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DIVISIONS OF:  
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES  
CRIMINAL & JUVENILE JUSTICE PLANNING  
DEAF SERVICES  
LATINO AFFAIRS  
NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
STATUS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS  
STATUS OF ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDERS  
STATUS OF WOMEN

## October is Disability Employment Awareness Month!

Please check out these events taking place across the state.

### ***Dubuque Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) Event***

**Date of Event:** October 21, 2009

**Contact:** Michael Murray, Iowa Disability Navigator

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OR

Alissa Hauser, Iowa Workforce Development

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**Details:** The Iowa Workforce Development & Project Hope

- Dubuque's first annual DMD event
  - 22 mentees, ranging in age from 18 to 56, paired with business entities in the community
  - Job shadowing will last from 9:30 to 12 and mentees have been paired with professionals in the community who work in a field or job they are interested in (ex: colleges, nursing homes, newspapers, libraries, etc.)
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### ***Des Moines DMD Event***

**Date of Event:** September 24, 2009 and October 21, 2009

**Contact:** Kristin McCullough

**Tele:** (515) 242-7846

**Details:**

- Two days → September 24<sup>th</sup> at Prairie Meadows and October 21<sup>st</sup>
  - September 24<sup>th</sup> → students went for a job skills/job prep conference where they participated in four different job skills training modules.
  - The October 21 DMD event will be from 8:30 – 1:45 with a kick-off ceremony and students will reconvene at the same site for a closing ceremony.
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### ***Southwest Iowa DMD Events***

**Date of Events:** October 7<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>

**Contact:** Karen Goehring

**Tele:** (712) 242-2103

**Email:** [Karen.goehring@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:Karen.goehring@iwd.iowa.gov)

**Details:**

- Events held in **Atlantic** (Oct. 7), **Shenandoah** (Oct. 7), and **Red Oak** (Oct. 7), **Council Bluffs** (Oct. 21)
- Instead of immediately arranging one-on-one mentoring opportunities, because they have a variety of students with varying interests, they set up employer panels and fun, work-related activities. If students are interested in learning more, they will arrange a tour with the student at his or her company of interest after the initial panel date.

***Iowa's Employment First Initiative: A Call for Change of Historical Proportion – "The Summit"***

**Location:** Scheman Center in Ames, IA

**Date:** October 22, 2009 from 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Contact:** Lonnie Matthews, IA APSE President at [Lonnie.Matthews@linncounty.org](mailto:Lonnie.Matthews@linncounty.org)

**Summit Focus:** Five Strategic Outcomes:

- Policies and funding dollars are aligned with Employment First
- Individuals with disabilities and family members advocate for Employment First and participate in the design of employment services and supports
- Businesses influence businesses to create employment opportunities
- Strong partnerships remove barriers to employment outcomes
- Best practice models drive successful post high school outcomes for working, learning, and living.

Groups will develop a plan to achieve the particular outcome they are passionate about. Plans will include action steps, timelines and responsibilities.

**Reason to participate:** The dignity, responsibility and economic independence resulting from gainful employment is one of the most effective ways of enhancing self-reliance, changing attitudes, reducing dependency on public benefits and promoting community acceptance of people with disabilities.

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