



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Florida's Agency for Persons with Disabilities provides services to more than 57,000 Floridians with developmental disabilities annually, so they can live and work in their local communities; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Division of Blind Services within the Department of Education, assist people with disabilities so they may become employed; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity, CareerSource Florida, and 24 local workforce development boards throughout the state help people with disabilities locate jobs by offering services including job placement assistance, training, support services, and job coaching; and

WHEREAS, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities has assisted 2,410 Floridians with unique abilities, Vocational Rehabilitation has assisted 5,389 people, and Blind Services helped 822 individuals achieve successful employment outcomes, and another 11,576 individuals to become more successful in school, community and work during fiscal year 2019-2020; and

WHEREAS, the Unique Abilities Partner Program will recognize businesses that are committed to providing career and financial opportunities to individuals with unique abilities, and to the organizations that support them; and

WHEREAS, Florida has the third largest population of disabled veterans in the nation with more than 348,000, including more than 2,500 wounded veterans from service in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Economic Opportunity, and CareerSource Florida network are working together to increase employment opportunities for veterans with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation, Blind Services, Department of Economic Opportunity, CareerSource Florida, Department of Veterans' Affairs, and The Able Trust have substantially contributed to the tax revenues of Florida by helping individuals with disabilities go to work, thus increasing their ability to achieve self-sufficiency; and

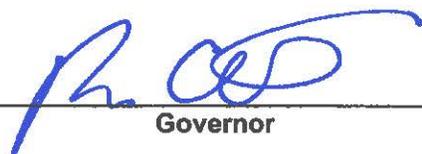
WHEREAS, Florida's Disability Mentoring Day activities are hosted throughout October providing mentoring and job shadowing employment opportunities for students and job seekers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Florida joins the rest of the Nation in recognizing the contributions of the 2.8 million Floridians with unique abilities by celebrating October 2020, as Disability Employment Awareness Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing October 2020, as *Disability Employment Awareness Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1st day of October, in the year two thousand twenty.



Governor