

10-16-15

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Mike Maley, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: Employment First: National Disability Employment Awareness Month

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

The Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS), the Employment First initiative and Vocational Rehabilitation, will celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month with an event held Friday, Oct. 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will be in the lobby of the Barbara Roberts Human Services Building, 500 Summer St. NE, Salem.

ODDS Director Lilia Teninty will kick off the event by reading the [Governor's Proclamation](#) and talk about the importance of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities working in the community. VR Director Trina Lee also will speak on statewide efforts to support people with disabilities in the workforce.

Employer Jonathan Fahey from downtown Salem store Create a Memory, and his employee Selena, who experiences a disability, will also speak at the event.

Cake will be served along with refreshments.

Held annually, [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) (NDEAM) is led by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy.

The theme for this year — which marks 70 years since the first observance — is “My Disability is One Part of Who I Am.”

Thank you all for your continued involvement, support, and advocacy for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon. If you have comments or other questions, please email them to employment.first@state.or.us.

~ Mike