



*SELN-DADS Employment Innovations*  
**Improve Your Navigation Skills, Part II:  
Relationships and Networking**

## **DADS Webinar Invitation**

Navigating from “traditional day services” to meaningful employment in the general workforce for Texans with developmental disabilities can be daunting. This is the second in a series of webinars to explore why employment is a priority in supporting adults with developmental disabilities to have meaningful lives and how the current day support system can move forward in increasing employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities in Texas. Our focus will be the importance of parent/family involvement and how networking can be used to improve job prospects, expand opportunities and better connect with the community.

**Participants will learn:**

- The importance of parent and family involvement in the employment process
- What networking means for professional staff and individual job seekers
- Using community connections effectively

**Date:** 11/5/09

**Time:** 10 am CT/ 11 am ET

**Length:** 60 minutes (to include time for Q/A)

**Target Audience:**

Any staff involved with individual service plan development, day and employment services (including: administrators, day program staff, job coaches, employment direct support staff, and case managers)

**Presenter:**

*Suzanne Freeze*, Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI)/ UMass Boston

Suzanne is the ICI’s coordinator for the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN). She is also staff to a new national service project and assists with media /public relations efforts in the New England area. Prior to joining the ICI, Suzanne worked for over 13 years in a variety of roles at the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Suzanne and her family have had a lifelong connection to the developmental disability field and she uses that experience in positive ways on a day to day basis in her work.

*Cindy Thomas*, Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI)/ UMass Boston

Cindy Thomas is the coordinator of employment services, training, and technical assistance at ICI, and project director for a number of Massachusetts-based federal grants. She has over 25 years of experience providing employment services including extensive experience working with the vocational rehabilitation system, the workforce development system, and community rehabilitation providers on strategies to improve employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

- Registration for this webinar is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration will be closed when all of the spaces are filled.
- To register click on this link: <http://www.tacene.org/?q=node/51&page=event&id=595>
- Organizations and groups are requested to host an onsite gathering for staff to attend together – this will allow more individuals access to the event and encourages group discussion on the topic.
- Technical details, links and reminders will be sent only to registered participants – at a minimum users will need an Internet connection and a landline phone.



State Employment Leadership Network