



## It's Never Too Early to Prepare: A Discussion of Pathways to Workforce Readiness and Employment

*A disability policy event with the National Down Syndrome Congress  
& American University Washington College of Law*

**November 4, 2019**

5:30-6:15 PM      Opening Reception  
Roundtable sharing sessions from self-advocates

Christopher Bennett  
Megan Jones  
Sophia Pineda

Lauren Devard  
Patrick Jones  
Erin Thompson

6:15-6:30 PM      Welcome Remarks

David Tolleson, Executive Director, National Down Syndrome Congress  
Robert Dinerstein, Professor of Law and Director, Disability Rights Law Clinic, American  
University Washington College of Law

6:30-7:15 PM      **Panel 1:**

*Educational policies that successfully prepare students for transition to competitive integrated employment. The conversation will highlight key policies from early childhood through postsecondary education that support high academic success, balanced with practical skill development, therefore increasing opportunities real jobs with real pay in the community.*

**Moderator:** Professor Adrian Alvarez, Practitioner-in-Residence, Disability Rights Law Clinic, American University Washington College of Law

**Panelists:**

Stephanie Smith Lee, NDSC Senior Policy Advisor and Former Director of the US Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs

Ricki Sabia, JD, NDSC Senior Education Policy Advisor

Madeleine Will, Founder and President of the Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination and Former Assistant Secretary of Education

7:15-8:00 PM **Panel 2:**

*The state of employment policy impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and future policy change. Highlighted topics will include: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and capacity building for competitive integrated employment.*

**Moderator:** Professor Robert Dinerstein, Professor of Law and Director, Disability Rights Law Clinic, American University Washington College of Law

**Panelists:**

Alison Barkoff, JD, Director of Advocacy, Center for Public Representation

Heather Sachs, JD, NDSC Policy & Advocacy Director

Eli Lewis, Self-Advocate, Supply Clerk for NIH Clinical Center

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Mitch and Julie Rothholz  
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Michael Orleans  
NFP

