



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

News Release

For further information:

Frank Tortorici

(212) 339-0231

f.tortorici@conference-board.org

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WEBCAST SERIES FROM THE CONFERENCE BOARD

EXAMINES FULLY ENGAGING WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES

Feb. 5, 2009... The Conference Board, the global business membership and research organization, today announced the launch of a research/webcast series – **Maximizing Human Capital: Employees with Disabilities** – designed to discuss ways to engage diverse workers during today’s very challenging economic environment.

The first webcast, “Are New Entrants Really Ready to Work?” will take place Wednesday, February 18 between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. (EST). For more information, go to:
<http://www.conference-board.org/webcasts/upcomingWebcast.cfm?id=1894>

During the program, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) – in partnership with The Conference Board – will present key findings of a major report based on the most extensive survey in history of employers’ actions and attitudes toward employing people with disabilities.

“In this time of economic pressure, leading companies are customizing human capital practices to address the value in employing people from different backgrounds,” says Stephanie Creary, Research Associate at The Conference Board and moderator of this webcast series. “They are developing partnerships with educational institutions and not-for-profit organizations dedicated to recruiting workers with diverse perspectives, and redesigning jobs and creating more inclusive cultures to retain talented employees with different skill sets.”

“Are New Entrants Really Ready to Work” explores some of the recent research, including research from The Conference Board that indicates that new entrants to the workforce today simply are not as prepared by their early education to work in today’s business environment.

The webcast will examine the recommendations that have been made to manage this problem and what this research means for businesses that seek to hire employees with disabilities, including those from younger generations.

The webcast will feature Richard Horne, Director, Division of Policy Planning and Research, Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor; Jane Rath, Principal, CESSI; Martha Artiles, Chief Diversity Officer, Manpower, Inc.; Katherine McCary, Vice President, SunTrust Bank, Past-Chair, USBLN and Member of the National Council on Disability; and Mary Wright, Program Director and Lead of The Conference Board Workforce Readiness Initiative.

Captioning will be available for those who require voice-to-text translation.

Other webcasts to follow:

“Retaining or Engaging Employees”

Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Part Two of the series focuses on whether there are performance differences in businesses that focus on retaining or engaging employees, including veterans, returning servicepersons and other employees with disabilities. Speakers include: Howard Green of Virginia Commonwealth University; Tammie McNaughton, Director, Corporate Diversity and Work Life, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield; Lou Orslene, Co-Director, Job Accommodation Network; John Gibbons, Senior Research Associate and Program Lead, Employee Engagement, The Conference Board.

“The Lifecycle of Talent”

Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

This segment features ways that businesses can plan for future workforce needs, especially in the leadership ranks. It investigates the research on strategic workforce planning and what it means for businesses that seek to develop and advance the careers of employees with disabilities. Speakers include: Dr. Peter Blanck, Chairman, The Burton Blatt Institute, Syracuse University; Ann Andreosatos, Associate Director, North America Diversity Practice, Procter and Gamble; Allen Thomas, Managing Partner and Chief Diversity Officer, Deloitte; Dr. Mary Young, Senior Research Associate and Program Lead, Strategic Workforce Planning, The Conference Board.

About The Conference Board

For over 90 years, The Conference Board has created and disseminated knowledge about management and the marketplace to help businesses strengthen their performance and better serve society. The Conference Board operates as a global independent membership organization working in the public interest. It publishes information and analysis, makes economics-based forecasts and assesses trends, and facilitates learning by creating dynamic communities of interest that bring together senior executives from around the world. The Conference Board is a not-for-profit organization and holds 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in the United States. For additional information about The Conference Board and how it can meet your needs, visit our website at www.conference-board.org.