

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), in partnership with the NYC Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities will host Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) on 10/17/12. Disability Mentoring Day is one of the highlights of National Disability Employment Awareness Month each October. This year, AAPD has designated NYC DMD as national host for DMD, Wednesday, October 17, 2012.

Over 70 employers in the NYC area, also participate in DMD, encompassing approximately 150 departments hosting over 350 mentees across many job industries. The NYC DMD initiative boasts a 95% career interest match rate of mentee to mentor. Unique and typically difficult to match job interests are welcome. Last year 18% of mentees obtained internships or jobs as a result of participating.

You can participate in the DMD initiative on a number of levels:

- 1) As a mentor site (employer)
- 2) As a mentee referring agency (referring job ready vocational clients)
- 3) As a MOPD DMD member agency - volunteering expertise and resources on the Mayor's Committee (January through November) to help the initiative achieve its goals.

The missions of NYC Disability Mentoring Day are to:

- 1) **Increase internship and employment opportunities** for people with disabilities.
- 2) **Dispel employers' fears** about hiring people with disabilities.
- 3) **Promote disability** as a central part of diversity recruitment for a more inclusive workforce.
- 4) **Serve as a launching point** for year round efforts to foster career oriented mentoring opportunities for students and job seekers with disabilities.

DMD provides mentees with opportunities to:

- Learn firsthand about internship and job opportunities.
- Develop lasting mentor relationships.
- Target career skills for improvement.
- Explore possible career paths.
- Demonstrate their skills to potential employers.
- Work closely with someone working in their desired career field.
- Understand the vital connection between school and work.
- Gain greater confidence in their employability.
- **Applicants may also participate in workshops and seminars, which take place during the time leading up to DMD and on the day itself.**

All job seekers with disabilities in the community are welcome to participate: including Veterans, college students, high school juniors and seniors with disabilities. We are asking vocational rehabilitation programs to please distribute this information and assist with inviting "experience ready" job seekers and students with disabilities in registering for DMD.

To learn more about DMD visit: www.nyc.gov/html/mopd/home.html

For the NYC DMD Tool Kit Visit: <https://www.nyceda.org/nyc-mopd-dmd-2012/>