

e-Stewards' ADVANCE+ Employment Inclusion Program Receives 2022 Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation Grant

Program Open Now to all Certified Electronics Recyclers

Seattle, WA. April 13, 2022. The [Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation \(MEAF\)](#) has extended its support of the [e-Stewards ADVANCE+ program](#) in 2022 with a \$75,000 grant to continue its mission of empowering certified electronics recyclers to develop an inclusive workforce and providing employment to autistic and disabled workers. In addition to offering a \$5,000 scholarship to the first five recyclers to be accepted into the 2022 class, this grant will be used to support Blue Star Recyclers, James Emmett & Company, and e-Stewards in their joint administration of the program and to produce a short video for program promotion.

“As a funder, Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation defines success through collaboration,” says Kevin Webb, Senior Director at MEAF. “e-Stewards' ADVANCE+ involves a collaboration of three outstanding partners that achieve our funding goals by providing meaningful and competitive employment for young people with disabilities, and a labor solution for employers.”

e-Stewards' ADVANCE+ is an alternative workforce development program for certified electronics recyclers in the United States. It utilizes the Blue Star Recyclers employment model and is fulfilled by James Emmett & Company, a leading disability consulting services provider. Since its launch in 2020 through support from MEAF, seven electronics recyclers have been trained at ten locations across the country, resulting in the permanent and competitive employment of 37 people with disabilities.

“Our workforce of people with disabilities has great attendance and very low turnover. They are extremely engaged and devoted employees,” says Bob Adams, Vice President of Finance and Operations at Sipi Asset Recovery. “This discovery has led our company to set a goal of increasing employment for people with disabilities from 20% to 50% of our total workforce by the end of 2023.”

This year, e-Stewards has opened the program to all certified electronics recyclers, ITAD businesses, and enterprise partners. Workforce inclusion is one of e-Stewards primary social impact goals.

“While ADVANCE+ is a way for e-Stewards to help increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities, its main purpose is to help employers access and leverage the talent available in that workforce,” says Bill Morris, Social Chair of e-Stewards and Founder of Blue Star Recyclers.

Learn more about the e-Stewards ADVANCE+ program [here](#), apply to the 2022 program [here](#), or view our recent ADVANCE+ webinar [here](#).

For more information, contact:

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About e-Stewards® Certification:

The [e-Stewards® Initiative](#), is a market-based solution to help individuals and organizations identify and promote electronics recyclers who ensure that used electronics are managed with the highest environmental and social responsibility standards. e-Stewards Certified Recyclers and Refurbishers are audited and certified to ensure the highest levels of responsibility. e-Stewards Enterprises are major corporations, municipalities, nonprofits, or institutions that agree to make best efforts to make use of e-Stewards Certified Recyclers. e-Stewards is a program established by the environmental advocacy organization Basel Action Network. See [e-Stewards Video](#).

About Blue Star Recyclers:

[Blue Star Recyclers](#) is an e-Stewards certified, nonprofit social enterprise with a mission to recycle electronics and create local jobs for people with disabilities. Founded in 2009 in Colorado, the fulfillment of their mission to date has produced significant environmental, social, and economic impacts through its five US locations and employment model replication partners in the US and abroad.

About James Emmett & Company:

[James Emmett & Co.](#) helps businesses develop long-term strategies, systems, processes, tools, and support to create a disability-inclusive workplace. They are a national team of Disability Consultants with years of education and experience in the world of disabilities (expertise in all aspects of disabilities) and specific proficiency in development, implementation, and support of an inclusive workforce, from local companies to international corporations. JEC assists companies in establishing relationships with local disability employment vendors and build the internal capacity to recruit, hire, train, and retain employees with disabilities. They use the leading Corporate Development models to increase your business's bottom line while creating a stronger workforce for your company, a workforce that is comprised of qualified workers who are safe, productive, loyal, and have a lower turnover rate.

