



Resolution to Recognize National Disability Employment Awareness Month

WHEREAS, The Nebraska Department of Education and its Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (Nebraska VR) are committed to the Strategic Vision and Direction Priority of ensuring all Nebraskans, regardless of background or circumstances, have equitable access to opportunities for success;

WHEREAS, The mission of the Nebraska Department of Education is to lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living;

WHEREAS, The mission of Nebraska VR is to help people with disabilities prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment while helping businesses recruit, train, and retain employees with disabilities;

WHEREAS, Nebraska VR partners with businesses to meet their hiring needs through accessing an underutilized pool of talent and providing businesses with the skills and tools to foster an inclusive workplace where every employee can have the opportunity to succeed;

WHEREAS, Nebraska VR works with schools, students, and parents while working with community and business partners to provide Pre-Employment Transition Services with the goal to prepare students with disabilities for life after high school;

WHEREAS, Nebraska VR provides employment services to eligible adult clients through evidence-based practices to meet clients where they are;

WHEREAS, The unemployment rate in Nebraska is at a record low of 2%; yet Nebraska still faces critical workforce shortages; and

WHEREAS, Access to opportunity and employment where individuals with disabilities can use their talents, skills, and abilities is critical to solve workforce shortages and for individuals to achieve self-sufficiency and be contributing members of their communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Nebraska State Board of Education hereby recognizes efforts to ensure all Nebraskans are informed of and have access to competitive integrated employment;

RESOLVED, The Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska VR will provide informational resources to assist fellow Nebraskans, schools, and communities to advance access and equity for Nebraskans with disabilities;

RESOLVED, The Nebraska State Board of Education encourages community partners and businesses to embrace inclusive hiring practices to provide opportunity to a diverse workforce; and

RESOLVED, The Nebraska State Board of Education joins Nebraska VR, job seekers, students, partners, and the country in recognizing October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month to celebrate the contributions of America's workers with disabilities and showcase supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices that benefit businesses, employees, students, and communities.

Signed on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Education, this 6th day of October 2023.


Patti Gubbels, President


Kirk Penner, Vice President