

from the desk of **Acacia Martinez**



Dear Employer:

The partners of WorkOne Eastern Indiana are pleased to have this opportunity to share information regarding the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and the great potential for you as an employer to benefit by tapping into this talented, but often overlooked, labor pool. This pool of workers represents one of the largest groups seeking employment today.

Finding and keeping good workers are among the greatest challenges facing businesses. More than ever, businesses need access to a skilled and diverse workforce.

A Harris Poll interviewed over 900 managers, and they had this to say about people with disabilities who worked for them:

- 19 out of 20 managers give employees with disabilities a “good” or “excellent” rating on their job performance. They say employees with disabilities work as hard as or harder than their employees who do not have disabilities.
- The average cost of hiring people with disabilities is the same as hiring people without a disability, according to 75% of the employees surveyed.
- Only 43% of Equal Employment officers say that their companies have hired people with disabilities.

Studies of employers have shown that once hired, people with disabilities are dependable, dedicated, hardworking and productive. In fact, employers report that their work ethic has a positive effect on the moral and production of their non disabled co workers.

WorkOne is dedicated to providing insight for employers who want to hire and retain employees with disabilities. We also explore myths and misconceptions about workers with disabilities and provide a resource guide to help you use the labor pool to the fullest potential.

Despite their desire to work, people with disabilities face multiple barriers in part because of the misconceptions about their abilities and skills to do the job well.

WorkOne Eastern Indiana is asking employers to make the commitment to dispel these myths and to explore the benefits of adding workers with disabilities to your workforce.

Sincerely,

Acacia Martinez
WorkOne Manager and Region 6 Navigator
Wayne and Union Counties



An initiative of the Eastern Indiana Regional Workforce Board. Funding for this project has been provided by Indiana Department of Workforce Development. The WorkOne System is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in the programs and services offered. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (800) 743-3333 for TDD/TTY relay service.