



# The US—Japan Business Leadership Institute on Youth Disability Employment WEBINAR SERIES

The Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston is partnering with the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (AC CJ) on a five-part webinar series featuring U.S.–Japan panels with business leaders, educators, and young professionals with disabilities. Each panel will focus on a different aspect of youth disability employment within a cross-cultural context. The project is funded by the U.S Embassy Tokyo and aims to promote shared understanding of practices and lessons learned.

## Webinar #1

**US (EST) Time:** 18 February 2021, 7–8:30pm  
**Japan Time:** 19 February 2021, 9–10:30am

### **How do we Access Employment? Japanese and American College Students and Young Professionals with Disabilities Share Barriers and Break-Throughs**

Panelists will discuss the types of barriers that they have faced as college students or professionals with disabilities and share how their experiences have shaped their lives and those of other individuals in their communities. Panelists will also share their thoughts about why such barriers exist (history of barriers) and illustrate how they overcame them (ways to move forward). The goal of this panel is to demonstrate that the problematic aspects of disability employment cannot be fixed by adjusting hiring procedure alone. To enable youth with disabilities to pursue employment, we must resolve barriers in adjacent social spheres (i.e. in education and built environment).

**Subsequent webinars in this series are planned for May, June, August, & November 2021.**

The webinars are free and open to public. Registration is required.

We will provide the following accommodations for each webinar:

- English and Japanese interpretation
- English and Japanese Live captions (CART)
- American sign language and Japanese sign language

Please contact us if you need additional accessibility accommodations to fully participate in this webinar series.

#### **For more information:**

**Dr. Heike Boeltzig-Brown**  
Project Director  
[heike.boeltzig-brown@umb.edu](mailto:heike.boeltzig-brown@umb.edu)

**Miwa Tanabe**  
Project Coordinator  
[miwa.tanabe@umb.edu](mailto:miwa.tanabe@umb.edu)

#### **Register:**

[https://communityinclusion.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_nrOJsIsfSF-9yexfXYKZdg](https://communityinclusion.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nrOJsIsfSF-9yexfXYKZdg)

The project is funded by the U.S. Embassy Tokyo.



Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston



# The US—Japan Business Leadership Institute on Youth Disability Employment WEBINAR SERIES

The Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston is partnering with the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) on a five-part webinar series featuring U.S.–Japan panels with business leaders, educators, and young professionals with disabilities. Each panel will focus on a different aspect of youth disability employment within a cross-cultural context. The project is funded by the U.S Embassy Tokyo and aims to promote shared understanding of practices and lessons learned.

**How do we Access Employment? Japanese and American College Students and Young Professionals with Disabilities Share Barriers and Break-Throughs**  
*Date: February 2021*

**Education to Employment: How do Students with Disabilities Navigate Access Barriers and Accommodations in Higher Education?**  
*Date: May 2021*

**Education at Work: How can Experiential Learning Programs Help Students with Disabilities Prepare for Employment?**  
*Date: June 2021*

**Inclusion at Work: What are some Benefits of Inclusive Workplaces for People with Disabilities, Employers, and Communities?**  
*Date: August 2021*

**The Future of Youth Disability Employment**  
*Date: November 2021*

The webinars are free and open to public. Registration is required.

We will provide the following accommodations for each webinar:

- English and Japanese interpretation
- English and Japanese Live captions (CART)
- American sign language and Japanese sign language

Please contact us if you need additional accessibility accommodations to fully participate in this webinar series.

**For more information:**

**Dr. Heike Boeltzig-Brown**

Project Director

[heike.boeltzig-brown@umb.edu](mailto:heike.boeltzig-brown@umb.edu)

**Miwa Tanabe**

Project Coordinator

[miwa.tanabe@umb.edu](mailto:miwa.tanabe@umb.edu)

The project is funded by the U.S. Embassy Tokyo.



Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston



# The US—Japan Business Leadership Institute on Youth Disability Employment

## PRESENTING A 5-PART WEBINAR SERIES

The Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston is partnering with the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) on a five-part webinar series featuring U.S.–Japan panels with business leaders, educators, and young professionals with disabilities. Each panel will focus on a different aspect of youth disability employment within a cross-cultural context. The project is funded by the U.S Embassy Tokyo and aims to promote shared understanding of practices and lessons learned.

### **How do we Access Employment? Japanese and American College Students and Young Professionals with Disabilities Share Barriers and Break-Throughs**

***Date: February 2021***

Panelists will discuss the types of barriers that they have faced as college students or professionals with disabilities and share how their experiences have shaped their lives and those of other individuals in their communities. Panelists will also share their thoughts about why such barriers exist (history of barriers) and illustrate how they overcame them (ways to move forward). The goal of this panel is to demonstrate that the problematic aspects of disability employment cannot be fixed by adjusting hiring procedure alone. To enable youth with disabilities to pursue employment, we must resolve barriers in adjacent social spheres (i.e. in education and built environment).

### **Education to Employment: How do Students with Disabilities Navigate Access Barriers and Accommodations in Higher Education?**

***Date: May 2021***

The panel will focus on one of the ‘first steps’ to achieving employment of youth with disabilities: eliminating systemic barriers to higher education. Panelists will discuss how students with disabilities are not only affected by lack of accommodations during entrance exams and in classroom settings, but also by limited access to housing, transportation, and other community services necessary for independent living and thriving in academic spaces. The panel discussion will highlight cross-national (US–Japan) differences in approaches to accommodation in higher education and reveal how ‘access-makers’ in both countries can learn from one another to facilitate inclusion. The role of government in supporting the transition of young people with disabilities from higher education to employment will also be addressed.

The project is funded by the U.S. Embassy Tokyo.



Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston

## **Education at Work: How can Experiential Learning Programs Help Students with Disabilities Prepare for Employment?**

***Date: June 2021***

The panel will investigate what is necessary for internship and experiential learning programs to effectively prepare college students with disabilities for employment with an emphasis on practical and professional training. Panelists will discuss cultural differences (US-Japan) around the concept of internship, as well as barriers to entry for college students with disabilities. After hearing testimonials from college students with disabilities, panelists will discuss the roles of academic administrators and businesses in making sure that experiential learning programs are accessible for diverse students.

## **Inclusion at Work: What are some Benefits of Inclusive Workplaces for People with Disabilities, Employers, and Communities?**

***Date: August 2021***

The panel will unpack the business benefits of hiring people with disabilities and investigate how to cultivate a diverse and inclusive workplace culture. Panelists will discuss ways that accessible, diverse, and inclusive workplaces not only empower persons with disabilities to pursue employment but also create meaningful and lasting changes that benefit all community members. Examples from both American and Japanese companies will be highlighted. The session will also give young Japanese professionals with disabilities an opportunity to share their experiences of barriers in workplace settings and discuss how navigating such barriers has affected their everyday activities.

## **The Future of Youth Disability Employment**

***Date: November 2021***

The panel will explore how recent social, political, and legal developments such as the promulgation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2014 and the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic are shaping the future of youth disability employment in the US and Japan. After panelists outline the historical factors that are affecting the job market in both countries, recipients of mini-grants will share their experiences of crafting and implementing projects to improve youth disability employment during the pandemic, including challenges, successes, and lessons learned.

The webinars are free and open to public. Registration is required.

We will provide the following accommodations for each webinar:

- English and Japanese interpretation
- English and Japanese Live captions (CART)
- American sign language and Japanese sign language

Please contact us if you need additional accessibility accommodations to fully participate in this webinar series.

### **For more information:**

**Dr. Heike Boeltzig-Brown**

Project Director

[heike.boeltzig-brown@umb.edu](mailto:heike.boeltzig-brown@umb.edu)

**Miwa Tanabe**

Project Coordinator

[miwa.tanabe@umb.edu](mailto:miwa.tanabe@umb.edu)