Job-Driven Technical Assistance Center (JD-VRTAC)
Partnering with Workforce Development in Business Engagement

Yvonne Wright, Director
Business Outreach and Workforce Development
Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation
Job-Driven Center Goals

Improve skills of state VR agency staff, other rehab professionals & providers of VR services, who are trained to provide “job-driven” VR services & supports to PWD, employers & customized training providers.

Four Topic Areas:

1. Business Engagement
2. Employer Supports
3. Labor Market Information (LMI)
4. Customized Training Providers

www.explorevr.org
Job-Driven Center Partners

Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston

*In Partnership with:*
- Jobs for the Future (JFF)
  - Univ. of Arkansas
  - Univ. of Washington
- Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR)
  - United States Business Leadership Network (USBLN)
  - Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

*In Collaboration with:*
- National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB)
  - Technical Assistance Center Collaborative
Webinar Objectives

• How Missouri developed their partnership with Workforce Development
• How WIOA implementation grew the VR/DWD partnership
• The positive effects of the partnership with business engagement
History/Background of MOVR/Workforce Relationship

• Location of agencies
  – Separate departments

• Disability Initiatives
  – DEI
  – Disability Navigators

• Landscape of Missouri Workforce Development
  – 14 WDBs and regions
  – 34 Full Service One-Stops
VR/Workforce Development Liaison

• Began with 1998 Workforce Investment Act

• Assumed role in early 2000’s
  – Statewide liaison plus local engagement
  – Position on local board
  – State Workforce Board meetings
  – Missouri Association for Workforce Development
  – 2013—Addition of Director for Business Outreach
WIOA!!!!
(Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act)

• Established Departmental Liaison for WIOA planning and implementation
  – Co-Chair with Workforce Development
  – Responsible for coordination of all Core partner WIOA activities
    • Communication
    • Meetings
    • All Combined plan activities
Taking a Leadership Role

• “Front and Center” with WIOA planning
  – Representation on all subcommittees
  – Special initiatives (ie. Sector Strategies)
  – State Workforce Board meetings
  – State TEAM (Local Workforce Board Executive Director) meetings
  – Trainings for local workforce staff
  – Missouri Association for Workforce Development
Leadership going local

• VR’s role at local level is well—established
  – Local plans and MOUs
  – Sector Strategies
  – WDB Disability Subcommittees
  – Disability-focused events
WIOA and Business Partnering

- WIOA Sub-committee on Employer Engagement
  - Fall 2015 Business Partnering Summit

- VR business staff integrated at all 14 local regions
  - VR Business staff has access to WD case management system to record business contacts
  - VR staff attends regular business team meetings in their regions
  - VR and Veteran’s Reps visit Federal Contractors together
WIOA and Business Partnering

DWD

VR/BE

Business

VR Staff
Moving Forward......

• LEAD Center Technical Assistance collaboration
  – Staff, job seeker and employer surveys
  – Follow up with employers conducted as partners
  – Has developed into training webinars for workforce staff on serving persons with disabilities

• Co-marketing of Business Services on websites
• Collaboration on Employer Surveys for Effectiveness in Serving Employers Performance Measure
Impact/Outcomes

• Co-referrals and co-enrollment
• Service and funding braiding
• Increased opportunities and outcomes through collaboration
• CVS Grant
• Lebanon, MO Apprenticeship Program
Final thoughts

• Collaboration allows us to work smarter, not harder and accomplish more

• VR leadership

• Workforce Development partners
Contact information

Yvonne Wright, Director
Business Outreach and Workforce Development

573-522-3021

Yvonne.wright@vr.dese.mo.gov