

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, this year marks the 21st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA); the ADA was intended to guarantee the civil rights of persons with disabilities including equal opportunities for employment; equal access to government services, programs and activities; and, equal access to places of public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, disabilities know no boundaries and affect people of all races, religions, ages, cultures, economic groups, and educational levels; and

WHEREAS, disabilities affect more than 5,130 people five years of age and older who live in Jefferson County (or, more than 19% of the population) including sensory, physical, mental and cognitive disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, in Jefferson County residents with disabilities are unemployed at least twice the rate of non-disabled residents; and,

WHEREAS, in Jefferson County 40% to 45% students with disabilities who graduate are unemployed; and

WHEREAS, reducing physical barriers can often be easily achieved, while changing misperceptions and rejecting stereotypes can create the greatest opportunities for all, including those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, reducing barriers to participation for persons with disabilities requires cooperative, sustained and consistent effort, and is the responsibility of the entire community including the economic, governmental, educational, health care, criminal justice, religious and social welfare infrastructure, to ensure that people with disabilities can participate fully in the workplace and all aspects of community life; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County recognizes the demonstrated benefits of a diverse workforce and the valuable contributions of people with disabilities in the workplace;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Jefferson County Commissioners hereby proclaim October as

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT MONTH

And ask everyone to participate in efforts to recognize the serious impact that physical and attitudinal barriers create to full community participation for persons with disabilities; to work to eliminate these barriers to participation; to join in efforts to increase the accessibility of Jefferson County for persons with disabilities; and urge all citizens to join in observing this occasion.

PROCLAIMED this 3rd day of October, 2011

SEAL:
ATTEST:

Raina Randall
Raina Randall,
Deputy Clerk of the Board

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

John Austin
John Austin, Chairman

Phil Johnson
Phil Johnson, Member

David Sullivan
David Sullivan, Member