

Acknowledgments

This employment planning guide was originally published under joint development by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center For Workforce Preparation.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) is committed to improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities. In implementing President Bush's *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* and the New Freedom Initiative, OSERS administers programs that educate and provide vocational rehabilitation services for youths and adults with disabilities and funds research to improve the lives of people with disabilities. OSERS comprises the Office of the Assistant Secretary and three program components: the Office of Special Education Programs, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

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Institute for a Competitive Workforce

The Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW) is a grant-based nonprofit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that focuses on workforce development and quality education. It assists chambers of commerce in the development of workforce strategies so that their members can hire, train, retain and advance workers with skills to compete in the 21st century. ICW builds leadership in local chambers for workforce development and helps chambers recognize the value and importance of this leadership role. In addition, it provides the tools, knowledge and strategic relationships for local chambers, businesses and communities to become successful.

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