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Site posts opportunities for disabled job-seekers

By Amy Winter

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A neurological disorder didn't stop Matt Lawrence from earning his college and graduate school degrees, but it did hinder his job opportunities. Lawrence was turned down for several positions over a two-year span.

"Once I got to the interview, it seemed they had a reason not to hire me," says Lawrence.

After working at a camp for disabled children, he decided he could be of service to the disabled community. Lawrence shared his vision for a job site dedicated to the disabled when he was interviewing with NetworkIP, a Dallas-based telecommunications company.

Pete Pattullo, CEO of NetworkIP, connected with Lawrence's idea and helped launch JobEnable.com.

"I am excited to help Matt achieve his dream," says Pattullo. "It is a better way to find jobs for disabled persons."

With JobEnable.com, disabled job-seekers have access to a variety of positions with different work skills, and they can register to create an online resume and search job openings. It is easy and free to job-seekers, according to Lawrence. Through e-mail, job agents will inform candidates of open positions that match their job board interests.

The site assists employers who want to be progressive in bringing more diversity to their workplace. After registering and paying a fee, companies can post job openings and have access to candidates' resumes.

Other sites focus on specific disabilities, but JobEnable.com targets a more general audience - positions for any disability in any market, according to Pattullo. And managers will be aware of the disability when the candidate arrives for an interview; it won't be a surprise.

Pattullo says those with disabilities are capable and just need a chance. NetworkIP hopes to reach out to more employers and job-seekers by enhancing the site's visibility, according to Karen Rynes, director of marketing for NetworkIP.

"Give them an opportunity to find a job and achieve their goals," says Pattullo.

For more information, visit www.jobenable.com.