



## **Georgetown University Conference on Employment of People with Disabilities**

**October 31, 2011**

**McDonough School of Business**

**Rafik B. Hariri Building**

**Fisher Colloquium**

Georgetown University is proud to recognize the many strides of the past two decades in achieving greater freedom and independence for millions of people with disabilities, and to look ahead to an even brighter future for the disabilities movement. During October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Georgetown will host the **Second Annual Georgetown University Conference on Employment of People with Disabilities** examining the challenges and opportunities in the area of employment of people with disabilities. As part of the conference, two panels of experts in the areas of public policy, business, federal contracting, and technology will examine the history and future of disability employment.

The disabilities movement in America has been, at its core, an effort to gain full participation of its citizens. It has been an attempt to achieve not special rights, but basic liberties so that every individual, regardless of ability, has access to mainstream American life. People with disabilities are not a separate part of America, but rather intricate threads in the fabric of American life. One of the critical issues in achieving greater freedom for everyone is the enhancement of their independence through greater employment.

Each year Georgetown University presents the **Human Spirit Award** to the person or persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the independence and employment of people with disabilities. The 2011 awardee is the Honorable **Bob Dole**, retired US Senator from Kansas (1969–1996). A renowned statesman, Senator Dole was elected Senate Majority Leader in 1984. Since being injured in World War II, Senator Dole has fought for the rights of people with disabilities. In his first speech on the Senate floor, Dole spoke of his vision for people with disabilities - of independence, dignity and inclusion - and of his own membership in the disabled community.

*"Mr. President, my remarks today concern an exceptional group which I joined on another April 14 - 24 years ago, during World War II. It is a minority group whose existence effects every person in our society and the very fiber of our nation . . . As a minority, it has always known exclusion - maybe not exclusion from the front of the bus, but perhaps from even climbing aboard it; maybe not exclusion from pursuing advanced education, but perhaps from experiencing any formal education; maybe not exclusion from day-to-day life itself, but perhaps from an adequate opportunity to develop and contribute to his or her fullest capacity."*

During his years in the Senate, Bob Dole supported every major piece of disability legislation before Congress creating opportunities for people with disabilities in education, employment and housing. Mr. Dole played key roles in passing the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, the 1975 Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the 1975 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the 1986 Protection and Advocacy for the Mentally Ill Act, the 1986 Air Carriers Access Act, the 1986 Education of the Deaf

Act, the 1988 Technology Assistance Act, the 1990 Television Decoder Circuitry Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

Legendary Newswoman **Judy Woodruff** will serve as the event's emcee. The Georgetown Conference panelists will include prominent members of the policy and business community who are leaders in the area of disability employment and technology.

### Agenda

- 8:30 Continental Breakfast/Registration
- 9:00 Welcome: Taylor Price ('10)
- 9:30 Keynote Address: Carmen Jones, CEO Solutions Marketing Group (invited)
- 10:00 Human Spirit Award presented to Mr. Robert Dole by John Kemp ('71)
- 10:15 Panel Presentations:
- Federal Disability Employment Policy: What Works for Employers and What Doesn't
  - Federal Regulations Affecting the Employment of People with Disabilities

Panelists will include advocates, persons with disabilities and industry leaders including those from IBM, Sodexo, Schuyler & Associates, Booz, Allen, Hamilton, etc.

- 11:45 Closing Remarks: Mike Marshall ('95, '05)
- 12:00 Adjourn

To register, go to:

Please direct questions to Toby Long at 202-687-8742 or [longt@georgetown.edu](mailto:longt@georgetown.edu)

### Partners

Bipartisan Policy Center; Michael Marshall, Alston + Bird, LLP; John D. Kemp, Executive President and CEO of ABILITIES!; Taylor Price; Cameron Lynch, President, The Lynch Group; Georgetown University, Center for Child and Human Development, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities; DIVERSAbility; and the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Affirmative Action

Refreshments provided by Geoff Tracy ('95) of Chef Geoff's

