



Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

111 E. 3rd Street • Port Angeles, WA 98362 • Phone: 360-417-2303 • Fax: 360-452-9605

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Timothy Bruce, Health and Human Services Planner, Developmental Disabilities, 360-417-2428

Date: October 4, 2017

On Tuesday, October 3, 2017, the Board of Clallam County Commissioners proclaimed the month of October 2017 as Disability Employment Awareness Month in Clallam County and publically recognized employers in Clallam County who employ people with developmental disabilities. Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. The theme for 2017 is "Inclusion Drives Innovation."

NDEAM's roots go back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

Employers recognized were: A-1 Performance Inc., Amazing Changes Hair Studio, Banana Belt Kelly, Clallam Transit, DBA Lefties Baseball, DSHS - Child Protective Services, Feiro Marine Life Center, Forks Coffee Shop, Goodwill – Sequim, Home Depot, JACE Real Estate - Port Angeles, JACE Real Estate – Sequim, Jack In The Box - Port Angeles, Juan de Fuca Cottages, McDonald's - Port Angeles, Olympic Medical Center, Omega Business Center, Pacific Office Equipment, Quality Inn & Suites, Red Lion Hotel - Port Angeles, Safeway – Sequim, Safeway Hwy 101 - Port Angeles, Safeway Lincoln St - Port Angeles, Shred Head Shredding, Smuggler's Landing, Sodexo, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, The Cedars at Dungeness, Three Rivers Resort, TLC Pet Pros, Wal-Mart - Port Angeles, Washburn's General Store, YMCA – Port Angeles, YMCA – Sequim.

If you frequent these businesses, please let them know you appreciate their commitment to diversity and inclusion in the workplace.



Photo (taken by Nan Furford):

(Left to right) Cheryl Williams – Clallam County Health & Human Services; Leaha Miller – Morningside; Kelley Lawrence – Clallam County Health & Human Services; Lara Radke – Morningside; Mark Ozias - Clallam County Commissioner; Timothy Bruce - Clallam County Health and Human Services; Randy Johnson - Clallam County Commissioner; Kim Yacklin – Clallam County Health & Human Services; Andy Brastad – Clallam County Health & Human Services; Priya Jayadev – Clallam Mosaic; Randy Brackett – Clallam Mosaic Board President and father of disabled son working at Goodwill.

Proclamations:
"October 2017 as Disability Employment Awareness Month"



PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2017 AS DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Public Law 176, enacted by Congress in 1945, designated the first week in October as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week; and in 1988, Congress changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month" and;

WHEREAS, many citizens with developmental disabilities have the ability and desire to seek employment in settings that provide opportunities to earn competitive wages and benefits, enable them to reach their maximum potential, achieve economic self-sufficiency and contribute to their communities and;

WHEREAS, citizens with developmental disabilities have a positive impact on the economy by earning wages, purchasing goods and services in their communities, and becoming self-supporting and;

WHEREAS, workplaces welcoming of the talents of all people, including people with developmental disabilities, are a critical part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and strong economy and;

WHEREAS, We cannot afford, morally or financially, to lose the contributions that people with developmental disabilities bring, not only to the workplace but also to mainstream community life as an irreplaceable resource for our county, state and nation and;

WHEREAS, Clallam County strongly supports and encourages individuals with developmental disabilities to find employment, thus fostering the key objectives of advancing individual well-being and reducing the demand on public resources and;

WHEREAS, individuals and their families, local government, the business community, and the general public benefit greatly from increased employment of people with developmental disabilities and share in the responsibility for achieving this goal and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, Board of Clallam County Commissioners hereby recognizes October as Disability Employment Awareness Month in Clallam County and encourages all businesses and citizens to advocate for increased employment and inclusion in the community life of Clallam County for all individuals.

"Inclusion Drives Innovation."

Signed this third day of October 2017




BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Mark Ozias, Chair



Bill Peach



Randy Johnson

“Recognizing Employers of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities”



PROCLAMATION

**RECOGNIZING EMPLOYERS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

WHEREAS, the purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of Clallam County’s employees with developmental disabilities and;

WHEREAS, work is a fundamental part of identity and offers purpose and the opportunity to lead an independent, self-directed life for all people, including individuals with developmental disabilities and;

WHEREAS, employers welcoming of the talents of all people, including people with developmental disabilities, are a critical part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and a strong and diverse economy and;

WHEREAS, the values and diversity of the people of Clallam County have made this county a leader throughout the state of Washington in business and employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and;

WHEREAS, many local businesses have chosen to see the individuals with developmental disabilities as individuals with talents that are an asset to their business and;

WHEREAS, many local businesses have chosen to foster a culture respectful of individual differences, including developmental disabilities, as a core value and;

WHEREAS, many local employers have chosen to tap into this talented, committed workforce by partnering with Clallam County’s Department of Health and Human Services to provide employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Board of Clallam County Commissioners hereby recognize, thank and applaud the Clallam County businesses that demonstrate the insight and good business sense to hire employees with developmental disabilities and encourage all citizens to join in efforts to increase employment and involvement of persons with developmental disabilities throughout Clallam County, and to participate in the efforts to allow the full participation of people with developmental disabilities in the economic, social and work life of the community; making Clallam County inclusive for all.

“Inclusion Drives Innovation”

Signed this third day of October 2017



BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Mark Ozias, Chair



Bill Peach



Randy Johnson