

# October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

In 1945, Congress enacted a law declaring the first week of 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.”

2019 Theme: *The Right Talent, Right Now*

## Profile: DR. CAROLINE M. SOLOMON

**Dr. Caroline M. Solomon** has been a faculty member at Gallaudet University since 2000. She is also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Dr. Solomon teaches courses in the environmental sciences, including ecology, marine biology, and courses related to the Chesapeake Bay.

Currently, Dr. Solomon performs research in the Molecular Genetics Laboratory on nutrient dynamics and its influence on the phytoplankton assemblage in the Anacostia River. She also studies urea utilization by different microbes in various coastal areas. She is collaborating with Dr. Richard Ladner at the University of Washington on the ASL-STEM forum, an online sign wiki for the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) lexicon.



Dr. Solomon received her B.A. in Environmental Science and Public Policy from Harvard University, her M.S. in Biological Oceanography from University of Washington, and her Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography from University of Maryland. She was recognized with the 2013 Distinguished Faculty Award from Gallaudet and in 2017 by the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography’s Ramón Margalef Award for Excellence in Education for her innovations to teaching.

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