EmployAble Pilot Study

Participant Screening and Pre-Survey

EmployAble is a model Virtual Employment Orientation, Training, Resource and Support Center. It is funded by the Kessler Foundation and has been developed by the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawaii. EmployAble uses the virtual environment of Second Life as a platform. EmployAble facilitates employment skills training, networking, mentoring, and employment resources for both persons with disabilities and employers. For more information about EmployAble visit our website at www.cds.hawaii.edu/employable.

The EmployAble Pilot Study will ask a group of participants to provide information about how Employable impacts people with disabilities. Participants in the EmployAble Pilot Study will be able to explore the project site for three months, from June to August, 2013. Participants will be encouraged both to explore the site and use its tools.

Participation will involve completing three different surveys, training in Second Life if needed, participating in an online mentoring program, and utilizing EmployAble tools and resources.

It is anticipated that participants will spend approximately three hours per week on the project. There is no financial compensation for participation, but participants will potentially improve their ability to become employed or retain existing employment.

If you are interested in participating in the Pilot Study, please fill out the screening and pre-survey and submit online at www.cds.hawaii.edu/employable or email to employ@hawaii.edu. Please note that not everyone who fills out this survey will be accepted to participate in the pilot study. You will be notified no later than May 15, 2013 whether or not you have been chosen to participate. EmployAble will be available for review by individuals who are not pilot study participants after August, 2013.

If you have any questions about this survey please email the Project Director, Thomas Conway, at employ@hawaii.edu.

Criteria for Eligibility

1. Do you have a disability?
   _____yes _____no

2. Are you a citizen and/or resident of the United States?
   _____yes _____no

3. Are you aged 18 or over?
   _____yes _____no

4. Are you able to use a computer to navigate the internet, send emails, and use online social media?
   _____yes _____no
5. Do you have access to a computer, the internet, and any assistive technology that you may need to use a computer?
   ___yes ___no

6. Are you interested in improving your ability to find or retain a job using the Second Life multi-user virtual environment?
   ___yes ___no

7. Are you willing to participate in a pilot study as described in the introductory paragraph?
   ___yes ___no

If you answered “no” to any of the questions, please do not proceed. You do not meet the criteria for participation in the pilot study. Please contact the EmployAble Project at employ@hawaii.edu for information about other ways to participate in the project.

If you answered “yes” to ALL of the questions, please fill out a participant consent form and continue with the pre-survey.
Contact Information

Full Name___________________________________

Email______________________________________ Skype______________________

Phone___________________________ Second Life Avatar Name________________

What is the best time of day (please indicate time zone) and means of contacting you?
_____________________________________________________________________

Demographic Information

1. Please describe the nature of your disability (check all that apply).
   __Traumatic Brain Injury
   __Low Vision or Blind
   __Hard of Hearing or Deaf
   __Orthopedic Disability
   __Psychiatric Disability
   __Learning Disability
   __Intellectual Disability
   __Health Disability
   __Other (Please specify)_____________________.

2. Have you had a disability since birth?
   ___yes ___no

3. Are you a veteran of the armed forces?
   ___yes ___no

4. What is your gender?
   ___male ___female

5. What is your age range?
   ___18-25 ___25-40 ___40-55 ___over 55

6. Select your race or ethnicity (check all that apply).
   __White
   __Asian
   __African American or Black
   __Latino or Hispanic
   __Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
   __Alaska Native or American Indian

7. What is your geographic location?
   ___Eastern U.S.
Employment History and Skills

8. What is the highest degree of education that you have achieved?
   __some secondary ___secondary ___ associate or bachelors ___graduate

9. What was your primary area of study or training?
   __general
   __humanities
   __social sciences
   __science and mathematics
   __professional (education, health, law, business, etc.)
   __technology
   __trade or technical

10. How would you describe your skills using a computer?
    ___basic ___moderate ___advanced

11. What type of assistive technology do you use?
    ___screen reader
    ___screen enlargement
    ___voice recognition
    ___adapted or alternative keyboard or mouse
    ___other (please describe) ________________________________
    ___I don’t use assistive technology

12. How would you describe your skills using Second Life?
    ___no skills ___basic ___moderate ___advanced

13. Are you currently employed?
    ___yes ___no

14. Are you currently seeking employment?
    ___yes ___no
15. How many jobs have you had since the age of 18?
   __none __1-2 __2-5 __more than 5

16. How long have you been looking for a job?
   __0-6mo __6mo-2 yrs __2yrs-5yrs __more than 5yrs __na

17. How many applications for employment have you submitted during your current job search?
   __none __1-2 __2-5 __more than 5 __na

18. How many job interviews have you had during your current job search?
   __none __1-2 __2-5 __more than 5 __na

19. How many job offers have you had during your current job search?
   __none __1-2 __2-5 __more than 5 __na

20. How long have you been unemployed?
   __0-6mo __6mo-2 yrs __2yrs-5yrs __more than 5yrs __na

21. Do you have a resume?
   __yes __no

22. Is your resume posted online in a resume database, LinkedIn, or other social media outlet?
   __yes __no __na

23. How long have you been at your current job?
   __0-6mo __6mo-2 yrs __2yrs-5yrs __more than 5yrs __na

24. How did you find your current job?
   __online job posting
   __online social media
   __print job posting (i.e. newspaper/flier)
   __referral from friend or colleague
   __other (please describe)________________________.
25. How many hours per week do you work?

____0-10 ____10-20 ____20-30 ____30-40 ____na

26. Are you working in the field for which you were trained?

___yes ___no ___na

27. What kinds of technology have you used in your current or past job searches or interviews (check all that apply)?

___none
___websites
___online job boards
___virtual job fairs
___social media such as LinkedIn, Facebook
___MUVE technology such as Second Life
___Skype
___Web conferencing software such as Adobe Connect
___Twitter/texting

28. What employment-related supports or services are you currently using (check all that apply)?

___none
___Vocational Rehabilitation
___Veterans Services
___Traumatic Brain Injury Services
___Occupational Therapy
___Technology Training
___Mentoring
___Peer Support
___other (please describe)__________________________________.

29. Do you feel that any of the following have been a barrier for you to finding or keeping employment (check all that apply)?

___job readiness/experience
___access to employment resources
___need for mentoring or peer support
___job preparation and search skills
___need for technology skills or access to technology
___deciding whether or not to disclose a disability
___employer or colleague attitudes about disability
getting the right accommodations or supports
identifying a good job fit
culture of the workplace
social interactions
number of hours on the job
understanding workplace expectations and requirements
other (please describe)________________________________________

Project Participation

30. How were you recruited to participate in EmployAble?

__Rehabilitation counselor or other service provider __listserv
__conference presentation or personal contact with project staff
__Second Life advertisement
__other (please describe)________________________________________.

31. What is your overall reason for participating in EmployAble (check all that apply)?

__want to improve my ability to find a job
__want to improve my ability to keep my current job
__want to find a new job
__part of my overall rehabilitation program
__just looking to improve my skills
__other (please describe) ______________________.

32. Are you interested in meeting with mentors and exploring EmployAble tools with a group or individually?

__group __individually

33. What are your personal goals for participating in EmployAble?

1.______________________________________________
2.______________________________________________
3.______________________________________________

34. Do you have any questions or concerns for EmployAble staff members at this time?

__________________________________________________________________

Thank you for filling out the EmployAble pilot study pre-survey. You can submit the survey online at www.cds.hawaii.edu/employable or email to employ@hawaii.edu. Please note that not everyone who fills out this survey will be accepted to participate in the pilot study. You will be notified no later than May 15, 2013 whether or not you have
been chosen to participate. If you have any questions about this survey please email the Project Director, Thomas Conway, at employ@hawaii.edu.