Making Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Engineering a Sure Bet

# Reducing Barriers to Workplace Accommodations: Insights from a Policy Delphi Study

Nathan W. Moon, Ph.D. and Paul M.A. Baker, Ph.D. Workplace Accommodations RERC and Center for Advanced Communications Policy (CACP)

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia

#### **ABSTRACT**

Workplace accommodations are essential for mitigating barriers to employment opportunities for people with disabilities. However, there is a lack of data on the actual use of accommodations, as well as misconceptions about costs, benefits, best practices, and legal obligations. This paper presents the findings of a policy Delphi study, which reports on reliable forecasts, important issues, desirable goals, and feasible policy options to surmount barriers to awareness and adoption of workplace accommodations.

#### **KEYWORDS:**

workplace accommodations, policy Delphi, people with disabilities, employment, vocational rehabilitation

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This is a publication of The Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Workplace Accommodations for People with Disabilities, sponsored by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) of the U.S. Department of Education under grant numbers H133E020720 and H133E070026. The opinions contained in this publication are those of the grantee and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Education.

The authors wish to recognize assistance and support of researchers at the Workplace Accommodations RERC, Wireless RERC, Southeast Disability Business and Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC), and other associated centers, including Avonne Bell, Austin Dickson, and Shelley Kaplan. The authors also thank the Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) at Pennsylvania State University for their support.

#### **AUTHOR CONTACT**

Nathan W. Moon, Ph.D.
Center for Advanced Communications Policy (CACP)
Georgia Institute of Technology
500 Tenth Street, Suite 323
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0620

Copyright © 2010 RESNA 1700 N. Moore St., Suite 1540, Arlington, VA 22209-1903

Phone: (703) 524-6686 - Fax: (703) 524-6630

## Making Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Engineering a Sure Bet

E-mail: nathan.moon@cacp.gatech.edu

Telephone: 404-894-8845