

# October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

In 1945, 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.”

## 2016 Theme: #InclusionWorks

### When we look at someone, do we see all of who they are?

This is the question that “Who I Am” was created to address. “Who I Am” is the third PSA from the Campaign for Disability Employment, a collaborative effort led by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy along with leading business and disability organizations. It features nine real people with disabilities. Rather than be defined by disability, these individuals are the sum of their many life roles — which includes working in jobs they love.



### “WHO I AM” PROFILE: Pat Leahy

Pat Leahy is a senior adviser at the U.S. Election Assistance Commission where he does a variety of activities to help states and municipalities run their elections. Pat has been blind since birth and uses a service dog, Gallahad. He is also a bodybuilder and mentors children with disabilities in fitness and exercise. He is the subject of a documentary currently in production that aims to promote better physical education for children with disabilities. Sports were a large part of his life growing up and helped him in developing self-confidence.

*Read More at:*

*<https://www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org/blog/index.php/who-i-am-toolkit/>*

