

**CEO Commission on Disability Employment
National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

The CEO Commission for Disability Employment is proud to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month this October. This important month offers both employers and employees the opportunity to highlight the value of an inclusive work environment for people with and without disabilities.

SAATCHI & SAATCHI

Andrea Diquez – CEO at Saatchi & Saatchi NY

“Success in cultivating diversity is achieved only when you decide not just to hire people who are different but to create the right environment to make it work. This takes time, effort and patience. To start with, everyone on the team has to take the time to learn each other’s backgrounds, cultures, approaches, strengths and weaknesses. Once this happens, chemistry is built, and then magic happens. I believe there isn’t a single challenge we can’t solve when we invite different perspectives, life experiences and ways of thinking to the table. All you need is a team that is purposely made up of people of different races, ages, abilities, countries of origin, socioeconomic backgrounds and unique perspectives to push our creativity to be the very best it can be.”



Ken Capone – Public Policy Director at People on the Go Maryland



“People with disabilities deserve to feel included in all aspects of life. They should go to their neighborhood schools with peers, live in communities of their choosing and work alongside people with and without disabilities. Inclusive employment gives people with disabilities confidence in their abilities, a sense of achievement and a path to competitive, integrated

employment. My employment opportunities have allowed me to buy my own house, develop friendships in the workplace and purchase my own accessible vehicle. Workplace inclusion is the path to equality.”



Michael Latham – Chairman & CEO at The Service Companies

“One of the greatest benefits of being a service provider to so many top brands is having a platform to share best practices that can help open more doors for people with disabilities, and more importantly, influence perception and necessary change in the workplace.



Being in the hospitality service business, we understand that our most valuable assets are our employees. In today’s competitive market, the best team is what makes the difference between an average or an outstanding service experience. Expanding our efforts to employ people with disabilities gives us the opportunity to attract top talent and empowers individuals with disabilities.”



Kayla McKeon – Manager of Grassroots Advocacy at the National Down Syndrome Society



“Employment is very important to all of us who are ready, willing and able to work. We want to showcase our abilities not our disabilities. We want to be able to be role models for others to look up to and see our capabilities. I feel that we should be included, respected and be able to speak and advocate for ourselves. We are people first and we want to

be treated as such. I am part of conversations, meetings and events just like any other colleague of mine. Inclusion makes me feel like a valued member of the team who is contributing to the goals of my organization.”

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