



Call for Presentation Proposals Employment and Career Strand

37th Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity
February 28 - March 1, 2022 (HST), virtual conference
Submit proposals online by December 1, 2021 at pacrim.coe.hawaii.edu.

The Employment and Career Strand represents the progress of workers with disabilities in finding inclusion and success. We must mobilize to combat the challenges and seize the opportunities of a turbulent global economy. Proposals will be accepted for the following topics:

Accessibility & Accommodation Issues

To create an equitable and inclusive workplace for people with disabilities, having accessible technology and accommodations is essential. Typically, many employers are not aware of what is required to make their workplace an accessible environment and believe the issue will require extensive changes and costs. This topic area will explore how best practices are used, what is required to meet accessibility and accommodation regulations and most importantly, why people with disabilities and employers can benefit from these changes for a productive workplace.



Topic Chairs

Adam Tanners
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Tom Conway
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COVID-19 and Employment Issues

COVID-19 has radically changed the workplace. Organizations have had to become flexible, offer work-from-home options, and change the way that business is done. COVID-19 has proved that work can be productive, even when from the home office. Organizational learning is also shifting to e-learning, and work is conducted even if children are at home, learning remotely. There are gains in these shifts that relate to disability – it can be easier than ever to work for some types of disabilities. And for others, there are particular issues.



Topic Chair

Meriah Nichols
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Innovations and Challenges in Workforce Development

Workforce development programs bridge the gap between jobseekers and employers. These efforts are undermined by challenges in training, transportation, and other areas. Each workforce development professional adds to the foundation of a new career with innovative strategies for promoting job readiness, hiring, job retention, career advancement, and entrepreneurship.



Topic Chair

Ronald Deese
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Postsecondary Transition to Employment

As students and transition-age youth (age 16-25) with disabilities move from school to adulthood, we must do everything we can to provide them with the information, services, and supports they need to prepare for future employment and being able to support oneself. Supports may be needed in the areas of education, vocational training, income supports, health insurance coverage, health care, transportation, life skills, housing, etc. What is and isn't working in employment preparation and retention for youth with disabilities in the workplace? What are examples of positive ways Workforce Development groups have included youth with disabilities into their plans and into their programs – failures and successes?



Topic Chair

Lisa-Marie Eng
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#PacRim2022 will bring together researchers, advocates, practitioners, policy-makers, educators and students, businesspeople, and many others interested in learning and sharing ideas. Learn more about the other available areas: Communities, Education, Employment and Career, Health & Well-being, and Disability Studies & Diversity Issues at pacrim.coe.hawaii.edu or prcall@hawaii.edu.

Ronald Deese, Employment and Career Strand Lead