

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, *National Disability Employment Awareness Month had its origins in 1945, when Congress declared the first week in October as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week," with the word "physically" removed in 1962 to acknowledge individuals' needs and contributions with all kinds of disabilities; in 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month; and*

WHEREAS, *the 2021 theme "America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion," reflects the importance of ensuring that people with disabilities have full access to employment and community involvement during the national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and*

WHEREAS, *recognizing the resolve and determination of people with disabilities, the City of Salem is proud to collaborate with area agencies such as Garten Services and Project SEARCH, to advance and promote a diverse and productive workforce; and*

WHEREAS, *by working with our community partners, the City of Salem is committed to opening its doors to residents, including an innovative nine-month internship program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Chuck Bennett, Mayor of the City of Salem, Oregon, do hereby proclaim October 2021, as*

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

and encourage all residents and businesses to participate in actively putting people with disabilities to work, and recognizing their important contributions to our local economy.

DATED *this eleventh day of October, 2021.*



Chuck Bennett
Mayor