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lakecountyohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 6, 2022

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Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood Joins Broad Effort to Observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Nationwide campaign will take place in October

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, October 6, 2022– The Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD)/Deepwood today announced its participation in National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. The purpose of NDEAM is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation."



From the left: Ryan Wagner, Michael Null, Commissioner John Plecnik, Elfie Roman, Julie O'Neil, Katie Debly, Commissioner Mark Tyler, Commissioner John Hamercheck.

The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

"Our national recovery from the pandemic cannot be completed without the inclusion of all Americans, in particular people with disabilities," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh. "Their contributions have historically been vital to our nation's success, and are more important today

than ever. We must build an economy that fully includes the talent and drive of those with disabilities.”

“Reflecting this year's theme, throughout the month, the Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood will be engaging in a variety of activities to educate its community on disability employment issues and its commitment to an inclusive work culture,” said Elfie Roman, LCBDD Superintendent.

These efforts include posts across social media @DeepwoodLakeDD to highlight the success of work relationships and talents of individuals in Lake County who have developmental disabilities, as well as participation in events with the public and local businesses.

“People with disabilities add to our workplaces and communities,” said Commissioner John Hamercheck. “Lake County is committed to an inclusive community that increases access to opportunities to all, including those with disabilities.”

“We’re honored that the Lake County Commissioners will pass a resolution to proclaim October as NDEAM at this month’s meeting,” added Roman. “Our local community truly supports our mission and leads by example.”

“The Lake County Commissioners are proud to be a part of this year’s National Disability Employment Awareness Month activities,” said Commissioner John Plecnik. “We want to spread the important message that we value all youth and adult with disabilities who are job and career seekers to encourage confidence and develop relationships in the Lake County business community.”

“This year is the 77th Anniversary of Disability Awareness Month. It is important our community is educated about disability employment issues and celebrate the many ways disabled people have a positive impact on our community,” said Commissioner Mark Tyler.

Employers and employees in all industries can learn more about how to participate in National Disability Employment Awareness Month and ways they can promote its messages — during October and throughout the year — by visiting www.dol.gov/NDEAM.

Those interested in learning more about the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood’s programs and services can visit www.lakebdd.org/ or connect on social media.

The mission of the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood is to EMPOWER people with developmental disabilities to ENGAGE in activities that ENRICH their lives and contribute to their community.

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