



# Webinar Series

*United Spinal Association*

## **Your Pathway to Employment- Working with a Spinal Cord Injury**

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# Barbara L. Kornblau



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# Pathway to Employment Webinar Series

- **Returning to work or entering the workforce for the first time for people with spinal cord injuries.**
- **Looks at various laws, benefits, and programs that promote**
- **How to overcome barriers that people with spinal cord injuries may face on their pathway to employment.**
  - **Job leads and searches**
  - **Job interview**
  - **Job options**

# Polling Question

**What is the highest level of education you have received?**

- A. High school**
- B. Training in a trade or apprenticeship**
- C. Some college**
- D. College degree or above**

# Assumptions of the PTE Program

1. Work plays an important role in people's lives. People with spinal cord injuries want to work, can work, and do work.
2. When a spinal cord injury disrupts a person's worker role,.
3. Many programs and services are available to support return to work for people with spinal cord injury.
4. A person with a spinal cord injury who is successfully employed can often assist others by sharing their experiences and offering support.

# Our Life Roles

Roles	Description
Caregiver	Assisting other: Children other family members
Home maintainer	Household tasks: cooking, cleaning,
Friend	Interpersonal relationships
Family Member	Participant in relationships
Work/Employment	Worker
Student	Education or learner
Volunteer	Volunteer: i.e. in child's school
Hobbyist/Amateur	Recreation and Leisure activities
Participant in organizations	Community Life participation: member of community organizations
Religious Participant	Religion and spirituality involvement

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# The Worker Role

- The worker role is dependent on capabilities, habits and everyday routines, interest, and motivation.
- Following a spinal cord injury, people need to explore their capabilities and habits and everyday routines, and everyday interests and motivation to work.
- Capacity to work and interest and motivation may increase by learning more about programs that support return to work and learning more about the successful experience of others.
  - Fisher, G. (1999). Administration and application of the Worker Role Interview: looking beyond functional capacity. *Work*.12(1):13-24



# Polling Question

**What activities are you currently engaged in activities outside of your house?**

- A. Volunteer work (community organization, religious organization, other volunteer program, or helping a family member in a business, tutoring, etc)**
- B. Part-time employment**
- C. Full-time employment**
- D. I am not engaged in activities outside my home**

# Polling Question

**If you are not employed, what is the primary reason you are not employed?**

- A. Transportation**
- B. Personal Care Attendant issues**
- C. Government regulations**
- D. Can't find a job**

# Resources

- **10 Things Jobseekers Should Know in the Disability Connection Newsletter — January 2016**  
<https://www.disability.gov/disability-connection-newsletter-january-2016>
- **United Spinal Assn Spinal Cord Resource Center Employment Resources**
  - Federal Resources or NY, NJ.  
PA. <http://www.spinalcord.org/pathways-to-employment/>



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**Feel free to contact Barbara Kornblau with any questions you may have**

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