

WHEREAS; every year during the month of October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month is observed throughout our state to recognize the many contributions of Wisconsinites with disabilities to the advancement of our state's economy; and

WHEREAS; the engagement of Wisconsin businesses is key to maintaining a workforce system that encourages the full participation of all individuals in our state who want to work; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), through the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), continually seeks to implement innovative approaches that help individuals with disabilities find and maintain meaningful employment, such as Project SEARCH, which has provided workforce training to more than 1,250 youth and adults with disabilities since the program began during the 2008-2009 school year; and

WHEREAS; the DVR has continued to connect talented individuals with disabilities to employers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, providing employment services to more than 30,000 people with disabilities since the beginning of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS; our state values the contributions of workers with disabilities, and understands the importance of providing opportunities to job seekers with disabilities in both the public and private sectors, so that all segments of our economy may benefit from the tremendous skills, talents, abilities, and perspectives gained by fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins DWD in celebrating the critical role that workers with disabilities play in strengthening our economy, especially as we continue to bounce back from the unprecedented economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in reaffirming our commitment to providing an environment that encourages and promotes economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and the creation of employment opportunities for Wisconsinites of all abilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 2021 as

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

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 21st day of September 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State