ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION/THESIS/RESEARCH PAPER/CREATIVE PROJECT: Changing Attitudes and Policy: Expanding Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities

STUDENT: Michelle O’Keefe

DEGREE: Master of Arts

COLLEGE: Sciences and Humanities

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This paper provides a detailed look at the issue of employment for people with disabilities in America. The research suggests that while some progress has been made in legislating equal opportunities since the disability movement began, people with disabilities continue to experience disproportionate poverty and unemployment due to negative public perceptions and stereotypes combined with lingering barriers to education and high paying jobs. People with disabilities are underrepresented in science, engineering, and technology professions, and are not encouraged to pursue such fields as students. Flaws in current public policy prevent people with disabilities from being able to seek employment without fear of losing certain life-sustaining benefits. Replicable mentoring programs and partnerships with government agencies have demonstrated success in decreasing discrimination and improving access to employment and economic security for people with disabilities.