



# Connecticut Network

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## News Release

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### Federal Rehab Commissioner Ruttledge Visits CT-N Praises Network's Recruitment of People with Disabilities

Hartford, CT – Lynnae M. Ruttledge, Commissioner of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, visited the offices of the Connecticut Network on Tuesday, June 21, as part of her tour of workplaces employing disabled workers throughout New England. Her stop at CT-N was specifically prompted by the network's recent win of a Connect-Ability Top Employer Award in recognition of its efforts to recruit visually-impaired employees for its closed captioning department.

During the hour long visit, Commissioner Ruttledge met with the closed captioning staff, as well as with CEO Paul Giguere and other members of the network's senior management. She praised the network for its appreciation of the significant contributions that disabled workers can make to any organization, and challenged its management to continue its leadership in disability employment.

"CT-N has been regarded for many years as a model for state public affairs programming nationally, and our focus on closed-captioning has long been a best practice that we recommend when other states turn to us for guidance," according to William Bevacqua, CT-N's Director of Communications. "The talent, passion and dedication of our captioning team is *the* reason why we can point to that dimension of our organization with such pride. Commissioner Ruttledge's visit was a great thrill for everyone at CT-N, but most especially for our captioners; it was recognition of our core belief that cultivating diversity in abilities ultimately makes the whole organization stronger."

In 2009, CPAN began working with the Board of Education Services for the Blind to identify potential closed captioning technicians for CT-N. The network's voice-recognition-based captioning system doesn't require 20/20 vision, but does demand a vocal command and acute listening skills that not everyone possesses. BESB identified its first ideal candidate in short order, and what began as a single part-time position has now become two full-time positions – half of the regular captioning staff – filled by low-visioned technicians.

The Connect-Ability Top Employer Awards recognizes Connecticut companies for their leadership and accomplishment in recruitment and hiring of people with disabilities. Past recipients have included Aetna, Advo, Deloitte, IBM, Northeast Utilities, Pfizer, Mohegan Sun, and Travelers' Insurance. The 2011 awards were presented at the Connect-ability's Employment Summit at the Connecticut Convention Center on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

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Winner of the national Sunshine Award from the Society of Professional Journalists and the Open Government Award from the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government, Connecticut Network is the state's source for complete and balanced television and webcast coverage of state government and public affairs. For more information, become a fan of CT-N on Facebook, follow the network at [www.twitter.com/CTNetworkTV](http://www.twitter.com/CTNetworkTV) or visit CT-N's website at [www.ct-n.com](http://www.ct-n.com).

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