

PRESENTERS

Helping Workers Keep Their Jobs After an Injury, Illness, or Disability

MODERATOR



Heinrich Hock, Mathematica Policy Research

Heinrich Hock is a senior economist at Mathematica. His research focuses on unemployment, education and training, and statistical evaluation methods. He currently leads the quantitative analyses in an evaluation of the first four rounds of the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) grant program. Established by the Office of Disability Employment Policy at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) in 2010, the DEI program is designed to improve the training and employment outcomes of youth and adults with disabilities who are served by the expanded capacities of the American Job Center system. Hock also has designed or led several other DOL studies of the unemployment insurance system and of reemployment programs designed to support dislocated workers and veterans in returning to work. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Brown University.

PRESENTERS



Yonatan Ben-Shalom, Mathematica Policy Research

Yonatan Ben-Shalom is a senior researcher at Mathematica's Center for Studying Disability Policy, with expertise in policies and programs related to the employment and income of people with disabilities—especially those who acquire disability in adulthood, such as workers and veterans. He directs the Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work (SAW/RTW) Policy Collaborative, funded by the Office of Disability Employment Policy at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). The collaborative focuses on advancing policies and programs that promote positive SAW/RTW outcomes for workers who experience a potentially career-ending medical condition. Dr. Ben-Shalom has served as principal investigator for numerous studies funded by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research. He has a Ph.D. in economics from the Johns Hopkins University.



Irma Perez-Johnson, Mathematica Policy Research

Irma Perez-Johnson is an expert in designing and implementing rigorous evaluations of employment training and education interventions, including pilots and demonstrations, and in applying behavioral insights in different policy contexts. For the U.S. Department of Labor, Perez-Johnson leads the evaluation of the Self-Employment Training Demonstration, directs the study of Behavioral Interventions for Labor-Related Programs, and recently served as the project director and principal investigator for the Evaluation of the Individual Training Account Experiment. An accomplished researcher with extensive publications and more than 20 years of experience, Perez-Johnson holds a Ph.D. in education policy and evaluation, with distinction, from the University of Pennsylvania.



David Stapleton, Mathematica Policy Research

David Stapleton is the director of Mathematica’s Center for Studying Disability Policy. He also directs the SSA’s Disability Research Consortium under a cooperative agreement between SSA and Mathematica. Since 1991, Dr. Stapleton’s research has focused on how public policy affects the employment and well-being of people with disabilities. Dr. Stapleton, who joined Mathematica in 2007, co-directs the evaluation of SSA’s Benefit Offset National Demonstration and is a senior advisor on many other disability and employment projects for SSA and the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. A nationally recognized expert on disability policy, Dr. Stapleton regularly presents at policy research conferences and other venues. He has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

DISCUSSANTS



Jennifer Sheehy, Office of Disability Employment Policy

Jennifer Sheehy is the deputy assistant secretary, leading the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor. The mission of ODEP is to develop policies to increase the number and quality of employment opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities. Prior to her current position, Jennifer spent 10 years at the U.S. Department of Education in many roles, including acting director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, acting deputy commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, and special assistant to the assistant secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. Jennifer came to the Department of Education from the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities, where she was senior policy advisor and served a detail as associate director in the White House Domestic Policy Council. Before she joined the task force staff, Jennifer was vice president of the National Organization on Disability and director of its CEO Council. She has worked for Marriott, Sheraton, and Anheuser-Busch and has received many civic and leadership honors. Jennifer earned a B.A. from Cornell University and an M.B.A from Georgetown University.



Annette Bourbonniere, University of Rhode Island

Annette Bourbonniere is a project consultant specializing in health care outreach and employer engagement. For years, she has helped corporations, businesses, and health care providers conduct more successful marketing to persons with disabilities. As an advisor, Annette helps organizations that are working to include persons with disabilities in their employment strategies, recruitment efforts, and talent management plans. She has an M.S. in environment and natural resource economics from the University of Rhode Island.

