

Proclamation



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AN EMPLOYMENT FIRST STATE

OCTOBER 18, 2012

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia believes that all people of working age, including people with disabilities, shall have the opportunity to work and earn the prevailing wage, in the career path they choose; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and veterans with service-connected disabilities have the ability to work, as well as the desire to work, earn competitive wages, and contribute to their workplaces, their families, the economy and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia and the Department on Disability Services affirms that employment is an important part of the lives of all working age adults and people with disabilities are a largely untapped resource with skills and talents who can meet the needs of area business and employers; and

WHEREAS, when people with disabilities are employed, they benefit directly and have a positive impact on the economy by earning wages, paying taxes, purchasing goods and services, and having the opportunity to become economically self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS, aligning with the 19 Employment First states in the U.S.A. and our "One City Action Plan," the District of Columbia and the Department on Disability Services believe that integrated employment in the community should be the first and primary option for working age adults with disabilities and youth transitioning from school services:

NOW THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim October 18, 2012, as "DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AN EMPLOYMENT FIRST STATE" which will benefit people with disabilities, their families, employers and this community.

Vincent C. Gray