



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, since 1945, Congress has recognized the need to raise public awareness about the challenges of finding employment faced by individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one in five people have a disability - about 1.7 million individuals in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, people with all ranges of disabilities can achieve employment, providing a sense of purpose, accomplishment and earned income; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey benefits from the participation of people with disabilities in the workforce with increased productivity, expanded tax base and lower poverty rates; and

WHEREAS, in April 2012, New Jersey became an Employment First state, adopting the philosophy and practice that competitive work is the first and preferred post education activity for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has multiple state agencies and subdivisions working in collaboration to advance employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, to encourage and support their employment, the NJ WorkAbility Program offers full Medicaid health coverage to people with disabilities who are working, but whose earnings would otherwise make them ineligible; and

WHEREAS, the state welcomes and applauds efforts in the private and non-profit sectors, among faith-based organizations, disability advocacy groups, higher education entities, corporate and business communities to promote employment for people with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

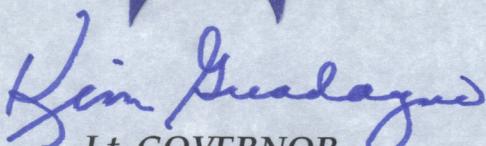
OCTOBER 2012

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DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey to honor the accomplishments of individuals with disabilities and their employers to promote inclusive working environments, and call upon New Jersey's business community to develop its employment outreach to individuals with disabilities.



  
Lt. GOVERNOR

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-sixth day of September in the year two thousand twelve, the two hundred thirty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States.

  
GOVERNOR