

EXCEPTIONAL NEWS

A monthly newsletter brought to you by The Center for Exceptional Families

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Top story in this newsletter



National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October

Question: Have you ever questioned whether or not you should open the door for someone ahead of you who is in a wheelchair? Or have felt uncomfortable sitting next to someone with an apparent physical disability? These experiences are very common and ones that many of us have worked through. The need for people to be educated about people living with disabilities is ever growing in our society. At some point in all of our lives, we will be confronted with a situation where we will have to serve the needs of someone who has a disability. Sadly, stereotypes and prejudice impact the way in which we interact with and serve others who have disabilities. Discrimination and negative attitudes towards people with disabilities comes from a general lack of information and misunderstanding about who these people are and the best practices for serving their unique needs as individuals.

"Attitudes are the Real Disability" SAF Disability Diversity Training (www.standamongfriends.org)

Celebrating 70 Years!



Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a time to celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. National Disability Employment Awareness Month serves as an important reminder for everyone- Not only during October, when it is officially observed, but every day of the year.

The October designation, on both the national and local levels, is used to promote awareness about the employment and underemployment of people with disabilities and to reaffirm the nation's commitment to ensure equality for everyone. The efforts to educate the public about the issues related to disability and employment go back to 1945. At that time, Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year as "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." Upon its establishment in 2001, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability took over responsibility for National Disability Employment Month.

CT Department of Labor Communications Office (www.ctdol.state.ct.us)
U.S. Department of Labor (www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam)

Transition: From School yard to the Work place!

Transition planning is a process for students with disabilities that begins around middle school, and focuses on life after high school. Transition planning helps students with disabilities, as well as their parents and guardians, understand and the opportunities available to them after they graduate from high school, such as college, vocational rehabilitation, employment and independent living. It also helps young people with disabilities develop life skills through hands-on experiences, so they can become successful, independent members of society.

Disability.gov (www.disability.gov/resource/disability-govs-guide-student-transition-planning/)

Parent Support Corner



One of our goals, at The Center for Exceptional Families, is to provide statewide support to families, schools, educators, students transitioning to adulthood and individuals seeking secondary scholastic achievement.

If you need assistance with understanding your child's rights to an equal and quality education or an equal opportunity in the work place, please contact our office for support, resources, and training.