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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona Employment First Joins Effort to Observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month

(Phoenix, Arizona) — October 5, 2018 — [Arizona Employment First](#) announced its participation in National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October.

Governor Doug Ducey has issued a [proclamation](#) recognizing October as Disability Employment Awareness Month, encouraging all Arizonans to recognize the strengths that people with disabilities bring to the workforce, community and our state as a whole.

As we continue to gather employment success stories across AZ, join us in celebrating these two stories of individuals who have disabilities thriving in the Arizona work place featured [here](#).

"Arizona Employment First is proud to be a part of this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month," said Susan Voirol, Program Manager for Employment First and Transition Initiatives. "We want to spread the important message that we value all perspectives, including those of individuals who have disabilities."

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.

The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate the public about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "America's Workforce: Empowering All."

Reflecting this year's theme, throughout the month, Arizona Employment First will be engaging in a variety of activities to educate the community on disability employment issues and its commitment to an inclusive work culture. Arizona Employment First grassroots efforts have been in existence since 2013 and have been instrumental in advancing the goal of creating system change at all levels for individuals who have disabilities.

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