



Oct. 11, 2018

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

October is National Disability Employment Month (NDEAM), and this year's theme is "America's Workforce: Empowering All."

At ODDS, employment is a vital part of our core mission. Employment is not only one of our five strategic goals, it is central to our mission to empower Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live full lives in their communities.

Employment reaches far beyond those that provide employment services and make employment policy. The cliché is that it takes a village, but this is certainly true when it comes to supporting a person with I/DD to get, maintain and advance in a community job. A few examples include:

- Families and guardians provide a key support role, as they can encourage and inspire their family members with I/DD to consider community employment.
- A person can only be successful at work if their home life is stable, so residential providers play a key role in making sure a person is supported with the tools to be ready for work on time and prepared for the workday.
- Direct Support Professionals and Personal Support Workers support people to be included in their community and help them with daily activities such as budgeting and cooking. These are all skills that also help a person succeed in the workplace.

These are just a few examples. Of course, we also have job coaches, job developers, and other employment professionals throughout the state supporting people with I/DD in their jobs. The support they provide is vital to the empowerment and success of people with I/DD.

Employment is everyone's job, and we are proud to provide services and supports to people with I/DD can live and work in their communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the name.

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Previous Director's Messages are available at
[http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-
DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx)

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You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Oregon Office of Developmental Disabilities Services at 503-945-5811. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.