



Business Leadership Network Forming Chapter in Wabash Valley

Employers in the Wabash Valley who are seeking qualified persons for employment will receive a helpful boost in their efforts with the establishment of the Business Leadership Network-Wabash Valley. The BLN-Wabash Valley will help local employers become aware of the untapped labor force and variety of benefits involved in hiring persons with disabilities.



Business Leadership Network. What is it?

Established in the United States Business Leadership Network, the USBLN is the national organization that supports development and expansion of its BLN chapters across the country, serving as their collective voice. It is the only national disability organization led by business—for business.

Why is a Business Leadership Network important for Indiana?

Many employers have difficulty keeping a full workforce. There are over 270,000 working age people with disabilities in Indiana and only 1/3 are employed. They want to work and reduce their reliance on state and federal subsidies. Studies have shown what many employers in Indiana already know, that people with disabilities make excellent employees. Bloomington and Indianapolis already have BLN's thriving.

How does this relate to the Wabash Valley?

The formation of the BLN-Wabash Valley will become an important economic and workforce development tool to help our employers to:

- *Help businesses expand their diversity recruiting efforts to include individuals with disabilities not as a social model but as a business case to recruit talent and better serve their customers.*
- *Provide employer with a pool of potential employees and disability employment information.*
- *Increase employment opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities.*

BLN successes serve the workplace, the marketplace, the community and economy.

**BUILDING THE NEW WORKFORCE:
INCLUSION & INNOVATION**

The USBLN Vision is that every employer recognizes and benefits from the best practice of including people with disabilities in their workforce and marketplace. The BLN-Wabash Valley is endeavoring to bring this message to the local area.

The BLN-Wabash Valley is not...

A government program requiring a "quota" system. Joining the BLN does not mean your business agrees to hire a certain number of persons with disabilities.

Would you like more information on the BLN-Wabash Valley?

Learn more about the national program at www.usbln.org. Participate in BLN-Wabash Valley by contacting Mary Ann Clark at mclark@hamiltoncenter.org or (812) 231-8355.

