

Summer 2025 Program Update



Summer 2025

Introduction

Greetings to all!

The first six months of this year have been filled with collaboration. We coordinated trainings for managers in every region of the world – both our Best Practices workshops as well as Creating Allyship with Supported Employees. Over 90 vendor colleagues attended and benefited from these training sessions. The team in India hosted a wonderful Autism Awareness event in April. In May, we collaborated with King County to host a full-life resource fair, where over 80 community organizations had booths, and over 2000 visitors attended – all agree this was a much-needed informational event.

As we welcome the Summer of 2025 in the Northern Hemisphere, we are thrilled to share new stories of our Supported Employees from around the globe. Dive into the experiences from India, Israel, and USA. It is our joy to highlight these individuals who bring their unique talents, skills, and perspectives to their teams at various Microsoft locations worldwide.

Looking ahead, we determined to continue expanding employment opportunities for people with disabilities at even more Microsoft locations, with more vendors and different types of job descriptions.

Wishing you all a happy mid-year. As always, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions at supportedemployment@microsoft.com.

With warm regards,

The Microsoft Supported Employment Program Team



Emma Ogazuma



Alex Wiebusch



Gillian Maguire



Rachael Cross

For more information on the Supported Employment Program, visit aka.ms/supportedemployment

Summer 2025

Program Events & Activities

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King County Resource Fair

After months of planning, on May 29, over 2000 visitors came to Microsoft in Redmond for the King County Full-Life Resource Fair.

The Microsoft Supported Employment Program partnered with King County Developmental Disabilities and Early Childhood Supports Division to bring this community event to life. The event served individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by sharing information about resources that enrich their lives at any age.

With the help of over 38 "Green Shirt" volunteers from Microsoft Real Estate & Facilities, and vendor companies, Microsoft threw open the doors of the Mixer building to welcome the public. Our volunteers distributed badges, handed out swag bags, assisted people with wayfinding, and generally gave everyone very warm welcome.

Ninety community organizations set up informational booths, and presenters in 14 workshops supplied a host of information and resources to the attendees.



King County Resource Fair, continued

Among the workshops was a well-attended panel of Supported Employees, who shared their personal experiences in the workplace. Moderated by Zack Siddeek from the ARC of King County, the panel included Tara O'Rourke from Compass Group, Ben Day from CBRE, and Alex Hubbard and Jennifer Green from the City of Seattle.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to these panelists for generously sharing their insights and stories at the Resource Fair.



Fair attendees shared very positive feedback of the event, with one person declaring, "This is the best event I have ever attended."

Career Preparation Interviews with Bellevue College OLS

The Microsoft Supported Employment Program partnered in March and June with [Bellevue College](#) to conduct career preparation interviews for students in the Occupational Life Skills Program.

The interviews provide students with practical, hands-on experience and immediate feedback, helping them build confidence and prepare effectively for future employment opportunities.

34
Students

15
Volunteers

49
Interviews



Employment Panels Highlight Career Possibilities for Students

This spring, the Microsoft Supported Employment Program partnered with two schools in Washington state to host panel discussions featuring Supported Employees working for Microsoft vendors.

These events gave Supported Employees a chance to strengthen their public speaking skills while helping students learn from real-world career journeys and explore future employment possibilities.

6
Supported
Employees

25
Students

2
Schools



Autism Acceptance Month in India

To celebrate Autism Awareness and Acceptance month, the Microsoft team in India hosted an event filled with celebration, camaraderie and delicious food.

On April 27, 2025 teams gathered in Hyderabad, Gurgaon and Bengaluru to learn about Autism, and other types of neurodiversity. They also acknowledged the excellent work being done by the Supported Employees who work for vendor companies at Microsoft locations.

About 120 individuals gathered for a presentation and a meal, and distributed sweets to vendor partners.

"At Microsoft, we're committed to diversity and inclusion and proud to support partners who are engaged in this mission."

"In India, we're collaborating with suppliers and community nonprofits to create meaningful job opportunities for persons with disabilities, helping break down barriers to employment."

Ambar Mitra

Director India, Real Estate and Facilities, Microsoft India

**Celebrating
Supported Employment Program**

Microsoft, India

April 2025



'College Bound' at Bellevue College

Despite the Seattle snowfall, approximately 100 guests attended this February event to learn about post-secondary options and resources for their college journey.

Sarah Heinzen from the Human-Centered Design team and Gillian from Supported Employment presented on "Leveraging Technology in Inclusive Employment" during their keynote.

50 students attended, engaged with the content, provided feedback, and asked questions.



Snohomish County Resource Fair

In March, Rachael Cross with the Microsoft Supported Employment Program joined the 2025 Snohomish County Transition Resource Fair to promote inclusive job opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Engaging 450 attendees, the program raised awareness, connected with potential candidates, and collaborated with other agencies to support meaningful employment and community empowerment.



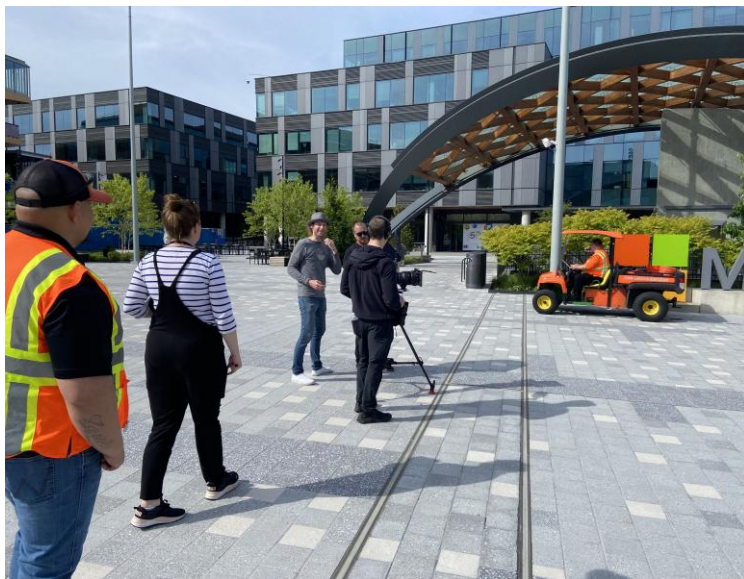
New Supported Employment Videos in Production

To share the story of employment opportunities, we are working with partners around the globe to produce several new videos.

Working with a production crew from Mighty Media Studios, we are capturing the story of career growth for Jason Lakey, who started working on the Redmond landscaping crew in 2009. In addition to Jason's great story, Microsoft regional leaders and Supported Employees in various parts of the world are being interviewed. Their testimonials and experiences will be edited and combined into a new Supported Employment Program Overview video.

We would like to thank all of the Supported Employees, managers, employers, job coaches and leaders who are working together to create these new films.

The videos will be published in late 2025.



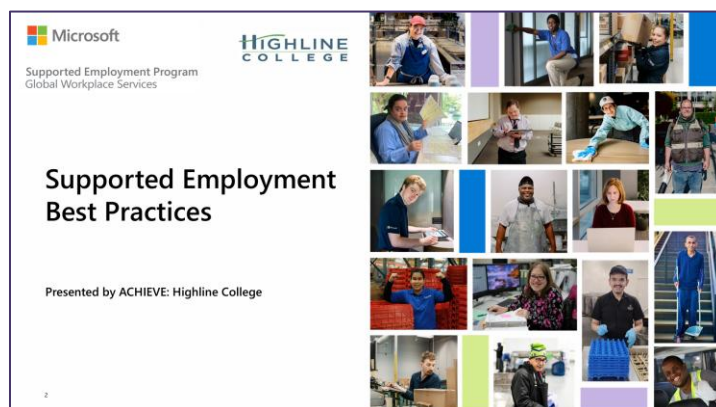
Creating Inclusive Workplaces with Global Training Initiatives

The Microsoft Supported Employment Program is committed to continuously enhancing education and support for vendor managers around the world.

In early spring, hybrid sessions of *Creating Allyship with Supported Employees*, led by the ARC of King County, and *Best Practices in Supported Employment*, presented by Highline College ACHIEVE, were delivered to vendor managers across Puget Sound, the Americas, and EMEA regions. These trainings aimed to promote best practices in Supported Employment, foster inclusion, and strengthen communication across teams.

In June, customized versions of these sessions were presented to the APAC region, continuing the program's global commitment to inclusive and supportive workplaces.

Training Session	Attendance	Countries Registered
Creating Allyship with Supported Employees	65	Algeria, China, Czech Republic, Greece, India, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Serbia, Singapore, Taiwan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, USA
Best Practices in Supported Employment	34	China, India, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, USA



Summer 2025

Global Employee Spotlights

For more information on the Supported Employment Program, visit aka.ms/supportedemployment

Mandala Obbaiah

Bengaluru, India

Employer | Ideal Solutions

Meet Mandala Obbaiah, a valued member of the Ideal Solutions' Housekeeping team since November 2022. Known for his positivity and dedication, Mandala brings contagious enthusiasm to every shift.

His duties include dusting accessible surfaces and sorting waste into recyclable and non-recyclable categories. Supported by a collaborative team, he thrives in an inclusive environment that encourages learning.

Mandala aspires to become a trainer, and his supervisors are helping him through training programs to achieve this goal. He enjoys connecting with colleagues, contributing to cleanliness, and embracing new challenges. Outside of work, Mandala relaxes with family, watches movies, and enjoys nature and community life.



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Conor Gilbert & Noah Ullstrom

Redmond, WA, USA
Employer | CBRE

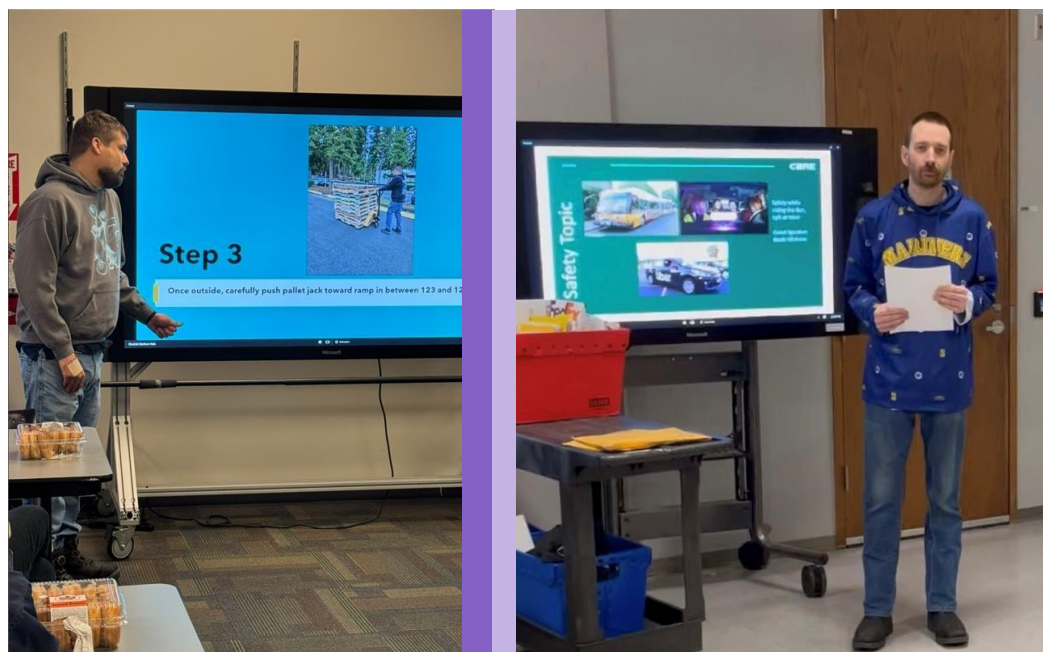
Conor Gilbert and Noah Ullstrom, members of the CBRE Puget Sound Mail & Logistics Team, recently took impactful steps to promote safety.

Conor created an engaging PowerPoint presentation outlining a process he follows daily to transfer pallets safely from one building to another. He enlisted the help of a coworker to take photos of him in action for each slide of the presentation deck.

Meanwhile, inspired by his own commute experience, Noah developed a compelling 'safety moment' on safe bus and ride-share commuting. He included practical tips like wearing appropriate clothing and planning your route.

Both Conor and Noah presented their safety moments to the Mail & Logistics team. Their efforts contributed to their team's ambitious safety goals for 2025.

Pictured R-L: Conor Gilbert and Noah Ullstrom sharing 'safety moments' with their teams



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Anish Dhall

Gurgaon, India

Employer | Enablers Property Services

Anish Dhall joined the CBRE Enabler team on July 1, 2022, and has been dedicated to managing pantry services with diligence and care. Hailing from the Express Housekeeper program through Muskan NGO, Anish efficiently manages the pantry area and other services.

In his free time, Anish enjoys music and dancing. His enthusiasm and dedication make him a cherished member of the team, always bringing a smile to those around him.

Thank you Anish, for the care, joy and dedication to work that you share with your team every day.



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Gal Sarusi, Israel



Gal Sarusi has lived in Ra'anana and worked for the past 4 years for Ariel Property. Soon, he'll be moving to community housing in Modi'in, marking the end of his journey at Microsoft.

He works full-time and loves his job and workplace, especially the people – his team and the Microsoft employees. He is always smiling and cheerful. *"It's nice to work with people I trust; I enjoy coming here every day,"* he says.

In his free time, Gal volunteers at a community garden in Ra'anana, at a cycling club (he loves to ride), and in the evenings, at a social club where he also DJs. Volunteering is an integral part of his life.

Yizhar, his direct manager, describes Gal as a dedicated, responsible worker who can be relied upon. Gal brings a lot of calm, even during particularly busy periods. Gal is an active participant in the team's WhatsApp group, and they often have lunch together (initially, the integration was challenging because most of the team did not speak Hebrew).

Gal integrated amazingly well, under difficult conditions and during the challenging times of the COVID pandemic, remaining stable and strong while many employees changed.

We wish Gal much success in his new path, and we will definitely miss him here!

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Opt-in Mailing List



To receive occasional updates about the program in your email inbox, simply [sign up here](#).

Visit the aka.ms/supportedemployment site to learn more about the program.

