



IARP-Midwest Chapter invites you to our Fall 2026 Seminar

Friday, November 13, 2026
Northern Illinois University Campus - Naperville
1120 East Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563

Schedule and Speakers

8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	Registration & Breakfast (provided)
8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.	<i>Assistive Technology and Job Accommodations</i> — Cindi Pichler, Senior Assistive Technology Specialist, Independence First, Milwaukee, Wisconsin This presentation will explore a variety of assistive technology solutions, reasonable accommodations, and workplace modifications that support employee success. Participants will gain practical knowledge of available technologies, learn how to identify appropriate accommodation options, and understand how these tools can improve accessibility, productivity, and long-term employment outcomes.
9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.	<i>Understanding the Bureau of Labor Statistics Labor Market Data</i> — Julie Percival, Supervisory Economist and Branch Chief with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Midwest Information Office, Chicago, Illinois This presentation will provide an overview of key BLS data sources, including occupational employment, wage, and employment trend data. Participants will learn how to locate, interpret, and apply BLS information which will help in labor market surveys, earning capacity analyses, vocational evaluations, and return-to-work planning. Practical examples will demonstrate how reliable labor market data can strengthen vocational opinions and case recommendations.
11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.	Lunch (provided): The IARP-Midwest Chapter Board will be honoring retirees in the field of vocational rehabilitation for their achievements and contributions throughout their careers.
12:45 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.	<i>Job Retention Support for People with Disabilities Using AI</i> — Dr. Timothy N. Tansey, Professor in the Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison



This presentation will explore emerging roles of artificial intelligence in supporting job retention for individuals with disabilities. Participants will examine current research, innovative technology, and practical applications that can enhance workplace success, improve problem-solving, strengthen rehabilitation services, and promote long-term employment outcomes through proactive, individualized support strategies.

2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Break

2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Ins and Outs of Functional Capacity Evaluations (FCEs) — Kathy Majeski, PT, ATC, CEAS II, Athletico, Oak Brook, Illinois

This presentation will provide an overview of the Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE) process, including its purpose, components, and interpretation of findings. Participants will gain practical insight into how FCE results can be effectively utilized in workers' compensation and vocational rehabilitation settings to support return-to-work planning and informed case management decisions.

Speaker Information

Cindi Pichler, Senior Assistive Technology Specialist, Independence First

Cindi is a Senior Assistive Technology Specialist with Independence First and a nationally recognized expert in assistive technology and workplace accommodations. She has extensive experience evaluating assistive technology needs, recommending workplace accommodations, and training rehabilitation professionals, employers, and individuals with disabilities on practical technology solutions that support employment success.

Julie Percival, Supervisory Economist, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Julie Percival is a Supervisory Economist and Branch Chief with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Midwest Information Office in Chicago. She and her office answer questions from the public, media, academics, and businesspeople about the data that BLS collects and publishes. She gives presentations for industry, government and other groups interested in employment, wages, benefits, injuries, illnesses, fatalities, consumer expenditures, and other data.

Dr. Timothy N. Tansey, Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. Tansey is a professor in the Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research focuses on vocational rehabilitation, employment outcomes, and job retention for individuals with disabilities. He leads innovative research exploring how artificial intelligence and technology can enhance rehabilitation services and support long-term employment success.

Kathy Majeski, PT, ATC, CEAS II, Athletico

Kathy Majeski is a licensed physical therapist with extensive experience evaluating individuals with work-related injuries. Throughout her career, she has specialized in performing Functional Capacity Evaluations for workers' compensation cases and has developed recognized expertise in functional assessment, return-to-work recommendations, and the practical application of FCEs in vocational and rehabilitation settings. She has previously presented on FCEs to Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRCs), providing practical guidance on interpreting evaluation findings and effectively incorporating them into vocational rehabilitation practice.



Registration Information

Cost of Attendance:

- Students - no charge
- Members - \$50
- Non-Members - \$75

REGISTRATION: Link on IARP website

Continuing Education Credits

6.0 CEU professional development contact hours have been approved for CRC and CVE credits.

Pre-Conference Gathering

Please join us the evening before the conference (Thursday, November 12, 2026) for a networking dinner event at Granite City Brewery (1828 Abriter Court, Naperville, IL) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This dinner event is paid for by IARP-Midwest Chapter.

Conference Accommodations

Hampton Inn Chicago Naperville
1087 East Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois, 60563
+1-630-505-1400