

Department of Workforce Development
Secretary's Office
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-3131
Fax: (608) 266-1784
Email: sec@dwd.wisconsin.gov



Scott Walker, Governor
Scott Baumbach, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, October 3, 2011

CONTACT: John Dipko, Communications Director, 608-266-6753

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

Governor Proclaims October as Disability Employment Awareness Month

Month promotes employment of individuals with disabilities across Wisconsin

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Scott Baumbach said today that Governor Scott Walker's proclamation of October as Disability Employment Awareness Month in Wisconsin helps to promote the employment of individuals with disabilities across the state.

"In Wisconsin, we are fortunate to have a variety of programs, such as the programs carried through our agency's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, to assist jobseekers who face barriers to employment due to a disability achieve their fullest potential and be economically self-sufficient," Secretary Baumbach said. "It is vital for us to promote the inclusion of these individuals, who contribute greatly to the well-being of their communities."

The Governor's Proclamation coincides with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an event first designated in 1945 by President Harry S. Truman as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, "Physically" was removed to acknowledge the needs of all Americans with disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and it became National Disability Awareness Month.

As the Proclamation notes, Wisconsin has numerous pioneering programs to support the successful employment of individuals with disabilities. Just last week, Wisconsin was awarded over \$4.3 million in two federal grant programs to promote the training and employment of individuals with disabilities. On Friday, September 30, DWD signed a memorandum of agreement with various partners to promote job opportunities for people with disabilities in the U.S. Forest Service.

"Governor Walker's Proclamation reaffirms Wisconsin's strong commitment to ensure fair treatment of all individuals in the workplace and to promote the employment of individuals with disabilities," Secretary Baumbach said. "This commitment holds true in Wisconsin not just during this commemorative month, but all throughout the year."

-30-

Governor's Proclamation:

http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/pdf/1110_disability_employment_awareness_month.pdf