

3/27/15

**To: Employment First stakeholders**

**From: Mike Maley, Statewide Employment First Coordinator**

**Re: Employment First: Updates on Success Stories**

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

When the Employment First team first started reporting on community job success stories for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities back in June 2014, we were happy to hear how many employees, businesses owners and providers were anxious to share their successes with us.

Since then, we have traveled the state to do stories about people who have found good jobs at minimum wage, or better, in the community.

Recently, we checked in with Liz Fox, executive director of [Alternative Work Concepts](#) in Eugene. Liz and her team helped us set up interviews for our first three success stories last summer: [Sam Branton](#), [Darci Harris](#) and [Vickie Anderson](#).

Liz said all three are still working successfully. Sam is looking to add an additional day of work at RideSource Lane Transit District. Vickie, who works 20 hours per week at Eugene Water & Electric Board, saves her paychecks to pursue her passion: traveling. In fact, Liz said Vickie just added New Zealand to her roster of travels, which also includes Hawaii and Spain.

We encourage everyone to share through your own network stories from your area. Below find a list of the stories, by region, that you can share and use to help promote community jobs. We will have additional stories from central Oregon and more from Portland coming in the next few months.

And if you know of someone with I/DD employed in the community who might make for a good future story, please email us at: [employment.first@state.or.us](mailto:employment.first@state.or.us). We can't always make it out to do stories and photos about every single success, but we encourage you to share your stories broadly.

Thank you all for your continued involvement, support, and advocacy for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon.

If you have comments or other questions, please email them to [employment.first@state.or.us](mailto:employment.first@state.or.us).

**Eastern Oregon (Pendleton, Elgin, Hermiston)**

[Devon](#), St. Anthony's Hospital

[Mandi](#), Mayfield Elementary School

[Jerry](#), Wildhorse Resort & Casino

[Vivian](#), Desert Lanes Family Fun Center

**Southern Oregon (Medford, Ashland, Roseburg)**

[Natascha](#), YMCA of Douglas County

[Jeff](#), Ray's Food Place

[Matt and Brad](#), Butler Automotive

**Eugene**

[Vickie](#), Eugene Water & Electric Board

[Darci](#), Lane County Developmental Disabilities Office

[Sam](#), Ridesource Lane Transit District

**Portland metro area**

[Donald](#), Safeway

[Miles](#), Mad Greek Deli

[Bonnie](#), LexiDog

[Wayne](#), YMCA Camp Collins (provider submitted story)