



Joint Proclamation

Whereas, workplaces welcoming of the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, are critical to build an inclusive community and strong economy; and

Whereas, citizens with disabilities continue to experience unemployment and poverty at rates substantially higher than those without disabilities; and

Whereas, Washington State's Employment First act recognizes that all individuals, regardless of their disability, will be afforded an opportunity to pursue competitive employment; and

Whereas, public awareness and education enhance a community's understanding of the issues affecting people with disabilities; and

Whereas, the Work Opportunities "Run, Walk, and Roll" 5K is coordinated in order to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month and advance Work Opportunities' mission of providing self-determination, self-respect and valued participation in the community for people with disabilities through work; and

Whereas, activities during this month will reinforce the value and talent people with disabilities add to our workplaces and communities and affirm commitment to an inclusive community.

NOW, THEREFORE DO WE, Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, and Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive, proclaim October 2014 as:

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County we urge all citizens to participate in the activities and programs to advance the important message that "a strong workforce is one inclusive of the skills and talents of all individuals, including individuals with disabilities" throughout the year.

Signed this 17th day of October, 2014.

Handwritten signature of Kelli Linville in blue ink.

Kelli Linville, Mayor
City of Bellingham

Handwritten signature of Jack Louws in blue ink.

Jack Louws, Executive
Whatcom County

