

# A FUTURE THAT INCLUDES EMPLOYMENT:

A Workshop for Families



Families play a crucial role in the lives of youth and individuals with significant disabilities. They are often the first and most consistent influence a person with a disability will have. Families are responsible for supporting decisions and coordinating services and support, all while trying to cultivate and honor what their loved one wants for themselves.

For many families, their youth's transition to adulthood is an uncertain time. Where will they work? Where will they live? Will they have friends and be able to do things they enjoy? Families of youth with significant barriers to employment may not be able to envision employment in the community for their sons and daughters. They may get messages from professionals that sheltered work or day programs are the safest and only option. When this happens, you have families resistant to exploring competitive employment.

Many employment providers and vocational staff will cite families as a main barrier to employment success for people with disabilities. However, instead of vilifying families, it is more constructive to examine why families do what they do and come up with ways to establish relationships so employment can be an option. This session is intended to serve as an introduction to the topic of building partnerships between families and vocational supports.

## Employment = Equality of Opportunity

### What we are trying to do:

- Help families to see value in employment
- Help families see that work is possible
- Offer information and resources so families can make informed decisions

### What we are NOT trying to do:

- Take anything away from families and people with disabilities
- Put people at risk
- Push people into programs they don't want

An interactive presentation will be given by staff of Heritage Southwest ISD and young adults employed in the community, on August 17, 2021, from 1pm-4pm.

## FREE-VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

register please go to the following Survey Monkey Link: [Click Here](#)

If you need assistance filling this out, contact: [Carrolls5@michigan.gov](mailto:Carrolls5@michigan.gov)

Zoom links will be provided one week prior to the start of the event.

Registration deadline, August 1, 2021

Sponsored by DD Council & Heritage Southwest ISD

