



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY  
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# News Release

Clarence H. Carter, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **DES Sponsors Job Fairs to Support Workers with Disabilities**

*Department recognizes October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month*

**PHOENIX** – The Department of Economic Security (DES) recognizes October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month by co-sponsoring several job fairs throughout the state to bring together employers and skilled workers with disabilities. DES' Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Employment and Rehabilitation Services (DERS) are collaborating in the development of job fairs this month in Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff and Yuma.

“The idea behind these job fairs is to bring together private and governmental agencies all with the shared mission of providing employment and networking opportunities for individuals with disabilities,” said Director Clarence Carter. “DDD and DERS invest a lot into the individuals they work with and there is nothing we like more than to help folks find gainful employment for full inclusion in the community.”

Each event will showcase the employment-related services available in that community. Fair attendees will learn how to qualify for services and also receive information on work accommodations and supports available for employees with disabilities and educational programs. Most importantly, they'll get a chance to network with employers ready to hire individuals with disabilities.

The Phoenix Disability and Rehabilitation Employment Awareness Month (D.R.E.A.M.) Job Fair will be held on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Gateway Community College located at 108 N. 40<sup>th</sup> Street in Phoenix. In addition to DES/DDD, co-sponsors of the event include DES' Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Arizona DD Planning Council, Magellan Health Services, MARC Center, the Centers for Habilitation, Partners in Recovery, Tempe Union High School, Tetra Services and Goodwill Industries. More than 30 employers have registered to attend.

The Yuma D.R.E.A.M. Job Fair will be held on Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Governance Hall located at 3220-B East 40<sup>th</sup> Street in Yuma. In addition to DES/DERS/DDD, co-sponsors of this first time event include Linkages, the Yuma Union High School District, Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority, SMILE Independent Living Center, Cenpatico, and ACHIEVE Human Services Agency.

Tucson's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual D.R.E.A.M. Job Fair was held October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Hotel Tucson City Center. More than 350 individuals participated, resumes in hand, ready, willing and able to take advantage of the employment opportunities presented to them. Flagstaff's event was held October 9<sup>th</sup> at Coconino Community College and featured Guor Marial as the keynote speaker. Guor, a Sudanese refugee and marathon runner, trained for the Olympics in Flagstaff.

“Whether the need is for a seasonal job opportunity for a student or full- or part-time employment for an adult, our goal at DES is to grow the capacity of our consumers, so they can succeed,” adds Director Carter.

DDD provides an array of home and community-based services to support the independence of individuals in their communities. One of these services includes the training and support of individuals in obtaining and maintaining employment. These options range from group supported employment to supporting an individual in a competitive job in their community.

DERS, through its Rehabilitation Services Administration, works with individuals with disabilities to remove barriers and provide supports to allow individuals to become or remain employed.

For more information on the D.R.E.A.M. Job Fairs, please email [DDDEmploymentFirst@azdes.gov](mailto:DDDEmploymentFirst@azdes.gov).

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