

## Metro Milwaukee SHRM and iCare Partnership Creating Opportunities for Students with Disabilities

Metro Milwaukee SHRM and iCare have entered into a partnership agreement with a goal of placing MPS students with disabilities into jobs with MM SHRM member companies.

For our part, Metro Milwaukee SHRM is responsible for three things:

We will be promoting the program extensively – making members aware of the program and, more importantly, of the benefits of hiring not only these students, but people with disabilities.

We will be asking our members to look within their companies for opportunities to include MPS students in your hiring. We will be looking for employers who are willing to “pledge” jobs to the program and to work with iCare to identify the individual (s) who can succeed in those jobs – matching opportunity with need.

We will provide volunteers. And we are pleased to announce that the following individuals have answered the call!

**Steve Dudkiewicz**, is a Relationship Manager at HNI Risk Services and enjoys helping his clients manage their risk and improve their benefit strategies. In doing so, his focus is on delivering value beyond insurance so that each organization he works with is positioned to improve profitability, reduce expense, and meet their goals. He was drawn to the MM SHRM/iCare Job Pledge project because every student makes a choice after school to take a path towards participation or a path towards the sidelines. The kids in this program have chosen to overcome their disabilities and be productive and he wants to do his part to help them find employment for those opportunities that exist within our community.

**Judy Hahn**, is an HR consultant providing a unique benefit program focused on helping companies reduce their healthcare costs, increase their employee productivity and morale, and offer the work/life balance that will retain their current talent and attract new talent. She is working on the MM- HRM/iCare project because she believes that a disability should not inhibit someone from being an integral part of the workforce and because these kids need as many advocates as possible. She finds satisfaction in bringing awareness of this need to the SHRM member companies and potentially placing these students in a position where they can show their talents. It is a real win-win situation for the company and the student and exciting for me to know that it may turn into a long term business relationship for them both.

**Jane Fischer** is a Human Resources Professional currently in transition. She is working on the MM SHRM/iCare Job Pledge Project to help disabled students make a successful transition to the work world. The students in the program work hard to develop their skills and want to work – all they need is the chance to do so. She looks forward to connecting with Metro Milwaukee SHRM members and hopefully opening up employment opportunities for the students in this program.

**Christopher Fuchs** is learning an organization development professional whose passion in life is helping individuals increase their personal effectiveness and organizations achieve their business goals. He is currently conducting a job search and has targeted service and manufacturing organizations of 500 hundred or more employees within an hour's drive of Northern Ozaukee County. He volunteered for the MM SHRM and iCare Job Pledge project because of his first-hand knowledge of the contributions that people with special needs can make to their own development, an organization's goals and society as a whole.

You may be hearing from one of these or some other volunteers who have expressed interest and will be starting soon.

