**Derek Shields**

**Customized Training \* Technical Assistance \* Consultant**

**Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion**

Derek Shields is a certified Project Management Professional with twenty-two years of experience in disability, accessibility, employment and quality of life programs. He has worked in support of global accommodations programs, wounded warrior transition services, domestic violence programs, vocational and rehabilitation research projects for Social Security beneficiaries and veterans, employer technical assistance and training and a host of other initiatives centered on improving quality of life for youth and adults with disabilities in the workplace, community and home.

Derek has worked across the federal sector providing project management, technical assistance, training and consulting services, including the Department of Defense Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program, the Department of Agriculture TARGET Center, the Social Security Administration Ticket to Work Program, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Transportation Disability Resource Center, and a variety of other planning, performance management, accessibility, marketing and communications and research projects. He was also instrumental in the creation and launch of the USBLN Section 503 Self Evaluation Compliance Tool. More recently, he helped launch ForwardWorks Consulting and joined the Department of Labor’s Employer Technical Assistance (EARN) team as a trainer for The Viscardi Center.

Since 2014, Derek has Co-Chaired the National Disability Mentoring Coalition, an organization committed to increasing the awareness, quality and impact of mentoring for youth and adults with disabilities. He is also a mentor in the US Business Leadership Network CareerLink Mentoring Program, coordinates annual Disability Mentoring Day activities, and enjoys helping young people network from job search to job satisfaction.

Derek earned his undergraduate degree from Bucknell University and his Master’s in Management and Disability Services from the University of San Francisco.