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September 6, 2022

To: ODDS Staff and Partners
From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services
Subject: National Disability Employment Awareness Month lunch and learn series

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) takes place in October. A series of events will be held, which includes a weekly lunch and learn series.

The [NDEAM 2022](#) theme is “Disability: Part of the Equity Equation.” This recognizes the important role that people with disabilities have in making the nation’s workforce diverse and inclusive.

The lunch and learn events are on Tuesdays, beginning October 4 at noon. All four events are held online via Zoom except for the October 4 event, which is hybrid. [Register](#) to attend any of the sessions. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about how to access the events.

These are the NDEAM lunch and learn events:

October 4 – Celebrating Employment Champions (hybrid event)

Join the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services and Central Oregon Employment First to celebrate employment successes in the region. The celebration will include meeting Christian Brigham, who used to work in sheltered workshop settings and now works at the Comfort Suites in Redmond, plus award presentations. The in-person portion of this event begins at noon at the Madras Performing Arts Center. Food is provided and resource tables are available. Please [RSVP for the in-person event](#) by September 27. The online portion of the event begins at 12:30 p.m.

October 11 – Continuing the Climb

This session will involve stories of people who have continued to move forward in their employment journey after they started their first positions. The stories will be told by the people themselves, as well as some of the people who provided support along the way.

October 18 – Past, Present and Future in Transition

Please join us as three young people share their employment journeys. They will share their goals, dreams and experiences in regard to employment. Each one of them is at a different point in their journey.

October 25 – Maintaining Supports While Employed

One of the most significant barriers to employment can be the uncertainty around how benefits will be affected by earnings from work. This session will cut through some of the myths and misinformation about how employment affects benefits.

There are two additional events happening in October. The Mid-Columbia Employment First group is hosting a Dancing Through the Decades event on **October 8**. It will be held at The Dalles Civic Auditorium from 6:30–9:30 p.m. People aged 16 and above are welcome to attend, and there is a \$10 suggested donation. The 5th annual Employment First Recognition Awards Event will be held at 4 p.m. on **October 13**. [RSVP for either the in-person or online](#) portion of the event. This is hosted by Marion County Employment First Network, Polk County Employment First team and Resource Connections of Oregon.

The NDEAM lunch and learn series is hosted by the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, the Oregon Commission for the Blind and the Oregon Department of Education.

These sessions will be accessible to people with disabilities. Both American Sign Language and Spanish interpretation will be provided. [Live captioning will also be available](#). For questions about accessibility, or to request an accommodation including language interpretation, please contact Employment.First@odhsoha.oregon.gov. Requests should be made at least 48 hours in advance of the events.

We hope you will widely share [this event flyer](#). There will also be shareable posts on the [Employment First Facebook page](#).

Thank you for your work and for supporting Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Previous ODDS Director's Messages are available at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx>

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