



*Seeking Employment, Equality and Community for
People with Developmental Disabilities*

SEEC E-News

October 2022 | Issue Forty-seven

Meet SEEC Board Member Venus Jordan

Our Board of Directors is made up of volunteers who commit to share their gifts and talents to move SEEC's mission forward. We want to thank all our board members and Board President for their support.



Venus Jordan is more than a board member; she is a committed employer partner excited about the talent she sees in the employees with disabilities whom she has helped hire. Venus' first interaction with SEEC began when she assisted in hiring a Project SEARCH intern at Bethesda Country Club. In 2018 she was awarded a National Disability Employment Awareness Month Trailblazer Award. At Congressional Country Club, where Venus is now the Talent Acquisition Manager, she is a champion of inclusion and diversity and has helped hire more SEEC supported employees. She is a tireless advocate for SEEC's mission and uses all venues to talk about the positive impact of new SEEC hires on the work

culture. Currently, Alisha, whom SEEC supports, is a server assistant at Congressional and recently celebrated her one-year anniversary. Not only has Alisha integrated herself into the team, but members love seeing her and talking to her.

Venus is a successful human resource professional who intentionally carves out time for SEEC. Since 2016, she has served as a member of the Business Advisory Council, the Quality Assurance Council (QAC), the Board of Directors, the Gala Committee, the Footgolf committee, and as an employer partner. Venus' expertise in human resource management and knowledge of the local business community is a powerful resource to move forward SEEC's mission.



Alisha working at Congressional Country Club.

We had the opportunity to ask Venus a few questions:

Q. Why do you support SEEC?

I get fulfillment from being involved with SEEC and can see the result and reward of my contributions. I believe in sharing about SEEC and why it's important to support the organization and it makes me and those I introduce to the organization feel good to give back and be involved.

Q. What excites you about being involved in SEEC?

Being a part of an organization that is so innovative. I want to be a part of a solution. And I'm inspired by the parents and siblings who are involved and witnessing what ambassadors they are not only for their children/siblings but for everyone with disabilities!

Q. What is something you have learned from being involved with SEEC?

Volunteering on the QAC we get to visit the people SEEC supports every quarter, and we learned that people really wanted to learn more about money management and independent living. It's so exciting to see that SEEC has started a Moving Out Program to address that need. SEEC is so much more than just helping people find jobs. There is so much more that is involved and so many divisions within the organization. It's impressive.

If you are interested in volunteering with SEEC follow this link:

<https://www.seeonline.org/volunteer/>

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SEEC Represents at Reinventing Quality Conference



As an essential partner for researchers across the country working on innovative practices to benefit people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, SEEC is often invited to collaborate. Recently, SEEC has informed a national framework for community engagement. As a result of our involvement, a team from SEEC had the opportunity to present during the bi-yearly Reinventing Quality conference in Baltimore entitled "Employment First Doesn't Mean Employment Only: Tools for Supporting Community Life Engagement" with Jennifer Sulewski of the University of Massachusetts Boston. SEEC's Kelly Papparazzo and Mercedes Mckee, part of SEEC's Community Engagement team, and Jessica Cheng, supported by SEEC, went on stage and shared their expertise. The conference was an opportunity for Community Engagement staff and people SEEC supports to attend and learn about national best practices in person-centered support and quality management.

<https://reinventingquality.org/schedule-at-a-glance>

Stay tuned for more updates on innovation at SEEC and future presentations!

From Innovative Ideas to New High-Quality Support: Moving Out,

Assistive Technology and Health and Wellness

SEEC uses a unique approach to stay creative. SEEC's innovation process starts first with the needs and feedback of the people SEEC supports. Second, SEEC consults with subject matter experts and taps into their special expertise. Lastly, an agile mindset and willingness to try new things is promoted throughout the organization. This success formula positions SEEC as a leader in providing innovative services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Over the last month, three innovative ideas have come to fruition as new ways to provide services.

SEEC's Full Circle Program Health and Wellness course is now offered to four additional participants beyond the first two in the pilot program. The program helps individuals improve strength, balance, mobility, and independence while working toward person-centered health and wellness goals. For the next ten weeks, these 4 people and their direct support staff will take classes and participate in physical fitness classes designed by SEEC's licensed physical therapist to match the individual needs of people in the program.

SEEC's Assistive Technology Initiative focuses on person-centered assistive technology resources for improved communication. The pilot project had its orientation day in early October with over 35 staff, people supported, families, and caregivers in attendance. Consultant Jennifer White, owner of Able Opportunities, Inc. in Washington state and a Subject Matter Expert for the national Employment First project, led the group in teaching about Innovative Technology Tools.

SEEC's Moving Out program launched in September with ten people we support and their families. All participants have been meeting in-person and online over the past month to move out and live independently in the community.

SEEC Staff Earn County and Statewide Recognition!

Prince Georges County Provider Council Awardees

NDEAM is the perfect time to celebrate the accomplishments of employees with disabilities and the professionals supporting them. The PGC Provider Council NDEAM event recognized two SEEC nominees this past month! Patina Washington received an award for her work as an Employment Consultant at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and James Garcia, a former Project SEARCH intern, also received an award for his work at NIH. James is supported in his career by Patina. We are so proud of both awardees!

Congratulations to James and Patina!



Four SEEC DSPs recognized by the Maryland Department of Disabilities and the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration

SEEC is proud to continue to honor our DSPs beyond DSP Appreciation Week. The celebration continued Monday, October 3rd when Maryland Department of Disabilities and MD Developmental Disabilities Administration recognized Joseph Conteh, Willow Newman, Abdulai Bangura, and Amira Hussein as SEEC's four winners for DSP Recognition Week. Over 40 people including families, people SEEC supports, and staff came to celebrate the winners and participate in the awards ceremony.



Pictured above are DDA (Developmental Disabilities Administration) Deputy Secretary Bernard Simons, Joseph Conteh, Willow Newman, Amira Hussein, Abdulai Bangura, Maryland Secretary of Disabilities Carol Beatty, Karen Lee, SEEC CEO and DDA Regional Director, Onesta Duke.

Celebrating A Successful FootGolf Event!

SEEC is fundraising throughout the year to continue to provide the best services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the region. Special events like SEEC's annual footgolf event are opportunities to bring together supporters and people SEEC supports to enjoy a day of play and fun while raising awareness for SEEC's mission!

On Saturday, September 24th, SEEC organized its fourth annual Footgolf event with 14 teams participating at the Sligo Creek Golf Course. Everyone at SEEC is grateful to the footgolf sponsors for making this event possible: HUB, Titanium Restorations, Reslnnova

Labs, and Scott Team International. Thanks to the continuous support of our sponsors and everyone who played, including the people we support, the event was a fundraising success!

If you are interested in learning more about how being a sponsor can help your business and SEEC, please reach out to Katrina Kugel at kkugel@seeonline.org for more information. We would love to have you be a part of our Spring Gala in April!



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