



Johnson County celebrates 34th Anniversary of ADA and Kicks Off NDEAM on September 27

Community members are invited to join the Johnson County Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Celebration. This free event will be held on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 from 3 – 6 p.m. at the Pedestrian Mall in downtown Iowa City. Programming will start at 4 p.m.

The celebration commemorates the 34th anniversary of the ADA and kicks off NDEAM, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. This year's theme is Everyone Can Work, which focuses on the generational impact of the ADA and NDEAM for Iowans with disabilities and the barriers that persist. The event will feature a keynote address by Sarah Martinez, an expert in helping people with disabilities navigate employment challenges and owner of Advancing Futures, LLC. The recipients of the Terry Cunningham Community Award and Bill Reagan Vitality Award will also be announced.

The ADA was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990. The ADA provides civil rights protections for individuals with disabilities and ensures equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities to access to businesses, employment, transportation, state and local government programs and services, and telecommunications.

NDEAM is intended to educate the public about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. Its history traces back to 1945, when it started as a week focused only on people with physical disabilities. Later, it expanded to a full month, and its scope evolved to acknowledge the importance of increasing the workforce inclusion of people with all nature of disabilities.

Ensuring Access

The City of Iowa City is committed to providing access to its programs, activities, and services for all residents, including those with disabilities, in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Learn more at www.icgov.org/ADA.

If you have accessibility-related questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for accommodations, those can be directed to Iowa City's ADA Coordinator, at ADAcordinator@iowa-city.org or 319-356-5010.

Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against in the areas of employment, credit, education, housing, or public accommodations may also contact the Office of Equity and Human Rights, at humanrights@iowa-city.org or 319-356-5022.

The Johnson County ADA Celebration is made possible through the efforts of Access 2 Independence, The Arc of Southeast Iowa, NAMI Johnson County, the University of Iowa Council on Disability Awareness, the UI Therapeutic Recreation Program, and the City of Iowa City.