

10-3-14

**To: Employment First stakeholders**

**From: Mike Maley**

**Re: Employment First: National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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 many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

Held annually, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is led by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, but its true spirit lies in the many observances held at the grassroots level across the nation every year. More information on NDEAM can be found at:

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/index-2014.htm>

In the spirit of this awareness building, we will be sharing a few recent employment success stories throughout the month as we continue the [Employment First](#) initiative. We recently visited Portland, Medford, Ashland and Roseburg and saw many great examples of how individuals, families, employers and service providers are working together to increase employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We will continually update new success stories on our website at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/employment/employment-first/success-stories>

Other efforts are ongoing around NDEAM with our partners and stakeholders. The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities will post success stories to their [Facebook page](#) throughout the month. Family and Community Together (FACT) also sent out a [message](#) highlighting transition-related employment resources. We will update you as we hear of other activities in Oregon.

In addition, we welcome all of you – providers, self-advocates, family members, and others, to share your stories of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities employed in integrated, community jobs. Please email your stories and ideas to [employment.first@state.or.us](mailto:employment.first@state.or.us).

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](mailto:employment.first@state.or.us).

~ Mike