

Business

WEDNESDAY

www.dailyrecord.com

Morris firm assists launch of job service for disabled

Web site reaching corporate U.S. from Parsippany

PARSIPPANY — A new Web-based service was launched yesterday from Parsippany that is attempting to assist disabled individuals looking to join the national workforce and advance their careers.

Accessibleemployment.org is designed to provide employers with a single location to post employment opportunities and also search resumes of qualified disabled candidates.

In addition, the site also allows potential job candidates to post their resumes for review by prospective employers who have made a commitment to include people with disabilities in their workforce.

The launch is being handled by workplacdiversity.com, an Internet job site based in Parsippany that has been operating since 1999, helping corporate recruiters make a good-faith effort to reach what it calls "diversity talent."

"That's a lot of time in Internet years. We have a lot of experience in diversity employment and the experience translates to the disabled, which is an underserved market," said Dan Honig, chief operating officer of workplace diversity.com and acting COO of accessibleemployment.org. "The disabled may be the largest diversity category in the marketplace. They (accessibleemployment.org) developed the concept and asked us if we could bring it to fruition."

N.J. sponsors

Honig said the launch was funded in part the New Jersey Business Leadership Network and the Henry H. Kessler Foundation. Two initial corporate sponsors, Meridian Health Care and St. Barnabas Health Care System, provided many of the initial job postings.

According to the site, the unemployment rate of people with disabili-

ties is 10 times greater than the national unemployment rate. According to the U. S. Census Bureau, about 30 million Americans between the ages of 16 and 64 have a disability, and only 18 million are employed.

Moreover, many employers can earn tax credits and experience a savings in health care costs when they hire a disabled employee because many individuals with disabilities are covered by Medicare and Medicaid. In addition, according to the U.S. Department of Education, workers with disabilities are rated consistently as average or above average in performance, quality and quantity of work, flexibility, and attendance.

Honig said the site will attempt to access jobs in all areas and income brackets, but since it is a service focusing on the national job market, most job listings call for college education or specific training.

— Staff report