
- Vocational rehab products and services
- Online training
- Software



## CESP Exam



The CESP™ Certification opens the door to improved professional advancement and job opportunities, increased income opportunities and adds credibility with your employers. CESP certification is a national, portable individual credential. Exam will be held on June 19. Visit [apse.org/certified-employment-support-professional](http://apse.org/certified-employment-support-professional) for more information.

➔ REGISTER FOR AN EXAM NOW BY VISITING:  
[APSE.org/certified-employment-support-professional/exam-opportunities/](http://APSE.org/certified-employment-support-professional/exam-opportunities/)

## ENJOY THE PERFECT SETTING FOR SUCCESS.

Newly reimagined, the **Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront** is a destination in itself. With nearly 39,000 square feet of event space and

an ideal location close to top attractions, the hotel provides a beautiful backdrop along the Willamette River for the APSE National Conference.



➔ BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW BY VISITING:  
[aws.passkey.com/event/16384043/owner/3508/home](http://aws.passkey.com/event/16384043/owner/3508/home)

# APSE NATIONAL CONFERENCE AWARDS

Our National Awards Ceremony pays tribute to the tireless leaders that have helped continue the progress of Employment First initiatives. Categories include:

- Professional Award – Individual
- Best Practice Award – Organization
- Employer (small) Award – less than 29 employees
- Employer (medium) Award – 29-249 employees
- Employer (large) Award – 250+ employees
- Wendy M. Wood Award
- Rebecca McDonald Award
- Dave Hammis Innovation Award
- “Got Mike Fund” Educational Leadership Award
- Personal Achievement Award – Individual with a disability
- Public Policy Advocate of the Year Award

Submit your award nomination here:  
[app.wizehive.com/webform/2017NationalAPSEawardnominations](http://app.wizehive.com/webform/2017NationalAPSEawardnominations)



## THE SOLUTIONS TO CREATE CHANGE ARE HERE

Help us build bridges to a more inclusive workforce and a better way of living. Register now for the APSE National Conference.



REGISTER ONLINE TODAY BY VISITING:  
[APSE.org/2017-national-conference](http://APSE.org/2017-national-conference)



I look forward to the APSE National Conference each year because it's nice to meet people from all over the USA who share my passion for Employment First. As an individual with a disability who has been employed for over 36 years, I know that competitive and integrated employment works and makes a big difference in a person's quality of life. The APSE National Conference helps me learn new things that I can then bring back to Alaska to grow our chapter and our work in advancing real jobs and real wages for individuals with disabilities.”

LUCY ODDEN, AK APSE