



MEAF e-NEWS

October 2013

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USBLN Conference Empowers Youth and Employers

MEAF was proud and honored to be a part of the [US Business Leadership Network \(USBLN\)](#) Conference in Los Angeles this Fall. MEAF, MEUS, Marriott, and organizations hosting interns with disabilities were front and center at a lunch plenary to kick off [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) on October 1st.



Some of the speakers from the lunch plenary

Disability Mentoring Day

In October, people across the US participated in **Disability Mentoring Day (DMD)** including Mitsubishi Electric volunteers.

The **LOVE Committee from MEUS/Suwanee, GA** partnered with the [Special Needs School of Gwinnett County](#) to host students this year. The students toured the facility, ate lunch with employees and MEAF Board members, and improved their knowledge of Microsoft Word.



LOVE Committee with students and staff from Special Needs School, MEAF Board President, Mr. Takamiya, and MEAF Director, Kevin Webb.

The **VISION Committee at MEAU/Vernon Hills, IL** partnered with the [Special Education District of Lake County](#) to host 9 students, in what has become an annual tradition for the company. Students learned about factory automation products and how they impact their lives before shadowing employees in various departments like

MEAF also hosted a *Power Lunch* where national grant partners, Mitsubishi Electric US volunteers, and interns from USBLN's Career Link Mentoring Program could network and share best practices.



Career Link Mentees at lunch

[Read the Press Release from the Plenary Session](#)

[Learn more about the Career Link Mentoring Program](#)

Canoe Trip with Project WILD

This October, MEAF Director Kevin Webb had the unique opportunity to take part in a *Project WILD* canoe trip hosted by [Wilderness Inquiry](#) (WI) along with [Project SEARCH](#) participants in Washington, DC.



Kevin Webb on the Anacostia River with WI in Washington, DC

This project is part of a MEAF national grant to expose Project SEARCH students to outdoor and leadership experiences.

repair, accounting, customer service, administration, manufacturing and the warehouse.



Upper Left: Student works in assembly

Upper Right: Student repairs robot

Bottom: Mentor and Mentee in Customer Service

In addition to supporting Mitsubishi Electric volunteer activities, MEAF also supports the [American Association of People with Disabilities \(AAPD\)](#) efforts to expand DMD into a "pipeline of talent program" that provides workforce development experiences year-round. AAPD named JobsFirst! in Manitowoc, WI as its second pipeline award recipient.

[Disability Mentoring Day Success Story](#)

[AAPD Names JobsFirst! Award Recipient](#)

Autistic Campus Inclusion Initiative

The [Autistic Self Advocacy Network \(ASAN\)](#) hosted its second annual Campus Inclusion Academy bringing together 15 autistic students to learn leadership and self advocacy skills in June.





Project SEARCH participants canoe on the river

As part of WI's *Canoe Mobile* program, which travels to communities in the eastern US, Project WILD experiences took place in Minneapolis, MN, Sidney, OH, and Washington, DC. Project SEARCH participants have already reported how the experience has changed their lives, helping to build their self-confidence, and exposing them to new career opportunities in the out-of-doors.



Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs in Cambridge, MA
Makes Strides for Breast Cancer with [American Cancer Society](#).

ASAN created a video demonstrating the impact of this training. The students have returned to their campuses and are getting involved in campus activities to promote inclusion and prepare them for the future.

[Watch the Video](#)

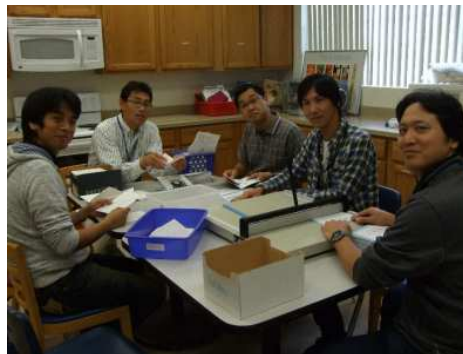
Japanese Volunteers Give Back

On October 24th, Japanese Expatriates from Mitsubishi Electric US companies came together to give back to the community.



Japanese employees with Sue from Boys and Girls Clubs of Cypress, ACTIVE members and MEAF staff, Tara Havlicek.

The expatriates learned about MEAF, employee volunteer committees, and the importance of giving back while participating in a volunteer project at the [Boys and Girls Clubs of Cypress](#) with the **ACTIVE Committee at MEUS/Cypress**.





[Woodlands Foundation](#) honors **MEPPI/Warrendale** and **HOPE Committee** for their support and dedication to children with disabilities.



MEAF Staff, **Tara Havlicek** and her husband walk for breast cancer research in Libertyville, IL to benefit American Cancer Society.



MEAF Director, **Kevin Webb**, visits Mitsubishi Electric in Japan to discuss philanthropy. He also

Volunteers packaged and distributed goodie bags for Red Ribbon week encouraging students to stay away from drugs. They also put together holiday cards for the families. MEAF presented the club with a **\$300** donation matching the volunteer hours given by these employees.

Recognizing MEAF Board Members

At MEAF's Board Meeting this past October we said goodbye to two devoted Board Members. **Bruce Brenizer** from MEUS/Cypress retired after 15 years of dedicated service and Employee Representative **Susan Renda** from MEPPI/Warrendale completed her two year term as the employee voice on the Board.



Left: Mr. Takamiya and Mr. Webb with Ms. Renda

Right: Mr. Takamiya and Mr. Brenizer

With goodbyes come new beginnings and MEAF also welcomed four new board members this month: **Brian Heery** from MEPPI/Warrendale, **Chris Gerdes** from MEAA/Mason, **Shuji Morisaki** from MEUS/Suwanee, and Employee Representative **Caitlin Helgesen** from MEAA/Northville.



volunteered with fellow Mitsubishi Electric employees to support Tsunami relief efforts.

Extra! Extra! Mitsubishi Electric in the News!

Mitsubishi Electric Automotive America from Mason, Ohio was featured in the *Warren County Dreams* for their efforts to help students with disabilities.

The efforts between Mitsubishi Electric, Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and Productions Services Unlimited resulted in ten individuals working at the Mason office.

[Read all about it here](#)

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Current MEAF Board Members,
Officers, and Staff

[Who is MEAF?](#)

Deadlines and Reminders

Mitsubishi Electric Volunteers

Starfishnet Call on November 13
Hallway Golf Nominations Due November 22

Matching Grant / Starfish Deadline is
December 11