

# Inclusion Works 2023

Workforce Solutions of Southeast Texas invites you to attend Inclusion Works 2023 in honor of National Disability Employer Awareness Month.

Thursday, October 26, 2023  
Beaumont Event Centre  
9am-2pm

Registration is required and lunch will be provided.

<https://forms.office.com/r/HqxAuUeK2E>



Dr. Temple Grandin is an Award winning author, professor and Autism Advocate.



**WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS**  
SOUTHEAST TEXAS

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**TEXAS**  
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VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Relay Texas @ 1-800-735-2989 (TDD) or 1-800-735-2988 (voice)

This document contains vital information about requirements, rights, determinations, and/or responsibilities for accessing workforce system services. Language services, including the interpretation/translation of this document, are available free of charge upon request.

Este documento contiene información importante sobre los requisitos, los derechos, las determinaciones y las responsabilidades del acceso a los servicios del sistema de la fuerza laboral. Hay disponibles servicios de idioma, incluida la interpretación y la traducción de documentos, sin ningún costo y a solicitud.



Dr. Temple Grandin is a professor of animal science at Colorado State University. When she was two and a half years old, she had no speech and all the symptoms of severe autism. Early intensive speech therapy enabled her to speak by age four. Her mother always encouraged her interest in art and urged her to draw many different things. Good teachers and mentors were essential for Temple's success. Her high school science teacher challenged her with interesting projects where she had to figure out how to make things work. When studying in school became a pathway to becoming a scientist, she was motivated to study.

An HBO movie titled Temple Grandin was made about her life and Temple was inducted into The National Women's Hall of Fame and The Academy of Arts and Sciences. Facilities she has designed handle over half the cattle in the U.S. Some of her most important books are New York Times Bestseller Animals in Translation, Thinking in Pictures, The Autistic Brain, and The Way I See It. Riding horses and caring for them helped her get through difficult teenage years when she was bullied and teased.



Allison Schaberg has spent more than 25 years in the insurance and financial services industry. Owner and Managing Partner of Consolidated Planning Group, she operates an agency in Sugar Land, TX serving Texas & clients throughout the U.S. Allison and her team are focused on helping their clients reach their financial goals and objectives through holistic and comprehensive financial planning.

Allison was humbled years ago when she first began philanthropic work with a charity that focused on children and their families with life threatening and disabling illnesses. Although she had been in the industry for some time and knew what the devastating effects of "failing to plan" were, she had never really seen them exposed so significantly before. Turns out, that experience was only priming Allison as a Special Needs Planning advocate and future in serving in the special needs community.

No stranger to special needs, Allison has navigated the rough waters of special needs in her own immediate family. Allison says that it's important that we all take the necessary steps to plan for our financial future as we could realistically spend more than 30 years in retirement. When it comes to special needs, the need for planning is drastically increased when you have a family member that may need care for the rest of their life. "Through adequate savings and a solid financial plan, Allison saw first hand the difference insurance and proper planning made for her own family. For this and many other reasons, Allison is very passionate about the work she does. She believes wholeheartedly that we are making a difference in the lives of our clients, one client at a time!"



As Director of Public Policy & Advocacy for The Arc of Texas, Ashley Ford (she/her) oversees the organization's statewide public policy and advocacy initiatives to promote and protect the human rights and self-determination of Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Ashley is at the forefront of the fight for the civil rights and inclusion of Texans with IDD and their families, playing a lead role in major victories in community living, education, employment, and other important issues.

In expanding The Arc's inclusive community of self-advocates with IDD, family members of people with IDD, allies, local chapters of The Arc, and volunteers in Texas, Ashley is committed to working hand in hand with grassroots activists from the Red River to the Rio Grande Valley. Ashley identifies as a person with a disability and has family members with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Ashley first became excited about Texas politics while completing her Bachelor of Public Administration at Texas State University and interning with State Representative John Zerwas. Prior to her role at The Arc of Texas, Ashley worked at The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities in roles impacting their public policy, communications, and grants initiatives.

Ashley is a board member of the Texas Chapter on the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) and is the presiding officer of the Advisory Council on Postsecondary Education for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. In addition to her major contributions to the mission of The Arc of Texas, Ashley is a mother of two small children and wife to a firefighter.