

Jill Houghton

Jill Houghton's creative spirit and passionate approach to the inclusion of people with disabilities comes from her core. While pursuing her bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas she interned for Senator Dole and the experience ignited the direction of her professional aspirations. Jill is a partner at Disability Inclusion Solutions, Inc. In her work, she serves as Executive Director of the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN®), a national non-profit, non-partisan business to business network promoting workplaces, marketplaces, and supply chains where people with disabilities are included. The USBLN® serves as the collective voice of over 60 Business Leadership Network affiliates across the United States, representing over 5,000 businesses. Additionally, the USBLN® runs the nation's leading third party certification program for disability-owned businesses, including service-disabled veterans. In addition, Jill serves as an organizational consultant for the Southeast TACE, managed by the Burton Blatt Institute of Syracuse University. The Southeast TACE provides technical assistance (TA) and continuing education (CE) activities that meet the strategic goals and program performance needs of 12 state VR agencies within the Southeast region.

Ms. Houghton has over 20 years of diverse leadership experience at the federal, state and local levels to advance the employment and economic self-sufficiency of all people with disabilities. Jill served as the Executive Director of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel from February 2005 until its legislative sunset in January, 2008. The bi-partisan Panel was comprised of twelve private citizens and was housed independently within the Social Security Administration in Washington D.C. The Panel's charge was to advise the President, Congress and the Commissioner of Social Security on the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program and issues related to work incentives programs, planning and assistance for individuals with disabilities.

Ms. Houghton was appointed in 2009 by Governor Charlie Crist and is currently serving a three year term on the Florida's Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged. She formerly served on the several boards including the Broward Center for Independent Living, the Florida Developmental Disability Council and APSE, as well as, serving as the first President of the APSE Foundation.