



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Texas is an undisputed economic leader with a remarkable job creation record, providing opportunities for all to better themselves and their families. Our state is also home to a world-class workforce — one in which individuals with disabilities play a critical role.

The Lone Star State stands to benefit from an integrated workforce where people with and without disabilities work side by side. Businesses that hire, retain and include people with disabilities continue to discover that a strong workforce is an inclusive workforce. The perspective and creativity of people with disabilities benefit employers who acknowledge each person's unique strengths and talents. Employment also helps Texans with disabilities pursue their full potential for independence in their communities. During the 83rd Legislative Session, Texas expressed its support for this concept through Senate Bill 1226, creating an "employment-first" policy ensuring people with disabilities are given every opportunity to succeed through competitive, integrated employment opportunities.

Each October, an awareness campaign is conducted to support equal employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities also presents the annual Lex Frieden Employment Awards, named for the disability rights champion instrumental in the adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act. These awards recognize businesses, individuals and organizations dedicated to maintaining an inclusive workforce. This year's recipients are Carroll Schubert of Professional Contract Services, Inc., Austin; Rebecca Page of Livin' My Dreams Art Studio and Co-op, Alpine; Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Dallas; Target Medallion Center Store #T0055, Dallas; Stencor Company, LLC, Jacksonville; RISE Center for Independent Living, Beaumont; and the Panhandle Coalition for Transition Services' LITE project, Amarillo.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to recognize the strengths that people with disabilities can bring to our workforce, our community and our state as a whole.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim October 2013 to be

Disability Employment Awareness Month



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 18th day of September, 2013.

Rick Perry
Governor of Texas