



Scottish Government Hosts Event Awarding of Certificates



An Awards event was held on September 23, 2019 at the Dunfermline Carnegie Conference Centre in the Kingdom of Fife, Scotland, to recognise 24 individuals who successfully completed the NIDMAR training program and the 29 individuals who successfully passed the CDMP exam, gaining their Certified Disability Management Professional (CDMP) designation.

Dr. Norma Clark, who has been appointed by the Scottish Government to implement the five-year NIDMAR program acted as MC for the event, assisted by Graham Halsey, Director of Well Working Matters, which holds the licence to deliver the NIDMAR training and administer the CDMP examination in the UK.

Attending the event was Wolfgang Zimmermann, executive director of the National Institute of Disability Management and Research (NIDMAR), which developed, with the support of the Government of Canada, the Occupational Standards and professional certification examinations for CDMPs to meet those standards. He presented the Scottish students with their NIDMAR certificates and delivered a short presentation to the graduates sharing his own lived experience, putting their new professional designation into the wider international context and raising awareness of the expanding role that CDMPs will have in the return to work case management.

Roderick Duncan, Head of Health and Work Policy from the Directorate for Population Health in the Scottish Government, kindly agreed to hand out the CDMP certificates, taking the opportunity to congratulate the students putting their achievements into the local context.



At the event, Dr. Clark said, “The Scottish Government has invested in the provision of a five-year program aimed at training 300 current supported employment case managers to become CDMPs.” Pointing out that this will bolster the Scottish Employability Pipeline dedicated to maintaining meaningful employment for workers with long term health conditions, injuries or disabilities to gain and retain employment, contributing to the Scottish Government ambition to increase the employment rate of disabled people to 50% by 2023 and 60% by 2030.

Dr. Clark also advised the new CDMPs that the knowledge exchange and Webex presenting developments on the CDMP website were now “live” and that they should be receiving invitations to take part in this year’s NIDMAR students’ online presentations. She encouraged the new CDMPs to be part of the developing knowledge exchange by registering their areas of expertise and sharing it with others.

In his congratulatory comments, Wolfgang Zimmermann said, “Congratulations are due on two fronts, namely the commitment and dedication, and the effort of the individuals having achieved the CDMP designation and completing the requisite education, which now gives them the skills and abilities to successfully assist others at risk of disability related job loss and the often inevitable corollary of unemployment and marginalization. Secondly, the leadership of the Scottish Government in recognising the overarching importance that a successful employment relationship has for individuals in maintaining financial stability, reducing the incidences of poverty, homelessness and possible addiction, and reducing mental health inequalities.”

It seems important to leave the last comment from the day to one of the new CDMPs, Lee-Ann Birse, a Disability Employment Co-ordinator based in the Supported Employment Service of Fife Council, “I just wanted to say thank you for yesterday’s event. It was lovely to attend and see the others from our course too. I especially enjoyed Wolfgang’s talk, not only was it interesting hearing his story, but also how what we do is replicated around the world. Thank you for all of your hard work getting us up and running with the course, and for getting us through it. I really enjoyed the classes and mostly the chats about our experiences and hearing the experiences of others”.

For further details regarding this initiative, please contact:

***Dr. Norma Clark, Project Manager NIDMAR Program
Scottish Government, Health Improvement Division
Directorate for Population Health
Email: normaclark@nhs.net***

***Graham Halsey, Well Working Matters
graham@wellworkingmatters.co.uk***

For further information regarding certification opportunities in Canada, please contact NIDMAR at: nidmar@nidmar.ca

For information regarding other jurisdictions, please see the IDMSC website at: <https://www.idmsc.org/professional-standards/becoming-certified/>

Or please contact the IDMSC at: info@idmsc.org