For Immediate Release

September 25, 2012

Invitation to “Access Marin” - National Disability Employment Awareness Month Event Celebration

Marin County joins nationwide campaign in October

San Rafael, California — Marin County announced its participation in National Disability Employment Awareness Month to educate the public about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. 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 (NDEAM). Today, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy leads NDEAM. This year’s theme is "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?"

Reflecting this year's theme, Marin County will be engaging in a variety of activities to educate employees and the community on disability employment issues and the role they play in fostering a disability-friendly work culture. These efforts include:

- Hosting "Access Marin" on October 4th, 2012, featuring representatives from the CA Department of Rehabilitation, the CA Foundation for Independent Living Centers, Marin Center for Independent Living
- Exhibiting throughout the Marin Civic Center a series of museum quality posters portraying the history of the disability rights movement
- Dedicating October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month in Marin, per proposed Board resolution on October 2nd, 2012
- Promoting community resources through www.marincounty.org

"Marin County is proud to be a part of this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month," said Joanne Peterson, Director of Marin County Human Resources. "We want to spread the important message that a strong workforce is one inclusive of the skills and talents of all individuals, including individuals with disabilities."

Questions? Contact Jacalyn Mah at jmah@marincounty.org or 415.473.6505.

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You are invited to Marin's Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration Event

ACCESS MARIN: Building an Inclusive Workforce
Thursday, October 4, 2012, 12:00 to 2:00 pm (eCalendar event)
Marin County Board Chambers, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Ste 330, San Rafael (driving directions)

Event Schedule:

**Board of Supervisors Resolution**
National Disability Employment Awareness Month

**Current State of Employment of People with Disabilities in CA**
Tony Sauer (keynote speaker), Director of the Department of Rehabilitation

**Disability History**
Kirk Aranda, Youth Advocate, California Foundation for Independent Living
Rodney Jackson, Youth Organizer, Marin Center for Independent Living

**Building an Inclusive Workforce Panel Discussion**
Eli Gelardin (facilitator), Director of the Marin Center for Independent Living
Megan Juring, Deputy Director, Department of Rehabilitation Independent Living and External Affairs
Teresa Favuzzi or Christina Mills, Executive Director/Deputy Director, California Foundation for Independent Living
Angela Nicholson, Deputy Director Human Resources, Marin County
Eric Petersen, Health & Human Services Projects Coordinator, Marin County Health & Human Services Employment Services
Tony Sauer, Director of the Department of Rehabilitation

A museum quality display portraying the history of the disability rights movement will be exhibited. Light snacks will be served. A sign language interpreter will be onsite. For more info, visit www.marincounty.org or contact Jacalyn Mah at jmah@marincounty.org or (415) 473-6505.

All public meetings and events sponsored or conducted by the Marin County are held in accessible sites. Requests for accommodations may be made by calling (415) 473-4381(voice/TTY) or 711 for the California Relay Service or e-mailing disabilityaccess@marincounty.org at least 4 work days in advance of the event. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon written request.