



Hello, and welcome to Spectrum Bridges' Autism Employment Readiness course! My name is Danny, and I will be acting as your guide throughout this learning module!

Let's get started by watching this short introductory video introducing you to some of the wonderful people you could have the opportunity to work with by employing people on the autism spectrum!

Dr. Mary Hums and Eli A. Wolff wrote the following about how important inclusion is in, and beyond, the workplace, "People with disabilities have a voice that should and must be at the table from the beginning of any planning process and should never simply be an after-thought. Language, words, and actions can help us fight some of these daily battles. One example of words that can help insure people with disabilities are not cast aside is the phrase "Nothing About Us Without Us."

At Spectrum Bridges we believe in this mantra, and we hope to show you how pivotal hiring autistic people can be!

As employers or business owners, you want the best from your work environments. Your employees are motivated by good income, a sense of purpose, perks, benefits, and a feeling of community.

But these things are only rewarding at a company that operates soundly – staff who know how to do their jobs, policies that allow employees to put their best foot forward every day, management that welcomes differences in ideas and expressions. These examples illustrate a workplace that works well for everyone.

In this course, you will learn how employing autistic people helps create an effective workplace that meets and even exceeds the previously mentioned goals. You may not know much about the autism spectrum now, but our goal is that this guided learning will give you the confidence and tools to be a supportive peer or manager to the autism population.

Before we conclude this introduction, let's take a look at a TED Talk given by Layne Kertamus on how effective hiring the neurodiverse community can be to a successful workplace!

Below you will find more videos and articles providing you more information on the benefits of hiring the neurodiverse community!

In this first module, we will answer the question, "Why does autism employment matter to people in the workplace?"



We'll cover:

- The benefits of autism hiring
- The current outlook of autism hiring, and
- Autism perception

So, let's go ahead and move to our first lesson on the benefits of autism hiring. I'll see you there!