

# October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month!

*Talent Has No Boundaries: Workforce Diversity INCLUDES Workers with Disabilities*

Including people with disabilities in the workplace is a mutually beneficial business decision. Meaningful contribution and work shows the community that a person labeled as having an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) has strengths and can contribute to the community. Here are a few benefits of including a person with ASD in the workplace:

- Studies indicate that participation in supported employment improves cognitive performance in adults with ASD (Garcia-Villamizar & Hughes, 2006).
- Working allows adults with ASD to become taxpayers, decrease the amount of reliance on government funding, and to contribute to their own disability/social security accounts.
- In Kentucky, from 2002 to 2007, for every dollar supported employees with intellectual disabilities spent relinquished as a result of working within their community, they earned \$3.31.

***Although the benefits and advantages for individuals with ASD to work, many people with ASD do not work. This October, promote employment for adults with ASD and other developmental disabilities in your community.***

For more information about ASD or employment for people with disabilities, please visit:

[www.kyautism.com](http://www.kyautism.com)

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/programs/dmd.htm>

<http://www.disabilitymentor.net/>

[http://www.aapd.com/site/c.pv11kNWJqE/b.5606851/k.CDB/Welcome to the Disability Mentoring Program.htm](http://www.aapd.com/site/c.pv11kNWJqE/b.5606851/k.CDB/Welcome%20to%20the%20Disability%20Mentoring%20Program.htm)

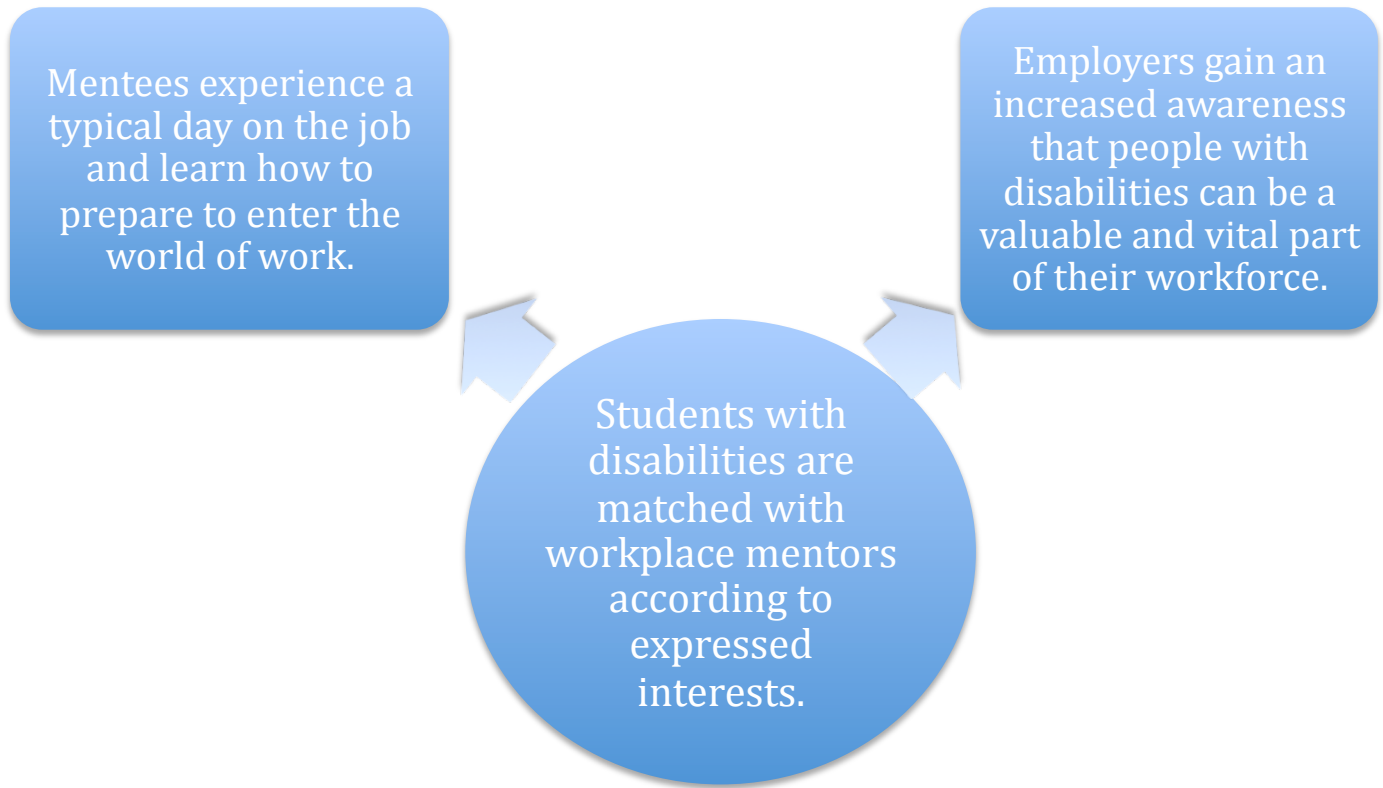
<http://www.ihdi.uky.edu/setp/>

Information was compiled by the Kentucky Autism Training Center 10/2010. For more information about this event, please visit call the KATC at (502) 852-7525 or visit [www.disabilitymentor.net](http://www.disabilitymentor.net).

# Disability Mentoring Day

## 10/20/2010

Disability Mentoring Day is nationwide effort to promote career development for students with disabilities through hands-on career exploration. Disability Mentoring Day is a program of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD).



### ***How Can I get involved?***

- Encourage local businesses to provide shadowing opportunities for individuals with disabilities in your community.
- Facilitate career exploration for a student or employment seeker with a disability by taking a trip to a Career Center, Vocational Rehabilitation, or One Stop.
- Facilitate mentor/mentee relationships between business leaders and people with disabilities. Building relationships increases awareness of disabilities in the workplace and allow for greater exposure for the person with the disability.
- Investigate current local programs and collaborative opportunities.
- Promote diversity in the workforce through disability awareness trainings and sharing of success stories in your area.

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