WHEREAS; administered by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Project SEARCH is a public-private collaboration that enables young adults with disabilities in Wisconsin to acquire and develop competitive, transferable, and marketable skills that lead to employment; and

WHEREAS; Project SEARCH is a nine-to-12-month program that teaches critical skills and introduces participants to Wisconsin's business community and available opportunities through internships that maximize exposure to different career paths; and

WHEREAS; Project SEARCH represents an example of the power of partnership and collaboration between DVR, local school districts, businesses, nonprofit organizations, local care organizations, and others to make a tangible difference in people's lives; and

WHEREAS; 28 local business sites supported nearly 200 interns across Wisconsin through Project SEARCH during the 2023-2024 academic year, for a total of more than 1,800 program graduates since Wisconsin began participating in Project SEARCH in 2008; and

WHEREAS; May and June mark the end of the Project SEARCH year for many of the local sites that will host graduation ceremonies to celebrate the hard work and dedication of their interns and launch them into successful, competitive, and integrated employment; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin congratulates all Project SEARCH interns on a successful year and encourages Wisconsin businesses to partner with DVR and hire people of all abilities to help attract and retain a quality workforce across the state;

> NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim May 27 through June 2 2024 as

PROJECT SEARCH WEEK

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 10th day of May 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State