



NEWS RELEASE

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TVS Joins Broad Effort to Observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month

(Brevard, NC) — October 6, 2020 — TVS (Transylvania Vocational Services) today announced its participation in National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), 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 "Increasing Access and Opportunity."

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.

"Ensuring that America's workplaces continue to include and accommodate people with disabilities will be an important part of our economic rebound," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia. "Looking ahead, the Department will remain focused on the policies that led to a strong economy and record-low unemployment rates for persons with disabilities prior to the pandemic. A vigorous economic rebound and job growth will, alongside the Americans with Disabilities Act, increase access and opportunity for Americans with disabilities."

Reflecting this year's theme, throughout the month, TVS will be engaging in a variety of activities, internally and through social media, to educate its employees, regional employment partners, and the public regarding disability employment issues and its commitment to an inclusive work culture. These efforts include internal trainings, educational materials and public service video announcements.

"TVS is proud to be a part of this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month," said Jamie Brandenburg, TVS Chief Executive Officer. "For more than 50 years, TVS has been committed to providing meaningful employment for people with disabilities. Our goal with this campaign is to help other businesses and organizations value all perspectives related to their workforce composition, including those of individuals with disabilities."

In addition to TVS employing a significant number of employees with disabilities in their own inclusive manufacturing workforce, the TVS Employment Services team, in collaboration with North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Division, evaluates, places and coaches' individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment in jobs with all types of Transylvania County businesses. Some participants receive longer term job support while others prosper without coaching. TVS works with the business and the client to develop the ideal individualized success plan. Over the history of TVS, thousands of

successful placements have been made with local organizations like Brevard College, Food Matters Market, Holiday Inn Express, Enmarket, and more.

For information about employment at TVS or with other businesses in the community through the Employment Services program, visit <https://tvsinc.org/meaningful-employment> on the TVS website.

About TVS

TVS is a not-for-profit, social enterprise food manufacturer specializing in the blending and packaging of dry food and beverage products. Founded in 1967, its mission is to provide meaningful employment, person-centered job training & placement, and a variety of residential and community engagement services for individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment. For more information visit <http://www.tvsinc.org>.