

## **October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and many organizations are promoting the hiring of individuals with developmental disabilities. Valley Mountain Regional Center is also participating by sharing information about NDEAM, and more specifically promoting the programs that we are currently offering to our individuals. Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) is our newest program with the slogan “Real work, for Real Pay, in the Real World”.

The entire State of California, through our regional centers, are encouraging our individuals to be working competitively, and in an integrated employment setting, where they are working side by side with individuals without disabilities. In order to educate businesses, I have been promoting these benefits for hiring individuals with disabilities:

- Reduction in Turnover Rate
- Job Coaching 1 to 1 support
- Workers Opportunity Tax Credits
- Paid Internship Program

Through our local chapters of chambers of commerce, I am sending out a flyer to businesses in all counties, offering to come to their place of work and educate about each of these benefits for hiring our individuals. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and I will do my best to help make each business aware!

The Employment Specialist