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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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NTAR Leadership Center
Announces Membership of its
National Research Advisory Panel

The National Technical Assistance and Research Leadership Center to Promote Employment and Economic Independence for Adults with Disabilities (NTAR Leadership Center) announced today the seventeen prominent experts chosen to comprise its National Research Advisory Panel. The group will advise the NTAR Leadership Center, and play a critical role in shaping its research activities designed to advance state and local knowledge, policy and practice.

"Our ability to produce research that informs practice and public policy is critical to our Center's mission" stated Kathy Krepcio, NTAR Leadership Center Project Director, "this advisory panel will ensure that our research activities are responsive to the learning and information needs of state and local practitioners as they work to provide greater work opportunities for adults with disabilities."

Members of the National Research Advisory Panel will help shape and frame research activities conducted by the Center, especially for its new State Leaders Innovation Institute and State Peer Leaders Network. The Panel's first meeting is scheduled for May. The Advisory Panel is co-chaired by:

Dr. Carl Van Horn, Professor and Director of the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University -- a nationally recognized expert and scholar on workforce development and economic development

Dr. Doug Kruse, Professor at the Department of Economics and the School of Management and Labor Relations at Rutgers University -- a noted and highly regarded scholar in the field of disability and employment

Other noted scholars and distinguished members of the Panel include:

Dr. Peter Blanck, University Professor and Chairman, Burton Blatt Institute, Syracuse University
Rex Davidson, President and CEO, Goodwill Industries of New York and Northern New Jersey

John Dorrer, Director, Center for Workforce Research and Information, Maine Department of Labor

Dr. William G. Johnson, Professor and Director, Center for Health Information and Research, Arizona State University

Elaine Katz, Vice President of Grant Programs and Special Initiatives, The Henry H. Kessler Foundation

Dr. Christopher King, Director, Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources, University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Richard G. Luecking, President, TransCen, Inc.

Dr. David Mank, Professor and Director, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana University

Jack Mills, Director, National Network of Sector Partners

Steve Miranda, Chief Human Resource and Strategic Planning Officer, Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

William Palmer, Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Florida Department of Education

Dr. Wendy Parent, Research Associate Professor and Assistant Director, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities, Lawrence Site, University of Kansas

Toni Riccardi, Senior Vice President for Human Resources and Chief Diversity Officer, The Conference Board, Inc.

Martin Simon, Program Director, Social, Economic and Workforce Development Program Division, Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association

Sheila Zedlewski, Director, Income and Benefits Policy Center, The Urban Institute

Support for the advisory panel is provided by Dr. Robert B. Nicholas, Senior Visiting Fellow for Disability Employment Research to the NTAR Leadership Center. For an overview of the NTAR Leadership Center and its research activities, please visit www.ntarcenter.org.