

**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISABILITY AND
REHABILITATION RESEARCH**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SOCIAL INSURANCE

PRESENT A WORKSHOP ON

**PATHWAYS TO ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES: SOCIAL INSURANCE, ASSET DEVELOPMENT
AND
SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT-- TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO
POLICY AND PRACTICE**

Wednesday October 15th 2008

The workshop convened at 9:00 a.m. in the Equality Center at the offices of the Human Rights Campaign, 1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

AGENDA

9:00-9:10

Welcome and Introductions:

- **Virginia Reno, Moderator**, Vice President for Income Security, National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI)
- **Margaret Simms**, President, National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI)
- **Timothy Muzzio**, Director of the Division of Research Scientists at the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)

Welcome and Introductions

Ms Reno: Good morning, everyone. And thank you for being here.

I'm Virginia Reno, the Vice President for Income Security at the National Academy of Social Insurance, and I just want to give you a few logistics before we turn it over to our president for the real welcome.

First of all, this is the Equality Center. We're thrilled with this space. It's the first time we've used it.

We will have a break this morning that will be just 15 minutes, from 11:15 to 11:30, and we do plan to end promptly at 12:30. We have a very full program.

In your folders we have an agenda and bios for all of our speakers, so we will not be spending a lot of time this morning with long introductions.

Very important for us at the National Academy of Social Insurance is this green evaluation form. Please fill it out and turn it in to us, including questions on the back about future topics that would be of interest to you in this area.

So without further ado, I would like to introduce Margaret Simms, the President of the National Academy of Social Insurance.

Ms. Simms: Thank you, Gina. Good morning. I'm pleased to welcome you to today's workshop on *Pathways to Economic Security for People with Disabilities: Social Insurance, Asset Development and Supported Employment -- Translating Research into Policy and Action*.

We are pleased to present this event in partnership with the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). The goal of this workshop is to draw new insights into how scholarly research findings can be translated into public policy. We are pleased to feature new results from NIDRR-sponsored research and from demonstration projects sponsored by the Social Security Administration. It's a pleasure to have both Federal agencies represented here today.

The National Academy of Social Insurance is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization of the nation's leading experts on social insurance. Our mission is to promote understanding of how social insurance contributes to economic security in a vibrant economy.

We have a long interest in disability policy. Our disability policy panel report, issued more than a decade ago, became the blueprint for new policies adopted in the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act of 1999.

That report remains timely, and its title still resonates -- *Balancing Security and Opportunity, the Challenge of Disability Income Policies*.

I want to thank NIDRR for its support of this event, and I'm pleased to welcome Timothy Muzzio, who is Director of the Division of Research Scientists at NIDRR, to say a few words.

Mr. Muzzio: Good morning. And welcome to everyone. NIDRR is very excited to be cosponsoring what promises to be a very engaging workshop. To put this in perspective, the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research, NIDRR, is part of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the U.S. Department of Education.

We are delighted to be cosponsoring this event in partnership with the National Academy of Social Insurance, and I want to personally thank the NASI staff. Margaret [Campbell of NIDRR] has been telling me about the hard work that has gone into developing this workshop, especially Pamela Larson, Virginia Reno, and Laurel Beedon, for providing the impetus for the workshop and all their hard work in making this happen.

I also want to thank our Margaret Campbell for her hard work in leading NIDRR's side of putting this workshop together.

NIDRR's mission is to generate new knowledge and promote its effective use to improve the abilities of individuals with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community, and to expand society's capacity to provide for full opportunities and accommodations for its citizens with disabilities.

In short, we try to generate quality new knowledge to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Our research focuses on three domains: health and function, community integration, and employment. In the last couple of years we have made a particular emphasis on our research in employment.

So, today's workshop topic, *Pathways to Economic Security for People with Disabilities* coincides very closely to the emphasis of our research efforts.

It gives us a wonderful opportunity to highlight some of the research and development activities that we have been investing in to further the goal of employment--especially in areas supported in asset accumulation and workplace accommodations.

This workshop also provides NIDRR with the unique opportunity to gain insight from other Federal agencies about the work they have been doing, and how the research that they are doing can be leveraged into larger studies to shape policy and practice in employment for people with disabilities.

In short, we look forward to this as a very engaging, informative, and lively exchange on a topic that is absolutely critical to reducing the employment and economic barriers of people with disabilities of all ages. We are pleased to cosponsor the event, and once again, we welcome all of you and thank you.