



# Disability Mentoring Day 2011

*October 12, 2011*

## FACT SHEET

The City of Los Angeles, in partnership with the Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC) and in association with The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is proud to present Disability Mentoring Day on **Wednesday, October 12, 2011**.

### **What Is Disability Mentoring Day?**

Disability Mentoring Day promotes career development for students and job-seekers with disabilities through job shadowing and hands-on career exploration. With leadership, coordination and resource materials from AAPD, local communities around the country organize their own activities that bring students and employers together for informational sessions about career opportunities and one-on-one mentoring with volunteers at places of employment.

### **What Happens on Disability Mentoring Day?**

Disability Mentoring Day is officially commemorated every October, but it is then implemented in locations around the country and internationally throughout the year. It is designed to benefit from local creativity, with each community planning activities to best suit the interests and abilities of its students, job-seekers and local employers. Although the core experience is one-on-one job shadowing, event planners may choose to open with a meeting for a group of students and job-seekers featuring several presentations and/or close with a reception where students, job-seekers and mentors can share their experiences. The type of mentoring experience depends in large part on the participants' interests, education level, and work experience. Job-seekers can focus on specific career advice and/or discuss potential internships and job openings.

## **How Can Students and Job-Seekers with Disabilities Benefit from Disability Mentoring Day?**

Disability Mentoring Day in Los Angeles enables students and job-seekers to spend a day visiting a City Department that matches their interests and have one-on-one time with volunteer mentors. It provides an opportunity to underscore the connection between school and work, evaluate personal goals, target career skills for improvement, explore possible career paths, and develop lasting mentor relationships. History of the program illustrates that students' and job seekers' participation in Disability Mentoring Day can result in opportunities with the host agencies.

## **How Can Employers Benefit from Disability Mentoring Day?**

Disability Mentoring Day provides employers with an opportunity to recruit interns, tap a pool of potential future employees, learn more about the experience of disability, develop lasting relationships with disability community leaders, demonstrate positive leadership in their communities and attract positive media attention. Additionally, employers can get involved by enabling employees to serve as volunteer mentors on Disability Mentoring Day.

## **How Can Disability Mentoring Day Support Other Programs?**

Disability Mentoring Day can be a point-of-entry for existing mentoring, school-to-work, internship and employment programs. Since many successful programs around the country require extensive year-round commitments, Disability Mentoring Day can be a way to attract new participants and then encourage them to become more involved year-round. Employers with internship programs can also utilize Disability Mentoring Day as a means to identify promising internship candidates and encourage them to apply.

## **How Do Communities Get Involved?**

**The City of Los Angeles Department on Disability** serves as a Local Coordinator for Disability Mentoring Day in Los Angeles and plays a match-making role between students/job-seekers and the City's many Departments and Bureaus. Students, Job Seekers, and City Employees wishing to participate should contact Adriana Miranda at the Department on Disability at (213) 202-2767 or [Adriana.Miranda@lacity.org](mailto:Adriana.Miranda@lacity.org). Making an impact in just one person's life makes a difference and lays a foundation for subsequent years.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please visit our website at <http://disability.lacity.org/doddmd.htm> or contact us at: voice (213) 202-2764, TDD (213) 202-2755, Fax (213) 202-2715 or via email at [Adriana.Miranda@lacity.org](mailto:Adriana.Miranda@lacity.org) .**