

news & updates

CenterForDisabilityInclusion.org

Partnering for Workplace Solutions



Nov 2023-Jan 2024

*CDI News & Updates is sent quarterly. [Follow us on LinkedIn](#)
Stay informed and connected about events and announcements.*

announcing our new CEO

I am pleased to announce that **Meaghan Walls** has been selected as the Center for Disability Inclusion's next Chief Executive Officer and will start in this new role on December 23, 2023.

Darla Wilkerson is retiring in December after serving CDI for nine years including five years in the CEO role. Darla made a significant impact in helping develop CDI's vision, direction and overall success of the organization.



In the remaining weeks of 2023, she will work with Meaghan and the CDI team to ensure a smooth and successful leadership transition. Darla's leadership and contributions to CDI are countless and she will be missed.

Meaghan joined CDI two years ago as the Director of Business Relations in our Nebraska market. The CDI Board of Directors are excited about the skills and experiences she will bring to the CEO role. Meaghan has over 17 years of professional experience with disability services, accessibility and disability inclusion. She is an alumni of Saint Mary's College-Notre Dame and earned her Masters of Science from University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) in Bioengineering with an emphasis on rehabilitation and assistive technology.

Please join me in welcoming [Meaghan Walls](#) as our next Chief Executive Officer.

Kathy Cooper, CDI Board President

annual awards event (hybrid)

2023 AWARDS EVENT KEYNOTE & LUNCHEON

Recognition of CDI Partners receiving the
2023 Seal of Accomplishment
Leader in Disability Inclusion Award.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
GHADEER GARCIA

Co-Founder
Ally Lab



AWARD PRESENTATION:
**CDI PARTNERS
EARNING THE
2023 SEAL**

Register by November 21



www.CenterforDisabilityInclusion.org/Events

Event Host

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS CITY

**FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 1**

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON
11:00 AM - 1:30 PM
CENTRAL

In-Person at
Federal Reserve Bank Kansas City

Image of event flyer for 2023 Annual Awards Event for Seal of Accomplishment on December 1.
Learn more at <https://www.centerfordisabilityinclusion.org/annual-awards-event.html>

Register by November 21 for our [Annual Awards Event](#) with keynote presentation "**The Power of Allyship: Building Stronger, Inclusive Communities**" and recognition of 2023 Seal of Accomplishment Leader in Disability Inclusion Award recipients. Attendees with Partner companies receive free registration(s) and guests are welcome. [Register HERE](#). To learn about including the Leader in Disability Inclusion Process in your 2024 efforts, [Contact Us](#).

virtual programs

Disability Inclusion Network Meetings. These peer to peer Network sessions build relationships through interactive learning and conversations that elevate awareness and improve the hiring process and workplace for people with disabilities. [View Schedule](#)



Webinar - November 16 at 11:00 CST: "Leveraging Intersectionality of Veterans with Disabilities in the Workplace"

Moderated panel discussion will explore utilizing **SkillBridge** to leverage talent and intersectionality of veterans with disabilities in the workplace. [Info and Register](#)



CDI impact by the numbers

The past two months, CDI has had significant impact with the 2023 Inclusion Summit in September and National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in October.



2023 Inclusion Summit Recap

- 296 - Attendees
- 142 - Companies
- 24 - States
- 19 - Sponsors
- 11 - Speakers
- 2 - Countries
- 1 - Amazing DEIA Conference

Planning has already started for the 2024 Inclusion Summit. More info coming soon!

2023 NDEAM Recap

- 16 separate trainings completed by CDI team to elevate awareness of disability inclusion in the workplace.
- "Workplace Practices" - 9
- "Disability Awareness" - 2
- "Disability Awareness for Persons with Disabilities" - 1
- "Disability Awareness for College Students" - 1
- "Neurodiversity in the Workplace" - 1
- "Reducing Stigma of Mental Illness" - 1
- "Event Accessibility" - 1

new online job board coming soon

As we continue serving business partners in all aspects of their disability inclusion efforts, we are close to launching a new online job board that will simplify how businesses and candidates with disabilities connect. **Available to CDI Partners at Silver and above**, for enterprise-wide use at no additional cost.

Not a Partner? Check out your [OPTIONS](#) and [contact us](#) for an exploratory conversation.

resources to support your efforts

Disability-Related Events to acknowledge and celebrate in your organization. Check out our extensive library of [Resources](#) when you need answers quickly.

- **Nov** - Natl Diabetes Awareness Month, Epilepsy Awareness Month
- **Dec** - International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Dec 3
- **Jan** - National Glaucoma Awareness Month

services to support your organization

CDI offers a variety of services to help organizations advance their efforts.

We hope you'll consider CDI in your 2024 budget and planning:

- Virtual and onsite [Training](#) on a variety of topics
- Fee-based [Consultation](#) around specific efforts/initiatives
- Tiered [Partnership](#) options for business and community agencies

thank you to our partners!

New



Renewing

- Angel Guardians
- Beacon Mental Health
- Black & Veatch
- Children's Mercy KC
- Children's Nebraska
- Cosentino's Food Stores
- EEO Consulting
- Garmin
- GEHA
- Heartland Workforce Solutions
- Johnson County Community College
- Kansas City Natl Security Campus (Honeywell)
- Kansas City VA Medical Center
- Mutual of Omaha
- Rehabilitation Services for the Blind
- USDA-NIFA

80+ brands across the US in partnership

Over 80 brands in Partnership



Platinum

labcorp ORACLE Oracle Center UMB PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING GROUP MAGNA *Magna LMV Automotive Systems and Magna Electric Vehicle Structures nebraska total care NAIC NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS

Gold

ENTERPRISE BANK & TRUST Children's Mercy KANSAS CITY Commerce Bank Dairy Farmers of America DFA Hallmark Kansas City BLACK & VEATCH Children's NEBRASKA CVS Health.

Community

Madonna School & Community Based Services alphaPointe WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP (WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS) KANSASWORKS VR MISSOURI VETERAN READINESS & EMPLOYMENT ABILITY.kc KCVA DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES THE TRANSITION ACADEMY BEACON ANGEL GUARDIANS INC Missouri Department of SOCIAL SERVICES itas VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs WESTLAND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS DOWN SYNDROME INNOVATIONS Truman VA

Silver

GREAT SOUTHERN BANK GEHA. AMERISTAR CASINO • HOTEL BURNS MEDONNELL. AXIS H&R BLOCK jack henry LOCKTON ONE Gas WSIA DIVERSITY FOUNDATION USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Mutual of Omaha Northern Natural Gas NSC National Security Campus PEAK PERFORMERS Staffing & Recruiting CMF Council of Michigan Foundations

Bronze

CROSSFIRST BANK McCOWN GORDON universityhealth KANSASWORKS ALLIED ONESOURCE JEDUM unity St Luke's Community America DMK

Strategic

SPRINGBOARD UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS GRANTHAM NAAAP FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS CITY Disability-IN DC Metro TEAM KC JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE Disability-IN Minnesota Disability-IN Chicagoland Disability-IN Wisconsin KC MEMBER OMAHA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LGBT MID-AMERICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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