

**Laura Owens, Ph.D., President, TransCen Inc.**

Dr. Laura Owens is the President of TransCen, Inc. and a nationally recognized leader in the disability employment field with over 30 years of experience. She also serves as a Professor in the Department of Exceptional Education at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, where she teaches courses focused on high school inclusion and the transition from school to work.

Dr. Owens is the founder and President of Creative Employment Opportunities, Inc. (CEO), a Milwaukee-based organization she established in 1991 to advance competitive, community-based employment for individuals with disabilities. Prior to joining TransCen, she served as the Executive Director of APSE (the Association of People Supporting Employment First), a national organization dedicated to advancing integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

An internationally recognized speaker, Dr. Owens has presented to businesses, schools, and organizations at conferences around the world, including in Israel, Ireland, Croatia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Chile, and Portugal.

Driven by a deep passion for her work, Dr. Owens is committed to improving employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. She finds the greatest fulfillment in working directly with individuals and is equally dedicated to equipping educators, employment consultants, and employers with the tools and knowledge to help individuals with disabilities achieve their goals and pursue meaningful careers.