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www.issuelab.org | bringing nonprofit research into focus

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IssueLab Releases Second Podcast Focus: Disability and Employment

CHICAGO – IssueLab made its second podcast available online today. The podcast is a companion piece to IssueLab's current CloseUp on disability and employment and features interviews with representatives of three nonprofit groups that work on these issues. You can access the podcast, which is part of IssueLab's occasional podcast series, at http://www.issuelab.org/closeup/Feb_2009.

Stacy Kessler, IssueLab's Collections Assistant, interviewed Kathy Krepcio, executive director of the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University; Lucy Baker, executive director of the Oregon Business Leadership Network; and, Lisa Dworkin, director of Vocational and Training services of Little City Foundation.

When asked about how research figures into the day-to-day work of someone who connects people with disabilities with employment, Lisa Dworkin responded that research is "a very valuable tool. When you are on the front lines, so to speak, you don't always have it at your fingertips, so periodically trying to find out what the trends are, what other people are doing, and what's worked and hasn't worked is very helpful."

Kathy Krepcio answered questions about communicating research most effectively and pointed out the very real need to not only make research accessible, but to get it in front of people: "How research gets communicated and disseminated and rolled out for decision makers and opinion makers is vitally important"

Lucy Baker fielded questions about connecting businesses with research and resources about people with disabilities. As she puts it, "Whether you have a corner office, whether you're in a cube, or whether you're on the factory floor supervising--there are statistics that are of interest to you."

Stacy Kessler described her take on the intersection of employment, disabilities, and nonprofit organization this way: "This is a sector and a mission that talks about inclusivity in the workplace, I think it's great to...reflect this inclusivity through multiple formats and multiple learning methods."

The podcast was created using freely shared open source software by Audacity and includes freely shared music by dj nitro (<http://ccmixter.org/files/djnitro/17310>) that is available through Creative Commons' CCMixer music service. The podcast was produced by IssueLab and is shared through a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 3.0 Unported License.

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Podcast partners: Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University (http://www.issuelab.org/organizations/john_j_heldrich_center_for_workforce_development); Oregon Business Leadership Network (http://www.issuelab.org/organizations/oregon_business_leadership_network); Little City Foundation (<http://www.littlecity.org>).