

Take the National Disability Employment Awareness Challenge

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Come to Root Hall gym on Monday, Oct. 29 and take the National Disability Employment Awareness Challenge from 6:30-8 a.m.

"For this event we have developed nine awareness stations designed to physically limit a person's ability to complete a given task," said Cpt. Matthew Barrett, Dunham U.S. Army Health Clinic.

Challenge events will include: seated/one arm free throw, wheelchair, blind walk, communication, writing, keyboard, and more.

"Score cards will be handed out to bring friendly competition and a certificate will be handed out once all nine stations are completed," said Barrett.

"The events will give an idea of the everyday challenges that disabilities bring on a normal day-to-day bases as well as providing education and awareness," said Sgt. 1st Class Rose Menil, USAWC Equal Opportunity Advisor.



Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

This year's theme is "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?" NDEAM's roots go 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."

Upon its establishment in 2001, ODEP assumed responsibility for NDEAM and has worked to expand its reach and scope ever since. Although led by ODEP, NDEAM's true spirit lies in the many observances held at the

grassroots level across the nation every year. Employers, schools and organizations of all sizes and in all communities are encouraged to participate in NDEAM, and ODEP offers several resources to help them do so. Activities range from simple, such as putting up a poster, to comprehensive, such as implementing a disability education program.

Regardless, all play an important part in fostering a more inclusive America, one where every person is recognized for his or her abilities — every day of every month.

For more information on NDEAM, please visit their website: <http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/>