



NC DEPARTMENT OF
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Joins Broad Effort to Observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Nationwide campaign will take place in October 2021

(Burlington, NC) — 10/6/2021 — The NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation today announced its participation in National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion".

The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

"Our national recovery from the pandemic cannot be completed without the inclusion of all Americans, in particular people with disabilities," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh. "Their contributions have historically been vital to our nation's success and are more important today than ever. We must build an economy that fully includes the talent and drive of those with disabilities."

Reflecting this year's theme, throughout the month, NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will be engaging in a variety of activities to educate its community, employers, and community partners on disability employment issues and its commitment to an inclusive work culture. These efforts include this press release, public service announcements, disability sensitivity trainings, employer recognitions, and a ribbon cutting with their Reidsville, NC office.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

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The NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – Burlington, NC is proud to be a part of this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month," said Jennifer Turner-Taylor. "We want to spread the important message that we value all perspectives, including those of individuals with disabilities."

Employers and employees in all industries can learn more about how to participate in National Disability Employment Awareness Month and ways they can promote its messages — during October and throughout the year — by visiting www.dol.gov/NDEAM.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Turner-Taylor
Business Relations Representative
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Burlington Unit
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services