



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES

PRESS RELEASE



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Department on Disability Services Celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Washington, DC—In recognition of October's designation as **National Disability Employment Awareness Month** (NDEAM), the Department on Disability Services (DDS), Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) hosted an **Employer Recognition Event** on Tuesday, October 11, at the Embassy Suites, 900 10th Street, NW. Steven Boney, Talent Acquisition Manager for the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, was the guest speaker.

The event featured two panel discussions. The Business Panel included representatives from the National Institutes of Health; Smithsonian Institution; Embassy Suites; Street Sense; DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs; and, United Planning Organization. The Youth Panel included students with disabilities who have participated in work-based learning experiences. Young job seekers shared information about their career goals, and offered words of advice to employers about inclusion in the workforce. DDS/RSA also recognized District of Columbia employers, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); Pretrial Services Agency and Doubletree Hilton with its 2016 Outstanding Employer Award, for their competitive hiring practices and helping job seekers by facilitating information sessions, conducting mock interviews; and assisting with resume development. DDS/RSA recognized a host of business partners for preparing people with disabilities for the workforce.

NDEAM seeks to raise awareness about disability employment issues to foster a more inclusive workforce. This year's theme, **#INCLUSIONWORKS**, celebrates the contributions of employees with disabilities and raises awareness about the value of a diverse workforce inclusive of their skills and talents. NDEAM is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy.

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The Department on Disability Services is a dynamic organization serving people with disabilities through the services of was Developmental Disabilities Administration and the Rehabilitation Services Administration. This comprehensive collaborative approach provides innovative high quality services that enable people with disabilities to lead productive lives as vital members of their families, schools, workplaces, and communities. Learn more at www.dds.dc.gov and follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/DDS.DC>.



[DDS Acting Director Andrew Reese presents an Outstanding Employer award to Adriana Santana of Double Tree by Hilton](#)



[DDS Acting Director Andrew Reese and Nathan Wakefield, Executive Chef of Embassy Suites, the host hotel for the DDS/RSA NDEAM event.](#)



DDS Acting Director Andrew Reese and Steven Boney, Talent Acquisition Manager for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority



[DDS Acting Director Andrew Reese acknowledges a healthy business partnership with Kaiser Permanente's Donyell Tibbs](#)