

# **A Better Bottom Line: Employing People with Disabilities**

*NGA Chair's Initiative 2012-13  
Delaware Governor Jack Markell*

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Presentation for UCEDD Leaders Network

March 2013





**A Better  
Bottom  
Line:**

**EMPLOYING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

National Governors Association

# What are we doing?

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*Work to date: Sessions with Governors at the NGA Winter Meeting; Two experts roundtables; Over 50 meetings with subject matter experts July 2012-present.*

# What are we learning?

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- I. Integrate disability employment within mainstream
- II. Raise expectations for persons with disabilities
- III. Share responsibility for moving the needle

# What are states doing now?

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## NGA Framework to Governors:

### Making this part of the state workforce strategy

- Employment First
- States as Leaders and Model Employers

### Early Intervention and High Expectations

- Youth transition and culture change

### Ending 'train and pray' by securing employer partners

- Pathways to Employment initiative in Minnesota
- ConnectAbility

# Where are we going?

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*Upcoming events: Two State Policy Institutes and a Blueprint to Governors to be released at the Annual Meeting, capturing what we've learned and outlining a framework for action going forward.*

# How can UCEDDs support this work?

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- Use the UCEDDs' connections to students to set high expectations for individuals with disabilities
- Take on a leadership role and set goals for moving people with disabilities into employment
- Engage employers to promote awareness about the skills and abilities of people with disabilities
- Consider each state's policy framework and align your efforts to the maximum extent possible

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