

LARRY ROBBIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ROBBIN AND ASSOCIATES
DISABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT BIOGRAPHY

Larry Robbin, Executive Director of Robbin and Associates, has over forty-five years of experience as a direct service provider, program manager, program developer, evaluator, trainer, keynote speaker and consultant in the disability employment field. Larry is widely regarded as a national expert on the topic of improving employment and career opportunities for youth and adults with all types of disabilities. His services have been used by over 1000 organizations including government agencies, private sector businesses, independent living programs, non-profits, schools, one-stops, training providers, transition programs and many other types of organizations. Larry has trained more than 100,000 people in workshops held in every state and presented at over 500 national, regional and local conferences.

Some of the organizations that serve people with disabilities that have used his services include the Office of Disability Employment Policy, California Department of Rehabilitation, Center for Independent Living, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Goodwill Industries and Stepping Stones for People with Developmental Disabilities. Other clients include ARC, Jewish Vocational Services, Jobs For Homeless Consortium, Sensory Access Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Fremont School for the Deaf, Momentum Mental Health Services, A Better Chance School for Youth with Autism and Work Transition Services for Youth.

His services have also been used by Oregon Rehabilitation Action Network, Chicago Mayor's Office of People With Disabilities, Indiana Supported Employment Consulting and Training, San Francisco Vocational Services, Community Vocational Enterprises, Marriott Bridges From School to Work, Bay Area Coalition For People With Disabilities, Alameda County Vocational Services, Traumatic Brain Injury Support Center, Community Gatepath and many other organizations.

Larry has been a keynote speaker at many disability conferences including events sponsored by Apple Computer and Microsoft. Some of the other disability events that have used his keynote speaking services include the Colorado Think Big for Youth with Disabilities State Conference, Workability for Youth with

Disabilities Regional and State Conferences and the Milwaukee County Mental Health Conference. He has also been the featured speaker for the Supported Work Training Institute, National Rehabilitation Association National Conference, United Way Closing the Gap Conference, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Consumer and Staff Appreciation Day and many other events.

Larry has designed and played a key role in the development of over fifty innovative disability employment programs serving youth and adults with virtually every type of disability. His models are characterized by an emphasis on participant empowerment, cultural competency, inclusion of significant others, innovative counseling approaches and the creation of strong in-depth relationships with private sector businesses. This powerful combination of perspectives and features has made his programs leaders in the disability and employment field.

Larry was an early proponent of the supported work movement. His pioneering work with the Safeway Corporation and the Retail Clerks Union created a partnership that resulted in the Safeway Corporation hiring its first employee with developmental disabilities and the Retail Clerks Union getting its first member with this type of disability. This ground breaking work using a supported work model paved the way for hundreds of people with severe disabilities to get hired by the company. This model has been replicated with many companies across the country.

For seven years, Larry was the Director of Vocational Services at the Genesis Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Counseling Center, which served youth and adults with a wide variety of disabilities. He developed an innovative vocational counseling model that combined drug recovery treatment, mental health counseling, career planning, family involvement and cultural competency. The Business Advisory Board he created at this program opened the doors to many hires and innovative partnerships with the business community and business associations. It also helped many people with disabilities start their own businesses. The strong partnerships he created with educational institutions made it possible for many youth and adults with disabilities that had dropped out of school to finish their education. His comprehensive program design succeeded in tripling the clinic's employment and retention rates. It also resulted in the highest percentage of clients and consumers in the clinic's history pursuing advanced education and training that led them to success in a wide

variety of careers.

As a consultant to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, he designed the Sprite program for adults and youth with disabilities leaving the correctional system. The program had outstanding success with employment, education and retention outcomes and was used as a national model. As a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin School of Education he designed and taught in innovative community based high schools with strong business partnerships that transitioned many youth and young adults with disabilities to employment and higher education. He also led the successful university initiative to recruit more students and faculty with disabilities to the school with a special emphasis on recruiting homeless veterans with disabilities and people with developmental disabilities. Larry was a key consultant for the federal Office of Disability Employment Policy on Project Inclusion, which was designed to help improve the access of young people with severe disabilities to the one-stop system. His work as Director of Training for a Fortune 500 company also included many projects that increased the employment of people with disabilities.

Larry is a consultant and trainer for Community Gatepath. This is a ninety-year-old widely respected organization that serves people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Larry has provided staff training on client engagement and worked with management to improve staff hiring, onboarding and retention. He also helped Community Gatepath management develop a master strategy for working with businesses. Larry was also the primary consultant for the agency on the development of the Employer Toolkit. The link to the toolkit is <http://www.gatepath.org/employmenttoolkit>. This toolkit is being used by agencies serving people with development and intellectual disabilities to help them make the business case to employers for hiring people with these disabilities.

For over forty years, Larry has spent part of his time as a private sector business consultant working with small businesses as well as Fortune 500 companies. He works with businesses to improve their hiring practices, customer service and increase their profits. He has helped many private sector businesses improve their hiring, retention and advancement efforts with people with disabilities.

Larry's extensive work in the private sector gives his work a depth of understanding of private sector business practices that is not often found in

people working in the disability employment field. Because of this experience, his disability related consulting and training services enable organizations to be much more successful with getting more people hired for better jobs and developing mutually beneficial in-depth partnership relationships with private sector businesses. His model for going from placement to partnership with companies takes disability employment programs to new levels of relationships in the private sector.

Larry has received many awards and honors for his work. This includes an award from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for his consulting and training work with the Jobs for Homeless Consortium, which was one of the largest and most successful employment programs working with people with disabilities that were homeless. This program was used by HUD as a national model for successfully serving this population and Larry's work was recognized by HUD as a major factor in its success. He also received an award from Workability for his work with youth with disabilities. A former Mayor of San Francisco issued a proclamation in his honor recognizing his extensive employment related volunteer work on behalf of people in poverty with multiple barriers to employment including youth and adults with disabilities.

His work has received international recognition and Larry was one of the first Americans invited to visit China to discuss workforce development. On a personal note, Larry was born with several severe disabilities. He has also developed a number of severe disabilities during the course of his life. His wife and several of his children also have severe disabilities. For further information on his services contact larry@larryrobbin.com and go to www.LarryRobbin.com. On the website, you can sign up for Larry's free newsletter, check out the 200 articles in back issues of his newsletter, download the free consumer handouts and get valuable resources.