



15th Annual U.S. Conference on disABILITY

Applying Innovative Solutions using WIOA as a Catalyst for Change

Presented by: The University of Scranton, J.A. Panuska College of Professional
Studies and

The Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment

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| 7:45 - 8:30 a.m. | Registration and Continental Breakfast |
| 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. | Opening Remarks
<i>Kevin P. Quinn, S.J.</i> , President, The University of Scranton
<i>Debra A. Pellegrino, Ed.D.</i> , Dean, The Panuska College of Professional
Studies
<i>Edward R. and Patricia Leahy</i> , Honorary Conference Chairs |
| 8:45 – 9:30 a.m. | Opening Keynote “ VR Works! ”
<i>Everett Deibler</i> , Transition Program Manager, Lehigh Valley Center for
Independent Living

Everett Deibler will share his experiences with transition, advocacy, and
leadership from both personal and professional lenses. |
| 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. | “ Rehabilitation Legislative Update ” – Workforce Innovation
Opportunities Act -WIOA
<i>Patricia Leahy</i> , Director of Government Affairs, National Rehabilitation
Association

This session will provide an overview of current national public policy
and legislation related to employment of individuals with disabilities.
Upcoming and current legislative changes affecting both employers,
providers, and individuals with disabilities will be discussed. |
| 10:15 – 10:30 a.m. | Networking Break |

- 10:30- 11:45 a.m. Morning Keynote **“The NET: VR as a Change Agent in WIOA”**
Kathleen West-Evans, MPA, CRC, Director of Business Relations,
 Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, National
 Employment Team
- The Rehabilitation Act was amended by WIOA this year and the
 NET/CSAVR lead the change in VR’s role in business relations. This
 session will cover the changes in legislation and the impact it is and will
 have on the VR program nationally. The key question to VR is how the
 system prepares staff and operationalizes a dual customer environment
 where business is a customer. What does that mean to VR staff – what are
 the skill sets and do we prepare staff to work in this new environment?
- 11:45 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch & Networking
- 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Afternoon Keynote **“Let Me Tell You About My Heroes!”**
Nelson Lauver, award-winning author, nationally syndicated broadcaster,
 human rights advocate.
- Nelson Lauver will share with the audience his experiences living with a
 disability and how it affected his education and opportunities for
 employment. He will describe what was the turning point for him and
 what was helpful in finding ways to utilize his strengths and overcome his
 barriers to success.
- 2:00 - 2:15 p.m. Networking Break
- 2:15 - 3:30 p.m. **“WIOA Partners Panel”**
- Moderated by **Lori Bruch**, Chair, Department of Counseling and Human
 Services,
The University of Scranton
- Denise Verchimak**, Director, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
 Services, PA Department of Labor & Industry, Office of Vocational
 Rehabilitation
- Patricia Hozella**, Director of the Bureau of Special Education, PA Dept of
 Education
- Michael White**, Supervisor, Policy Coordination, Bureau of
 Workforce Development Administration, PA Department of Labor &
 Industry
- Amanda Harrison**, Division of Adult Education, PA Dept of Education

Shawn Lynn, Northeast Regional Employment Representative, Office of Developmental Programs, Department of Human Services

This panel of Pennsylvania government representatives will respond to questions from the moderator based on WIOA, providing information about changes to services and new programming. An opportunity will be available for audience participation.

3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

A Strategic Working Session

“Identifying the Opportunities and Challenges by Region”

Participants will gather in groups based on geographical regions to further brainstorm opportunities and identify gaps in services based on information collected throughout the day.

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Evening Keynote Presentation – Open to the Community

Nelson Lauver
Evening Keynote Speaker
Open to the community
4:30-6:00 pm



For nearly two decades Nelson (simply by being himself) has inspired audiences from every walk of life in the US and over 100 countries, not only as a speaker, but as a nationally syndicated broadcaster, social entrepreneur, human rights advocate, award winning author, and businessperson.

To meet Nelson today, it's hard to imagine that until age 29, he was functionally illiterate as a result of undiagnosed dyslexia. But it is his personal story, his very real struggles, his experiences, failures, and achievements that have made Nelson who he is today and form the basis of his capacity to move audiences.

Lauver is a regular guy who just happens to be a master communicator and strategic storyteller. He has the unparalleled ability to inspire people, connect with them through their hearts, make them laugh, and challenge their perceptions about themselves and others.

2011 marked the release of Nelson's memoir, *Most UnLikely to Succeed* – an award winning and inspirational story of hope and determination against seemingly insurmountable odds. In 2013, taking his advocacy work to the next level, he and his wife created the Jane and Nelson Lauver Foundation, with the tagline: Promoting Literacy and Learning for All. Active in literacy, ESL, learning disability, and invisible disability projects, the Lauver Foundation supports his AST stories, transcripts and learning aids.