

Collaboration is Key

Collaboration is key, particularly when it comes to reversing the unemployment rate of Americans with disabilities which is why RecruitDisability is pleased to collaborate with nonprofit providers like Starkloff nationwide. Headquartered in St. Louis, MO, The Starkloff Disability Institute's *Next Big Step* program knows just that and has partnered with several "Role Model Companies" in Missouri to help prepare people with disabilities for the interview and job search process.

Starkloff's Co-Director David Newburger states, "We help people solve behavioral interview questions – this type of interview is completely novel to our candidates. Our business volunteers are a big help in this arena."

People with disabilities remain the largest group of unemployed Americans and yet only thirty-two of Fortune 100 companies mention disability as a diversity measure. "When [people apply over the internet], recruiters have no idea if someone has a disability," says Newburger. "[Through our program], we let the corporations' HR staff know that this person has put in an application -- this new need to report and track the applicant pool is one of many reasons we recommend using the RecruitDisability.org job board."

Starkloff's *Next Big Step* program has many successful components, says Susan Menhard, its Director. In particular, she reports that their 15-week "Class Of" program has 42 graduates with an 88% placement rate to date.

Janet Fiore, President of The Sierra Group Foundation's Academy and RecruitDisability.org, applauds the efforts of The Starkloff Disability Institute. "It's refreshing to see similar and successful components to our bricks and mortar Sierra Group Academy training school, including their presence in our national job board," says Janet Fiore. This is truly ONE MORE WAY that like-minded organizations are collaborating to "Drive up employment" for Americans with disabilities.