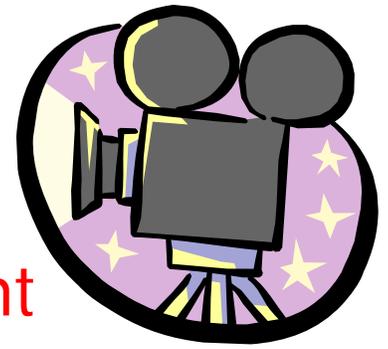


"Employment Idol"

Contest Announcement



In October of 2007, the first "Employment Idol" contest was held at the CT People First Self Advocacy Conference. This contest was held to showcase employment success stories of people with intellectual disabilities. Ten contestants were selected to be part of an "Employment Idol" video that was created through support provided by Connect-Ability a federal grant to the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS).

**The Employment Idol video was created to show that
people with disabilities
want to work,
are great employees,
and can contribute to the Connecticut work force
when given the opportunity.**

2007-2008 EMPLOYMENT IDOL WINNERS



Aaron Newton



Carlos Colon



Clayton Potter



Quentin Hughes



Pasquale Bernard



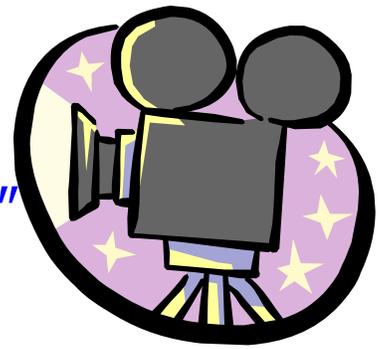
Jessica Clark

***Missing Winner Pictures: Joan Avery, John Case, Corey Hall, Jamie Lazeroff**

The video was so popular that Connect-Ability has agreed to support the development of a second "Employment Idol" video. DDS will use this second video to continue to promote the employment of people with intellectual disabilities in CT. The 2nd Annual Employment Idol contest will be accepting applications until November 14, 2008. Winners will be selected from the entries submitted. Winners will be notified by January 2, 2009 and will be guests at the People First Conference on April 18, 2009 where we will begin making the videotape. We encourage all people with intellectual disabilities who have overcome challenges to be employed and who currently work in a real job for real pay to submit a contest application.

**Read on for more information about the
2nd Annual Employment Idol Video Contest!**

2nd Annual “Employment Idol” VIDEO CONTEST



Do you have a great job that is real work for real pay?
Do you get raises, promotions, or benefits from your employer?
It is time to tell your employment success story!

This video will be used to share employment success stories
of people with intellectual disabilities living and working in CT.

10 people will be selected
to share their stories in the video.

Additional stories supplied by contestants
will be highlighted in DDS employment articles, newsletters, website, etc.

If you are interested, this is what you need to do to enter the 2nd Annual Employment Idol Video Contest.

Step 1: Complete the attached “Employment IDOL” contest application form.

Step 2: Submit your application by **November 14, 2008** to:

Beth Aura Miller
DDS
250 Freight Street
Waterbury, CT 06702
ATTN: Employment Idol
OR Email: bethaura.miller@ct.gov



Step 3: You will be contacted by January 2, 2009 if you are one of the 10 people chosen as an **Employment Idol Winner**.

The **Employment Idol Winners** will be guests at the People First Conference on April 18, 2009 and will be video taped at the People First Conference. **The 10 selected winners must attend this conference** Information will be sent to the **Employment Idol Winners** to assist in preparing their story for the video. (*Idol Winners will need to provide access to video taping at their job site by assisting in getting employer permission and photo releases.*)