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NEWS RELEASE

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Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area Rejoin for Second Year to Host Free Webinars Throughout October, to Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Importance of Inclusive Hiring Practices

CEDAR PARK, Texas – For the second year in a row, [Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services](#) (VR) and [Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area](#) (WSRCA) have joined to celebrate [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) (NDEAM) in October, by hosting free weekly webinars on disability inclusion topics for the community.

The NDEAM webinars will be held virtually on Thursdays throughout October at 1 p.m., to guide entrepreneurs with disabilities to explore opportunities to start and grow their businesses, and to empower employers with the accommodation information and tools necessary to hire, retain and promote people with disabilities, and foster a disability-friendly work culture.

This year marks not only the 75th observance of NDEAM, but also the 30th anniversary of the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA). Both milestones are being commemorated with a range of events and activities across the nation centered on the theme "Increasing Access and Opportunity."

Reflecting this year's theme, throughout the month, WSRCA and VR will be engaging in a variety of activities and outreach to help Central Texans learn more about disability employment issues, and our region's commitment to an inclusive work culture.

The NDEAM Webinar dates and topics include:

1) October 1 - 1 p.m.: How to Become an Entrepreneur

Start your own business! Learn more about programs in our region that support the entrepreneurial spirit and provide startup guidance and resources to Texans with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Register Today: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IE2LBEiYS4KOFn5znSd1vg

2) October 8 - 1 p.m.: Workforce Solutions/Vocational Rehabilitation Partnership

Employers and jobseekers alike can utilize the services of both Workforce Solutions and Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR) at the same time. Our partnership eliminates multiple visits, streamlines service delivery, and provides educational opportunities like these webinars, throughout the year. Learn how you and your organization can benefit. The webinar panel is hosted by Senior VR Services Counselor Robyn Farris.

Register Today: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7IJdUFStRx-q9_RjnWrZ7g

3) October 15 - 1 p.m.: Celebrating Success

Hear from local employers on how they have used the resources of Workforce Solutions and VR Services to improve the lives of their employees with disabilities, while enriching their culture and shoring up the bottom line. The webinar is hosted by VR Regional Business Service Specialist Arthur

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Register Today: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3oVTe4JFQRWUK7L_q6sfWw

4) October 22 - 1 p.m.: What is Neurodiversity?

VR Services Neurodiversity Specialist, Jennifer Hines, will show employers how they can benefit by tapping into highly functional, exceptionally bright individuals on the Neurodiversity Spectrum. Special guests include employers who have pioneered empowering workers on the Spectrum, and who will share some of their best practices.

Register Today: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RH-Vwo3fRnOA9hhp_79-EQ

5) October 29 - 1 p.m.: Understanding ADA and Reviewing Physical/Cognitive Disabilities in the Workplace

VR Services Experts, Jonathan Mize and Crystal Stark, will provide an overview of Americans with Disabilities Act for employers and accommodating physical and cognitive disabilities in the workplace.

Register Today: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HF7PnIIXRWqdrumHfFS6BQ

“One out of every five Americans will face a physical or mental disability at least once in their lives,” said Robert Alexander, Vocational Rehabilitation Manager for the Rural Capital Area. “This means as an employer, approximately 20 percent of your staff either have or will have a disability effecting their work life. These webinars will address key issues facing employers today and provide real world solutions to these types of workplace challenges.”

"Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area is proud to join with our partners at VR Services to once again celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month," said WSRCA Chief Executive Officer, Paul Fletcher. "Since the webinars are moving to a virtual environment this year, we're excited about increasing access to the events to boost more participation, enhance the discussions, and to spread the important message that we value all perspectives, including those of individuals with disabilities."

Employers and employees in all industries can learn more about VR Services, as well as Federal Requirements and Financial Incentives Assistance, by visiting <https://www.twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/vocational-rehabilitation-services>.

Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area is a nonprofit community partnership providing no cost recruitment, employment services and childcare assistance, to businesses, employers, and job seekers in the Rural Capital Area of central Texas. This nine-county region includes Bastrop; Blanco; Burnet; Caldwell; Fayette; Hays; Lee; Llano; and Williamson counties. For more details on WSRCA, and the services it offers, visit www.workforcesolutionsrca.com.