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National Disability Employment Awareness Month is October 2014

Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "Expect. Employ. Empower."

NDEAM's roots go 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."

Martin Enterprises, established in 1972, began its Supported Employment program in 1987. Today the agency offers Vocational Evaluation, Supported Employment, Work Adjustment, Community Based Assessment and On The Job Training through Vocational Rehabilitation. This past fiscal year 65 clients were placed in jobs at 31 companies.

Employers, who hire people with disabilities, play an important part in fostering a more inclusive America where every person is recognized for his or her abilities — every day of every month.

For additional information contact Charlene Ward, Martin Enterprises Program Services Manager at 252-792-8251 or charleneward@martinenterprises.org.