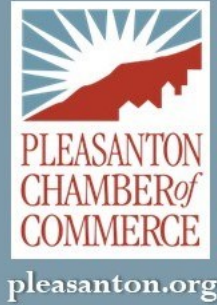


E-Business Connection



June 2024

Checking in with our Chair

One Huge Fan of “WorkAbility”

“Educate, Employ & Empower”-- that’s the motto! Think back to your teenage years and your very first job. Do you remember the feelings running through your body when you showed up for work on that first day? Excitement, nervousness, eagerness or maybe even a little self-doubt? We all had different past experiences in the workplace, but what we all have in common is that we had to start somewhere. Recall your first job and how an employer took a chance on you. How excited you felt and couldn’t wait to tell your family and friends. However, let’s not forget that we all needed that “someone” to give us an opportunity to work and prove ourselves. Now back to the present- wouldn’t it feel good if you could give a young person that opportunity?

Did you know that one in five young adults entering the workforce today will have some form of disability? In fact, I have a special needs sister who lives with me and my wife. She gets up every day at 7:00 a.m. to get herself ready for work. She only works 4 hours a day, but I know it is the most exciting part of her day. Her carpool picks her up every morning around 9:00 a.m. I realize how excited she is because she’s sitting by the front door every morning at 8:00 a.m. looking out the window for the van that won’t pick her up for another hour!

WorkAbility is an amazing program that helps 16- to 22-year-old’s with disabilities transition from high school special education and into

the workplace. They provide the pre-employment skills-training, the placement, and the follow up for a successful transition. Their staff trains and teaches these students the necessary job skills to ensure success.

I did not realize this, but WorkAbility has been around for over 30 years! The program has helped over 100,000 students with job placement within 300 school districts and over 9,000 employers in California. I really enjoy supporting the businesses in our community that employ people with disabilities. Living in the Pleasanton community has been a blessing for many reasons. If we all think about it: “How did we get here and what was our journey that led us to where we are today?” Well, someone took a chance on us and gave us our very first job. Maybe it was delivering newspapers, mowing lawns or washing dishes. Whatever it was, it gave us the opportunity to prove ourselves, to learn, to grow and to feel like a productive part of society. Wouldn’t it feel good to give a young person with a disability that opportunity?



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Please take just five minutes to watch this video by clicking on the link below. I promise it will make you smile and brighten your day!

<https://sites.google.com/pleasantonusd.net/pusdworkability/home?authuser=0>

We are the community that helps businesses start, grow, and thrive.