



# Alton-Based Challenge Unlimited Joins Broad Effort To Observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month

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ALTON - Challenge Unlimited today announced its participation in National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to

educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation."

The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

"Our national recovery from the pandemic cannot be completed without the inclusion of all Americans, in particular people with disabilities," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh. "Their contributions have historically been vital to our nation's success and are more important today than ever. We must build an economy that fully includes the talent and drive of those with disabilities."

Reflecting this year's theme, throughout the month, Challenge Unlimited will be sharing success stories of those with disabilities and their contributions to the workforce to educate the community on disability employment issues and its commitment to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive work culture.

"Challenge Unlimited is proud to be a part of this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month," said Charlotte Hammond. "We want 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 how to participate in National Disability Employment Awareness Month and ways they can promote its messages — during October and throughout the year — by visiting [www.dol.gov/NDEAM](http://www.dol.gov/NDEAM).

About Challenge Unlimited For more than 50 years Challenge Unlimited has operated as a social enterprise, committed to serving individuals with disabilities while earning a reputation as a trusted business partner to private commercial companies and federal and state government agencies. As an accredited Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) provider, Challenge Unlimited fulfills its mission through employment programs and services, skills training centers, and community-integrated living options. For more information, please visit [www.cuinc.org](http://www.cuinc.org).