

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL Snohomish County, Washington

## RESOLUTION NO. 24-047

## RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

*WHEREAS,* October 2024 marks the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945 when it started as an awareness week and focused specifically on people with physical disabilities. Later, it expanded to a full month and its name and scope evolved to address the importance of increasing workforce inclusion for people with any disability to reflect the diversity of communities across the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** National Disability Employment Awareness Month celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities past and present and showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices; and

*WHEREAS*, good jobs change lives and all workers deserve the opportunity to prepare for, obtain, and succeed in jobs in their communities. Reflecting this, "Access to Good Jobs for All" is this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month theme; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County partners with Developmental Disabilities Administration, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, and 13 Career Path agencies, including AtWork!, Cares of Washington, Community Trades and Careers, Northwest Center, Orion Industries, PROVAIL, Service Alternatives, SAILS Washington, Sherwood Community Services, Vadis, Village Community Services, Work Opportunities, and Washington Vocational Services, providing opportunities and assistance for more than 800 people with disabilities to find and retain employment, working with employers, job coaches and the employee for successful employment; and

**WHEREAS,** Snohomish County, Career Path agencies, and community partners work diligently to provide paid, competitive employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in integrated work settings with appropriate ongoing support from a job coach; and

**WHEREAS,** Snohomish County actively supports the goals of equality, opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for all people with disabilities and recognizes the right to be an integral and valued member of our community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Snohomish County Council does hereby recognize October as Disability Employment Awareness Month in Snohomish County and encourages all residents, visitors, and employers to join Snohomish County in honoring the contributions people with disabilities make to our community and economy and in supporting individuals with disabilities in their pursuit for employment opportunities to ensure that disabled workers have access to good jobs every month of every year.

APPROVED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024.

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**Jared Mead** Council Ghair

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Councilmember

Strom Peterson Councilmember

Nate Nehring Council Vice-Chair

**Megan Dunn** Councilmember

ATTEST:

Debbie Eco, CMC Clerk of the Council