

***Virtual Series:***  
Disability Employment -  
Looking Back & Moving Forward

**RRTC Disability Inclusive  
Employment Policy Center**

October 21, 2020



**Introductions** (1 of 3)

**Michael Morris**

Senior Adviser of the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI), founder and Senior Strategic Advisor of National Disability Institute



**Meera Adya**

Senior Director of Research and Evaluation, Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University



## Introductions (2 of 3)

### **Doug Kruse**

Distinguished Professor in the  
School of Management and Labor  
Relations, Rutgers University



### **Elaine Zundl**

Research Director for the Center  
for Women and Work, Rutgers  
University



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## Introductions (3 of 3)

### **Nicole Maestas**

Associate Professor of Health  
Care Policy at Harvard Medical  
School, Research Associate of the  
National Bureau of Economic  
Research (NBER)



### **Peter Blanck**

University Professor and  
Chairman, Burton Blatt Institute at  
Syracuse University



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## DISABILITY INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT POLICY REHABILITATION RESEARCH & TRAINING CENTER (DIEP RRTC)

NIDILRR GRANT #90RTEM0006-01-00

PETER BLANCK, PH.D., J.D.  
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR



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## DIEP RRTC

DIEP RRTC is supported by a grant to the Burton Blatt Institute ("BBI") at Syracuse University from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) for the Rehabilitation Research & Training on Employment Policy: Center for Disability-Inclusive Employment Policy Research Grant #90RTEM0006-01-00.

The views provided herein do not necessarily reflect the official policies of NIDILRR nor imply endorsement by the Federal Government.

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## Introduction

- COVID-19 unprecedented health, social, and economic challenges for youth and working-age adults across the spectrum of disabilities.
- DIEP RRTC body of study for retrospective, present-day, and prospective view to increase employment and economic security for people with disabilities nationwide across market sectors.
  - Intersectional
  - Fluidity and circumstance
  - Rigorous basic and applied study, real-time practical relevance
  - Driven and led by disability community

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## Introduction (cont.)

With 5-year funding (Sept. 1, 2020 – Aug.31, 2025) from NIDILRR, DIEP RRTC conducts scientifically rigorous set of randomized control trial and quasi-experimental studies across employment lifecycle:

1. enhancing employment re-engagement,
2. enhancing employment, and
3. enhancing job quality and retention.

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## Significant Partnerships (1 of 3)

- Anchored at BBI, DIEP RRTC brings nationally recognized researchers at Syracuse, Harvard, and Rutgers Universities
  - Peter Blanck, BBI Syracuse, University Professor & Chairman BBI
  - Nicole Maestas, Harvard, Associate Professor Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School; Research Associate National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), directs NBER's Retirement and Disability Research Center
  - Doug Kruse, Rutgers, Distinguished Professor, Associate Director, Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing, Director, Program for Disability Research

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## Significant Partnerships (2 of 3)

- Research team complemented by 10 national associations, extensive reach to target audiences for knowledge translation and dissemination, to ensure research as applied relevant to policy and practice.

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## Significant Partnerships (3 of 3)

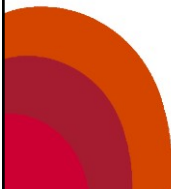
KT Partners	Target Audiences
1. Disability:IN	Employers
2. National Governors Association	State policy leaders
3. Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR)	State VR professionals
4. American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)	People with disabilities
5. Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU)	Independent Living directors
6. National Disability Institute (NDI)	Community nonprofits
7. ABLE National Resource Center	ABLE account holders
8. Center on Women and Work	Women and families
9. Association to Promoted Supported Employment (APSE)	Employment service providers
10. ADA National KT Center	Ten Regional ADA Centers

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## Core Studies

- **Project 1**  
 Understanding the Recent Rise in Employment among People with Disabilities (pre COVID-19)
- **Project 2**  
 SSDI Return to Work Improvement Through Financial & Benefits Counseling
- **Project 3**  
 Unemployment Insurance Income Support as Facilitator of Return-to-Work
- **Project 4**  
 Expanding Employee Status: Gig Workers as Employees or Contractors and impact on individuals with disabilities



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## Core Studies (cont.)

- **Project 5A**  
Disability-Owned Business Enterprises and Supply Chain Diversity: Underutilized Policy Lever to Increasing Disability Employment
- **Project 5B**  
Apprenticeship: A Path to Sustainable Skilled Careers
- **Project 6**  
Paid Sick and Family Medical Leave: Policy Implications for People with Disabilities
- **Project 7**  
Expanding Employee Wages: Impact of minimum and sub-minimum wages
- **Project 8**  
Telework from home as rising, universal accommodation

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## Expected Outcomes (Illustrative)

- Evidence-based options for employment-related **policy development**;
- Increased strategies to support **job seekers** with disabilities;
- Evidence-based practices enhance **worker retention, quality of work** experience;
- New evidence-based strategies improve **employment, job retention and employment reengagement**;
- Access new knowledge explore **alternative paths to employment and career advancement**;
- Data and evidence support existing and **next-generation employment policy and program and applied rigorous research**;
- **Next-generation disability policy framework** advance employment and economic self-sufficiency for working-age adults with disabilities.

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## Target Audiences Knowledge Translation and Use

- Individuals with disabilities and their families and supporters;
- policy makers (federal, state, local);
- VR and workforce development professionals;
- Businesses (all sectors and sizes) and HR professionals;
- Employment service providers,
- Researchers, and,
- Students.

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## Knowledge Translation Methods

- Website (online, accessible, usable, resource center),
- Working papers and reports,
- Employment policy briefs and newsletters,
- Academic articles and presentations,
- Webinars and continuing education series,
- Communities of practice,
- Virtual academies, and
- Fifth year State of Science Conference.

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## Thank You!

For More Information: <http://bbi.syr.edu>

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## Hi! I'm Max



## EDUCATION CREDIT POST-TEST

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- [Post Test for Webinar](#)

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or copy and paste: [bit.ly/ndeam2020-test-3](https://bit.ly/ndeam2020-test-3)

### Credit

- Webinar - Certificate of Completion

## EVALUATION

- Your feedback is important to help determine the effectiveness of this webinar in meeting your needs and to guide planning for future webinars.

- [Evaluation for Webinar](#)

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## ARCHIVED VIRTUAL SERIES

- All events in this four-event series will be archived with recording, transcript and relative resources  
- **please share.**
- [Archives Virtual Series: Disability Employment - Looking Back & Moving Forward](https://www.adasoutheast.org/webinars/ndeam2020.php)

or copy and paste:

[www.adasoutheast.org/webinars/ndeam2020.php](https://www.adasoutheast.org/webinars/ndeam2020.php)

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN SERIES

- **Webinar:**  
**Future Images of the Face of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)**  
October 28 at 1:00 - 2:30 pm ET

## Questions?

### Southeast ADA Center



### Phone

800-949-4232 (toll free)

404-541-9001

711 (relay)

**E-mail:** [seadawebinars@law.syr.edu](mailto:seadawebinars@law.syr.edu)

**Web:** [www.adasoutheast.org](http://www.adasoutheast.org)

## Disclaimer

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