

## **STRIDE Mentoring Project for Young Adults with Disabilities: How Mentoring Aids in Successful Employment**

**Presenters:** Robin Brandt (Lead Presenter); Chris Ako

**Intended Audience:** Persons with disabilities, Service Providers, Family members of persons with disabilities, Government agency staff who may be responsible for employment outcomes for persons with disabilities, Advocates for persons with disabilities

### **Session Description**

STRIDE Mentoring Project has been in existence for three years. It is one of nine federally funded projects by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration across the nation. The project matches mentors, often individuals with disabilities, with transition-age youth and young adults with disabilities who are the “mentees.”

This presentation will provide information on:

- Basic characteristics of a mentoring project that assure more positive results
- Recruitment of mentors and mentees
- Orientation activities
- Training to assure successful mentoring occurs
- Training to assist with skills that mentees need, particularly focused on skills that lead to seeking, gaining and maintaining employment
- Personal assistance to promote the goals of the project (employment, post-secondary education, and community inclusion for young adults with disabilities), and
- Personal stories of mentor and mentee successes will be shared to accent the value of these projects.

Additionally, STRIDE staff will engage the audience in examples of ...

- Successful ice breakers
- Fun training activities
- Games and training activities to build mentee and mentors skills

Finally, presenters will share a slide show of events that provides a glimpse into project activities.

The presentation will be supplemented with examples of newsletters, brochures, and ample opportunity for the audience to ask questions and comment.