

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AGENDA**

<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> Special
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(A) Report Only Recognition

Presenter(s):

Briefly describe the subject of the report or recognition presentation.

(B) Action Item

Presenter(s): MR. GILBERTO GONZALEZ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Briefly describe the action required.

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE REQUEST TO ADOPT A PROCLAMATION WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF ASSISTIVE AND REHABILITATIVE PROCLAIMING OCTOBER AS "DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH"

(C) **Funding source: Identify the source of funds if any are required.**

(D) **Clarification: Explain any question or issues that might be raised regarding this item.**

A Proclamation

WHEREAS, on July 26, 1990, President George H. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities. This legislation established a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services administers programs that ensure Texas is a State where people with disabilities and children who have developmental delays, enjoy the same opportunities as other Texans to live independent and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, with the re-authorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act the Eagle Pass Independent School District has an opportunity to support transition to post-secondary education, training or employment for our students; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services administers programs that ensure our students with disabilities and developmental delays can transition from academia to the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Eagle Pass Independent School District wishes to join the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services in celebrating and recognizing the progress that has been made by reaffirming the principals of equality and inclusion and recommitting our efforts to full inclusion in our work force for our students, post high school.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lupita Fuentes, President of the Eagle Pass ISD, do hereby proclaim October as "Disability Employment Awareness Month" in the Eagle Pass Independent School District, acknowledging the many contributions of our district employees, and I encourage all private and public employers to recognize the strengths that people with disabilities can bring to our workforce and our community and to commend the efforts of the local Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services in vehemently pursuing these benefits for the disabled students of our community.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the Eagle Pass ISD to be affixed, this 13th day of October, 2015.

October 05, 2015

Superintendent Gonzalez and members of the board:

Thank you for the opportunity to bring attention and awareness to this community on employment of persons with disabilities by participating in our National Employment Awareness Month Initiative

With the recent passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), we wanted to highlight the need for preparing our youth with disabilities for employment

Background: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity act is an amendment and re-authorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which supported the nation's primary programs and investments in employment services, workforce development, adult education and vocational rehabilitation activities.

The new legislation is the product of a bipartisan, bicameral negotiation between the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and House Committee.

Why Change it?

First of all, the authorization for the statute expired in 2003; since then attempts to reauthorize the legislation were undertaken in both the House and Senate which culminated in the act that was passed last month.

According to the Department of Labor reports 6.1 percent unemployment rate, which represents 9.5 million Americans out of work. More than 20 million Americans have been either out of work or underemployed since 2009. Simultaneously we have 4.6 million job openings that are not being filled. In manufacturing alone, the backbone of middle class opportunity, as many as 600,000 jobs are going unfilled. These "blue collar" jobs should now be called "blue tech" jobs and can earn you \$60,000 a year or more! The Wall Street Journal reports that 33 percent of small-business owners and chief executives could not find qualified applicants and therefore had unfilled job openings in June.

Unemployment, underemployment, unstable or temporary employment and limited advancement for minimum-skilled workers are all symptoms of the job crisis. But at its heart lies the infamous skills gap.

Bogged down by bureaucracy and innumerable, confusing programs, the previous federal job training system attempted to help individuals learn the skills needed to make

themselves more viable on the job market, but as the numbers listed above demonstrate, it was not working very well. Every year \$18 billion tax dollars were spent on job-training programs, but only a fraction of the workers completing the training obtained jobs and barely 50% of the people who went through the federal job training programs completed with the actual skills they needed for the jobs they were seeking.

These numbers only quantify the issue. They fail to capture the frustration of millions of Americans searching for that steady paycheck, trying to provide for their families and make ends meet.

How is it going to help?

A few provisions taken by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act include:

- ensuring pragmatic accessibility of one-stop centers and training providers
- enhancing the flexibility of funds, and
- setting common performance indicators for all core programs under the bill.

In addition, the act eliminates 15 ineffective programs and prevents the creation of more bureaucracy or useless duplicative programs.

It supports transitions to postsecondary education, training or employment and requires evaluation and research into adult education activities. Other amendments include better alignment of disability programs,

State and local plans to include advanced manufacturing workforce development strategies and provisions to support professional development for employment services staff.

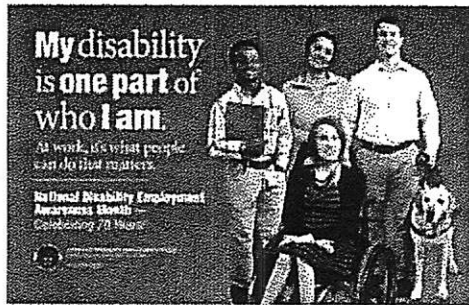
In short, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act streamlines and modernizes the maze that was federal job-training programs so that workers can access the right training, immediately, giving us an opportunity to ensure all of our students are prepared to accept the jobs of the future.

October is also National Disability Employment Awareness Month

2015 Theme: **My disability is one part of who I am.**

2015 Poster Description

The 2015 NDEAM theme--My disability is one part of who I am. -- appears in large white letters on the left side of the poster on a blue backdrop. Below the theme are the words--At work, it's what people can do that matters--followed by a short white line. Under the line are the words National Disability Employment Awareness Month with a dash and the statement Celebrating 70 years! At the bottom of the left side is the DOL logo and the words OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR and the URL for ODEP's website www.dol.gov/odep/ To the right of the words is a group image of four individuals with various disabilities from the Campaign for Disability Employment's "WHO I AM" campaign.



- State History: National Disability Employment Awareness Month - Poster and Activities

Each Fall since 1999, the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities produces a poster celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in October. Artwork for the poster is selected by a submission and judging process and is open to any Texas artist with a disability. For information on the submission process, this occurs January to mid-March each year.

Every year, DARS and the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD) collaborate to publish a special poster celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in October. The GCPD and a panel of judges select the poster artwork from entries submitted through a contest open to all Texans of all ages with disabilities.



In addition to displaying artwork in venues around the State, the posters are displayed alongside the original artwork at the office of the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities, located at 1100 San Jacinto Blvd, Austin, Texas. Beginning September 1 each year, we accept orders for free posters for offices and businesses, as well as for October NDEAM celebrations throughout the state. Please send us a message or phone our office at 512-463-5739 or your relay provider of choice.

Local History:

In 2013, the City of Eagle Pass adopted a proclamation

In 2014, the County of Maverick issued a similar resolution.

Below is a draft resolution the Eagle Pass ISD could consider adopting at its October meeting if approved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. M. Dr.", is located in the lower-left quadrant of the page.