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Governor Doyle Proclaims October National Disability Employment Awareness Month

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle has issued an Executive Order proclaiming the month of October National Disability Employment Awareness Month in Wisconsin. Throughout the month, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and its Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) will recognize and celebrate achievements of employers and employees with disabilities. DVR provides employment services to people with disabilities.

“Wisconsin’s 21st century economy depends on a diverse workforce that includes highly trained people with disabilities, and our employers play an important role in making Wisconsin a state that values the contributions of all of its citizens,” Governor Doyle said. “National Disability Employment Awareness Month is an opportunity for us to highlight the talents and skills of job seekers and working Wisconsin citizens who have disabilities. Society as a whole benefits when people with disabilities work.”

During the month, DWD will acknowledge many of Wisconsin’s employers who have recognized the importance of a diversified workforce that includes people with disabilities. Employment opportunities for people with disabilities can become a critical component in their ability to move from a life of dependency to a life of independence and inclusion in their communities. DVR partners with local service providers, educational institutions and businesses to offer a variety of employment supports and opportunities for individuals with disabilities who want to work.

The effort to educate the public concerning issues related to disability and employment began in 1945 with a week-long celebration that Congress later expanded to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

For information about employment and other services for people with disabilities in your area, contact your local DVR office or independent living center:

- DVR Offices: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/locations/default.htm>
- Independent Living Centers: <http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Disabilities/Physical/ILCs.htm>